

Small Worlds Around Us
By Lynn W. Watkins
(Register & Tribune Syndicate, 1961)

What's This—The Exotic Lotus Looks Like Salt Shaker?

The lovely lotus grows and, in many areas, actually thrives in America.

The lotus blossom looks like a salt-shaker with petals. Rather a homely way to describe an exotic blossom, a flower that the Hindu people believe symbolized female beauty, and the ancient Greeks and Egyptians considered sacred, but that is the way the flower appears to those of us who see a resemblance to a container that holds salt.

"The pale hands that wait beside the Shalimar" were the color of this glamorized water lily. The lotus has been cultivated for centuries in temple pools and shrines where pagodas reflected their oriental splendor, and Buddha watched in silence.

Seeds Used as Food
Long before the fragrance of the blossom, or its delicate beauty was appreciated, the nut-like seeds, as well as the roots, were used as food. In Ceylon, and parts of the Orient, it was cultivated as a crop.

Travelers carried the seeds to every corner of the world, and gradually the flower became recognized as a "thing of great beauty." Architects of ancient Egypt shaped the tops of columns to represent the flower bud.

The outline of the leaves and blossoms was painted on walls and worked into the designs of rugs and tapestries.

The lotus flower, however, has no connection with the so-called "lotus-eaters," a race of Africans who ate the berries of the lotus tree. Tradition recalls that the "lotus eaters" were dreamy, absent-minded folks who sat and dreamed of pleasures existent away from home. The old story tells of armies which invaded the land of the Lotus-eaters, partook of the fruit, and never wanted to return to their former homes.

Down through the centuries, the lotus flower has retained its personality, as well as its original characteristics, with the exception of its color. Today it can be found in pink, yellow, and white. The Japanese variety is white; the East Indian, pink, while most of our cultivated varieties are yellow.

The lotus blossom is delicately fragrant, growing singly on a long stem. The leaves, too, are single, and unlike most of the water lilies, are carried on tall stems which hold the blossom several feet above the water in which they are growing. In the center of the flower is the "salt-shaker," which holds the seeds.

As the seeds ripen, the stem that holds the flower, weakens and the weight of the bud bends it downward until the seeds sift out through the little holes provided for just this purpose. Being heavy, the seeds sink to the bottom of the pool.

The peculiar receptacle which held the seeds, the salt-shaker, turns a rich brown color; when completely dry it is as hard as wood. This interesting object becomes an item in the curio-shop, and finds a ready sale to people who, having lived only in cold regions, never knew the exotic beauty of the lotus, or that Nature designed an ornate "salt-shaker" for the scattering of the seeds of the beautiful lotus blossom.

4-H News

Handy Annies

The Handy Annies 4-H club will meet today at the home of Mrs. Pullman. This time we will talk about how to improve our meetings and how to observe National 4-H week.

Miss Kirkland was a guest at our last meeting at Mrs. Hochstatter's. Shellah Butler and Terry Calhoun gave a demonstration on how to use a telephone. Committees were appointed to begin planning our 4-H week and hospital projects. Martha Merriman and Sarah Robinson conducted a game workshop.

Refreshments were served by Cheryl and Bernadette Becker and Barbara Hochstatter.

Barbara Hochstatter, Reporter

Eglin AFB, Fla.—(AP)—An Air Force Bomarc-B missile intercepted and destroyed a QB47 jet drone target plane flying at 35,000 feet 345 miles from the missile's launching site Tuesday. It was the longest interception flight yet for the missile which was launched from northwest Florida's Santa Rosa Island and guided to its target by computers at Montgomery, Ala.

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KRAFT
MIRACLE WHIP quart jar **49¢**

PILLSBURY
PANCAKE MIX 4 lb. bag **33¢**

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PANCAKE SYRUP 22-oz. bottle **29¢**

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MARGARINE Colored Cubes **4 lbs. 95¢**

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