

The Bee's Knees

West Learns Importance of Telling Children About Birds and the Bees

By DICK WEST

Washington—(UPI)—My wife pointed out the other evening that one of our daughters is nearing the age when she should be told about "the birds and the bees."

"Okay," I said. "You tell her about the birds and I'll tell her about the bees."

I had a reason for proposing this arrangement. That very day I had been reading a report on bees prepared for the Smithsonian Institution by James E. Hambleton.

I don't know whether Hambleton has any children, but he is a whiz when it comes to bees. For the first time since I became a parent I feel qualified to discuss this subject with my offspring.

So climb upon my knee, dollie, and your wise old father will give you the scoop.

When we think of the bee we ordinarily think of it in terms of honey and wax, although some of us may think of it in terms of getting stung.

Actually, making honey and wax and stinging people is a relatively minor part of a bee's job. What makes the bee important is his role in pollination.

Where pollination is concerned, he is the king bee. It might even be said that he is the bee's knees.

According to Hambleton, there are about 50 crops in this country that require insect pollination. Insect pollination is necessary or desirable for such vegetables as carrots, onions, cabbage, cauliflower and brussels sprouts.

At one time, there were enough native insects around to take care of this. But farming operations have greatly expanded while the pollinating insect population has declined.

As things now shape up, the bee is about all that stands between some crops and extinction. Bees get credit for an estimated 80 per cent of all pollination.

Or, it might be said they are to blame for 80 per cent of the pollinating, depending on how you feel about brussels sprouts.

At any rate, Hambleton



REFUGEES FROLIC—These Cuban refugees are shown as they enjoy their first sight of snow outside of their new home in Port Huron, Mich. Mr. and Mrs. Ariel Quintela and their four children who have been living in Miami for the past five months, have been relocated in Port Huron. (UPI)



Small Worlds Around Us

By LYNN M. WATKINS

(Register and Tribune Syndicate 1962)

Surface Too Slick to Slither So Snake Sits and Suffers

It seemed there was a parallel between the old Chinese proverb "Even a trip of a hundred miles must start with a single step," and what the rattlesnake was attempting when we placed him on

estimates their contribution to agriculture at more than \$500 million a year, not counting what they bring in by way of honey, wax and insect bite lotions.

Until I read Hambleton's report, I did not realize that the bee was so valuable. I can understand now why it is important to tell our children about them.

I just hope my wife does as well with the birds.

a large sheet of plate glass. The snake couldn't even take the first step. He couldn't even get started, let alone travel. The glass was just too slick to slither on.

To understand somewhat the predicament in which the reptile found himself, we must remember that the rattlesnake can proceed forward in a straight line. He doesn't writhe and twist like most snakes, but the surface over which he crawls must have at least some roughness, some irregularities, for he moves by moving his ribs; actually, he "walks on his ribs."

Inside his skin the ribs move forward, then they press down against the skin, forcing it against the roughness of a surface. Once the ribs are forward and pressing, they move backward, propelling the snake forward. When going good the rib action is smooth, rapid and rhythmic; a continuous flowing motion.

Getting Nowhere
On the plate glass, however, the snake's "wheels" were spinning. He was really running fast but he wasn't progressing forward a single inch. The very best slithering he could accomplish just wasn't good enough. The glass was too slick; his ribs could get no grip. He was like a man in a rocking chair; he was getting plenty of exercise but he wasn't getting anywhere.

The snake lowered his head and tried harder; inside his body the ribs were moving forward and back. He increased the tempo. His ribs pressed harder against the belly-skin but there was only slippiness underneath, no irregularities in the glass, no contact point. He just couldn't slither.

This rib-action must be exhausting work for inside of a few minutes the snake gave every indication of being "dog-tired"; he was too exhausted to raise his head from the glass. He rested.

A slight tap on the glass was felt by the nerves of his undersides and it started him again but his rib action lacked their old snap and vigor. He soon gave up and rested. All his most active slithering was reduced to uselessness, like a boat tied to a dock with the motor running in forward gear. The power had been on, the effort was made but the principle of traction and the smoothness of glass was a condition over which he had no control. His tiny reptilian brain could only keep sending orders to the ribs to move but they were too tired to respond.

Another Predicament
After the snake had rested a while his futile exertions a while from his futile exertions we placed him in the middle of a Brussels carpet. The soft long pile of the rug placed the snake in the same predicament he had been while on the plate glass. He tried but it was hard and discouraging work.

For the second time in his life he was up against the unknown. He was as helpless on the glass as he had been on the carpet. He could make no headway. The carpet received as much "ribbing" as had the other uncrawlable surface. The rib pressure could not reach down far enough in the soft rug to make a solid contact. There was no traction, therefore no forward progress.

RETURNING REMAINS

Grado, Italy—(UPI)—Officials said the remains of three sailors recovered from a submarine sunk near here in 1917 will be returned to Austria. The bodies were recovered from the World War I submarine on Monday.

Pipemakers Fit Product With Lining

Louisville, Ky.—(UPI)—Pipemakers have taken a page from the clothing industry's book and fitted their product with a lining. Strength and corrosion-resistance are combined in plastic-lined steel pipe, reports Tube Turns Plastics, Inc. Company engineers say this combination can safely carry corroding acids at as little as half the installed cost of all-metal pipe necessary for such a job.

WEATHER MAN STUCK

Buffalo, N.Y.—(UPI)—Barney Wiggin telephoned the weather bureau here Tuesday to say he could not report to his job as chief weather forecaster. Wiggin was snowed in at his home in East Aurora, 14 miles away.

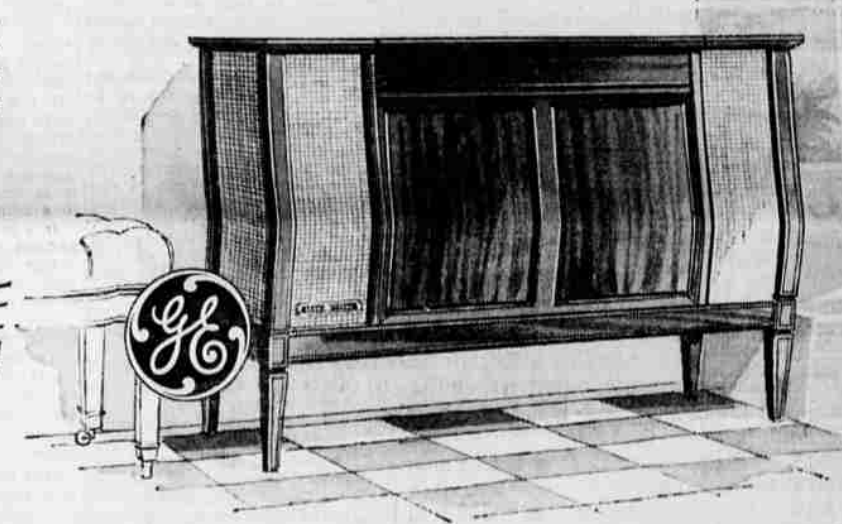
Kansas City To Show World-Wide Display

Kansas City, Mo.—(UPI)—The 170 nativity scenes, owned by Alexander Girard, noted authority on folk art, will be displayed at the William Rockhill Nelson gallery to benefit the People-to-People program. A collection of reproductions of the Bethlehem stable where Christ was born, gathered from 20 countries, will be displayed for the first time here during the Christmas season.



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