



Small Worlds Around Us

By Lynn M. Watkins

The Voice Came Through The Rain — Partly Cloudy

Great masses of heavy clouds congealed into purplish-black blobs in the sky and rolled toward me. Then came the first drops of rain, big ones that hit with a thud on the metal hood and top of the car. Rapidly it increased in tempo until at the end of another block the windshield wipers could hardly clear the glass before it was awash again.

The cars along the street all began to pull over to the curb and stop as if they were all controlled by the same lever. The increasing volume of rain cut visibility to a few feet. Traffic slowed to a crawl as the torrent descended in unbroken sheets. The cars splashed to a swishing stop beside the curbs.

It was impossible to see the road ahead of the radiator; it was as though a gray, streaming curtain had been suddenly drawn, blotting from sight objects only a few feet away. It drummed on the car tops with a roar, pounding with dropping fists against the metal with the persistence of a million tiny hammers.

Soggy Halt

By now all traffic had come to a soggy halt. Each car became a small, individual world in itself, isolated and alone; separated from all others by a descending wall of water. The rain blurred the car windows, seeped in through every crack and crevice. Outside it became a rushing river in the street.

It reached and overflowed the curbs. It edged higher and threatened to creep under the doors of buildings along the street. The water gurgled and roared into the already-filled storm-sewers, carrying on its crest leaves, papers, and debris of a hundred kinds. It crept higher on the tires of the standing cars until it reached the hubcaps.

Through the steamy car

windows, motorists peered eerily out, impatient for the rain to stop, mildly apprehensive that maybe this could last for hours; worried for fear the waters might eventually triumph and inundate them where they waited.

Drumming Rain

Then a happy thought: the car radio. Here was a link with the world as it ordinarily was; here would be rhythm and consolation of music; this would be cheerful. But even here there was conflict. The heavy drumming of the rain was greater than the set's volume; the music was very faint, seemingly far away.

By turning the knob entirely over to extreme power, the disembodied voice triumphed over the outside din. However, it was sort of comforting—the sound of a human voice above the roar of the storm. And then soft music; very restful. I forgot, for a moment, the descending pounding of the rain.

The music stopped. In the short interval before the announcer's voice came, the terrific surge of outside waters seemed more intense than ever. Then again, the voice: "At this time we bring you the weather report: No change in temperature, partly cloudy today and tomorrow."

Woman Talks Her Way Out of Fine

Miami, Fla. — A man appearing before Judge Mattie B. Davis could not be understood. He spoke no English and none of the court attendants spoke Spanish.

A woman motorist, whose case was coming up next, volunteered as translator. The case was processed without further delay.

When the translator's case came up Judge Davis imposed a \$10 fine, but suspended sentence for services rendered.

Kennedy Sees Morse Eliminated

Portland, Ore. — Sen. John Kennedy (D-Mass.) said in a statement Wednesday that "I am sure Senator Wayne Morse would agree that the Maryland primary has made it more unlikely that he will be the nominee of the Democratic party although he will certainly be reelected to the Senate in 1962."

Kennedy, who opposes Morse in Friday's Oregon presidential primary, made the statement following his victory over Morse in Maryland Tuesday.

"The Oregon primary therefore truly becomes a national test of relative strength of three national candidates," Kennedy said. He has listed these as himself and Sens. Lyndon Johnson (Tex.) and Stuart Symington (Mo.).

"I would ask the people of Oregon to choose between the three of us and therefore make their vote meaningful and effective as to who shall be the potential nominee . . ." Kennedy said.



