



Small Worlds Around Us

By Lynn W. Watkins

(Register & Tribune Syndicate, 1961)

Do You Sleep North and South? Better Give It Some Thought

It all started year ago when grandma came for an extended visit. The first night, just before the kerosene lamp was blown out, she exploded. "What in the world are you thinking about?" she demanded to know, "placing that child's bed in that position?"

"What possible difference does it make?" the child's mother asked, "whether the bed is pointed north and south, or east and west?"

"All the difference in the world," answered grandma. "The child's head should always be toward the north, so that the electricity coming from the north passes lengthways through the body. Everyone should sleep that way; never east and west."

We discovered later that grandma was not alone in her idea. Some of her friends believed that a child's growth would be stunted and that he would experience all sorts of tantrums and stomach upsets unless the head was always toward the north. "It brings," they explained, "more vitality, and a more agreeable nature."

Some of them even had some meager idea of magnetic fields; probably because of the action of a compass needle that always pointed north, and they understood something about that, even if many other factors of electrical actions were, at the time, undreamed of; they even knew that the air was fresher after a severe electrical storm.

Those people who did not believe in the "north-south-sleeping position" treated it as a joke. "Nothing to it!" they said, and their stand was backed up by medical men of the time.

But science admits now that there may have been something to all this north and south business. Now we are a little more familiar with magnetic fields, polarity, and its possible relationship with living things. Electrical impulses and their actions have been pretty well investigated.

We even toss around some high sounding words in reference to these things, such as a word as "magnetotropism" which may become a common word very soon. Arrival at this stage of accumulated knowledge has come about because some scientists have discovered that plants grow better when their roots, or stems, are pointed in the direction of the south magnetic pole; reverse the little plant and it doesn't do so well; growth is slowed down, and it even gets puny and weak.

If this works for plants, might it not also work in living animals? It is altogether possible that grandma "had" something there she didn't understand, but firmly believed in; she may have been headed in the right direction without knowing a single thing about magnetic polarity. And to think, we laughed at grandma, whose superstition was way ahead of her time.

Camp Fire Girls

Bluebirds Sing
The Eagle Point Bluebirds spent their last meeting of 1960 by going Christmas carolling after school one night. They returned to the school for hot chocolate.

Among the Bluebirds and leaders who sang for residents during the heavy fog were girls in the Pretty Little Bluebird group under the direction of their leader, Mrs. Lyle Greenwood. They were Ruth Greb, Cheryl and Carol Smith, Ethel Haley, Karen Greenwood, Patty Morrison and Karen Greb. Pretty Gay Bluebirds, with Mrs. Le Roy Draper as leader, also sang. Terry Arena, Paula Aigoe, Rena Bishop, Judy Draper, Sheryl Machacek, Margy Martin, Sandy Meyer and Mary Stinger were in the group. Beautiful Bluebirds, directed by Mrs. Loren Greenwood and Mrs. Geppert, were Gean Hamann, Jody Greenwood, Susie Cox, Wendy Vaughan, Carolyn Bishop, Gayle Greenwood, Judy Geppert, Mary Jane Imteratrice, Sheryl Ellis and Betty Shaw.

SF Water Department In Walnut Business

San Francisco - (UPI) - The San Francisco city water department made \$30,000 this year from growing walnuts.

That, according to a public utilities department year-end report, was the water department's share of 103 tons of nuts harvested from land it owns in nearby Alameda county.

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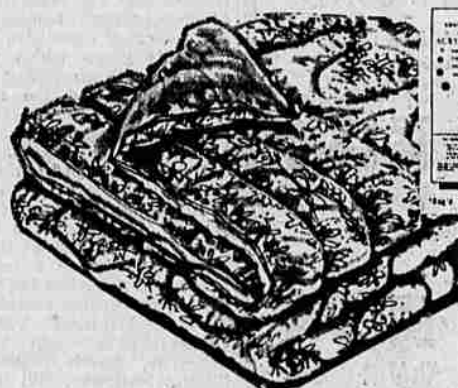
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