



SUSPECTS ARRESTED - Rose Marie Riddle, 6, kidnaped from a farm labor camp last Thursday, was found dead Tuesday in an isolated area 55 miles northwest of Bakersfield, Calif. Discovery of the body came after Mrs. Dixie Lindsey, 23, left, confessed that her husband, ex-convict Richard Lindsey, 30, right, had abducted the child who was suffering from a serious heart ailment. The Lindseys are shown after their arrest near Livermore, Calif. (UPI Telephoto)



Small Worlds Around Us

By Lynn M. Watkins
(Register and Tribune Syndicate, 1961)

The 'Revival Fern' - One Of the Most Interesting Plants
Seldom observed and little known by most residents and visitors of the southern section of the United States is the little "grey polypody ferns" commonly called "revival fern" by the relatively few people who recognize its coarse, flowerless form on rocks, or tree limbs. It is one of the most interesting little plants in the vegetable kingdom.

Although one of the smallest of ferns, it grows in such large colonies that it becomes a conspicuous adornment on rocks and many forest trees. Most of the live oaks along southern streets play host to this intriguing little fern. And they are small ferns. The largest single plant in the most populous colony seldom ever exceeds five inches in height. They are native mostly to the Southeast and thrive in shade or sun, on mossy river banks or on the horizontal branches of trees. They're particularly abundant on live oak trees.

Hearty Grower
Once established on a rock or a tree limb, they eventually will cover the surface, and extend themselves all along the limb, or completely cover the

rock. With such a growth, the combined numbers of the little ferns look more like moss or a solid growth of vegetation than they do of individual plants.

The name "resurrection fern," as applied to this plant is well taken, for they have solved the problem of living without water or moisture for long periods of time by assuming a state nearly approaching death, and remaining in this state of suspended animation for as long as moisture is not available.

During a dry period the colonies of grey polypody ferns on the limb of a tree look dead and dry. The dryness is so complete that a handful of the plants can be scraped off and crumpled up in the hand like burned paper. Actually, they will powder into a brown dust. On the tree limb or rock they resemble dead forest leaves.

The observer might wonder why the wind doesn't blow them away. But let a rain or heavy dew come, and a wonderful transformation takes place. As the water runs down to the roots of the little plants soaking the bark of the tree, each little fern feels the stimulant, and quickly lifts its head, fresh and green.

Washes Away
The brown color that made the plants appear so dead washes away, as if it had only been a weak dye, and in its place appears the fresh, green crispness of living ferns. Through the magic of life-giving moisture the plants resurrect themselves from apparent death to exuberant life, from a standstill to a full gallop in just an hour's time.

This peculiar power of revival seems never to be absent in the tissues of this tiny fern. Regardless of how many times it is alternately dried out and revived by moisture, it will continue to respond.

Once, just for "fern knowledge," an observer tried soaking and then drying a colony of these little plants. After dozens of applications of water and subsequent dryings, the ferns still were responding as eagerly as ever. The little ferns were as ready as ever to revive, even after the human experimenter grew tired and discouraged.

Here in a lowly, seldom-observed plant is a lesson in endurance, tolerance and fortitude.

Divers Enter Tower Wreckage

New York - (AP) - Divers made their first entry into the submerged wreckage of the storm-wrecked radar tower off the New Jersey coast Wednesday in an effort to recover the bodies of 26 men believed trapped in the Air Force radar installation.

In the first penetration of the tower's living quarters the divers found only debris. The search will continue until all parts of the tribubble superstructure have been explored. Twenty eight men are presumed to have died in the tragedy which occurred Sunday evening. One body was recovered from the Atlantic and another was sighted but could not be retrieved from the stormy sea.

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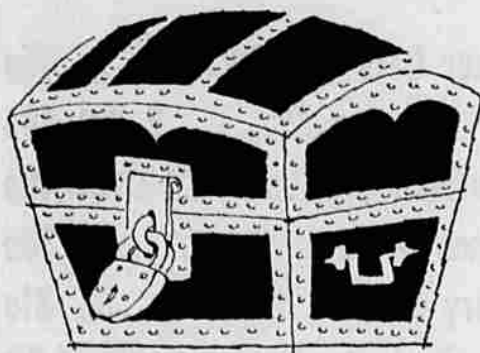


KAREN HEIN

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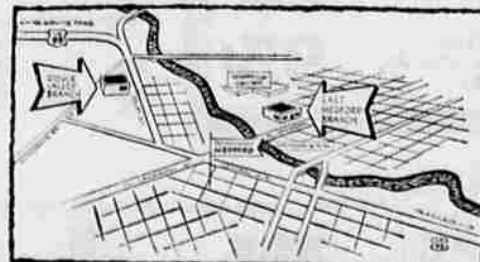
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