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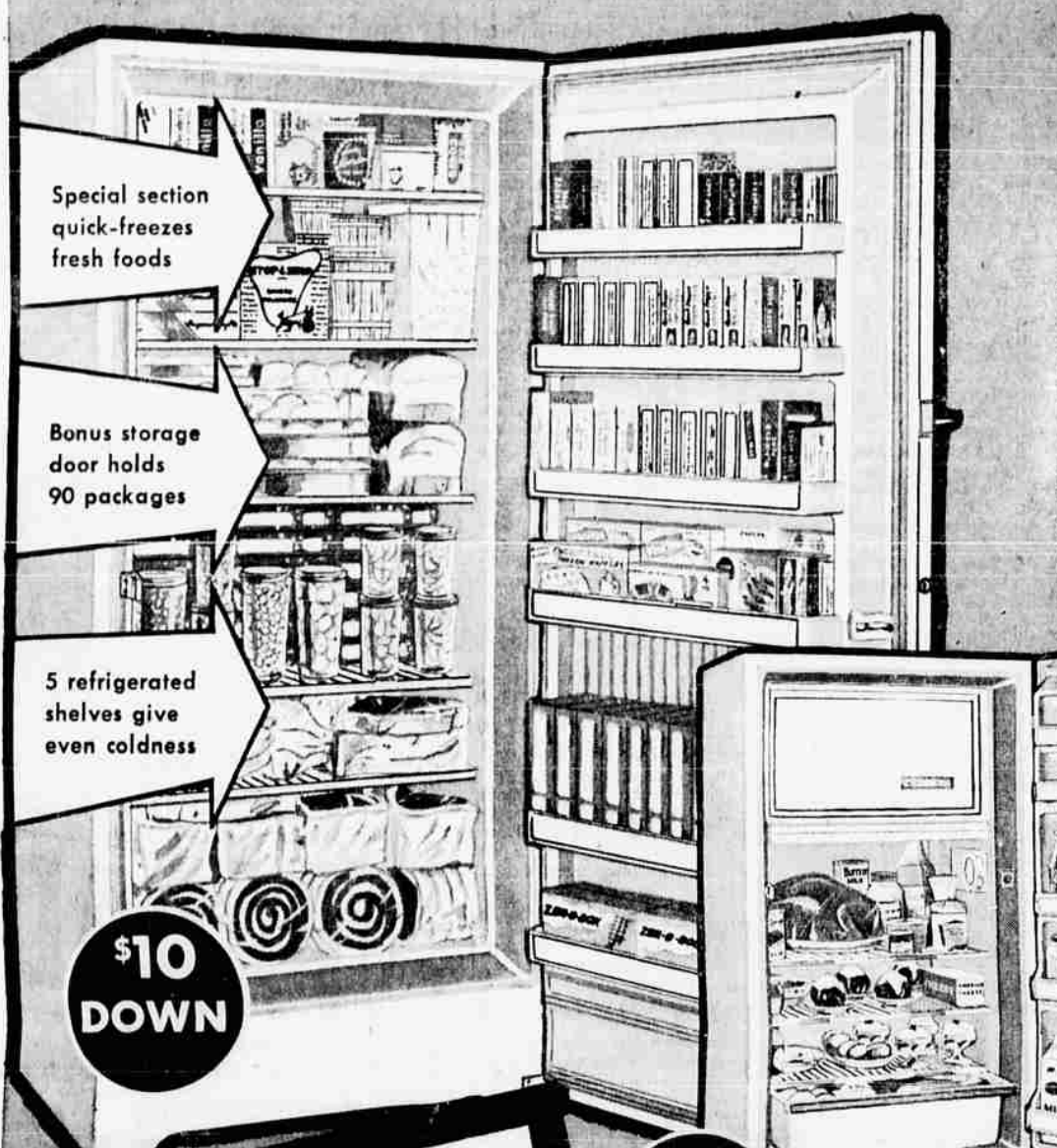
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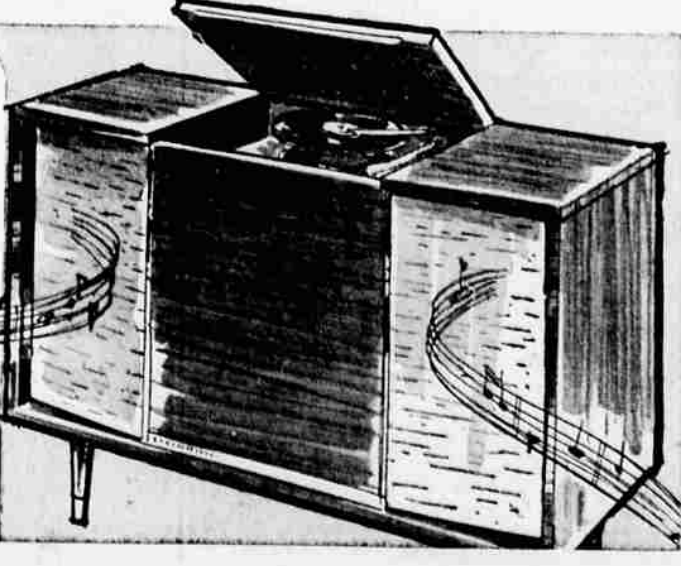
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