



Small Worlds Around Us
By Lynn W. Watkins
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Obscured In Mud, The Sunray Hides Its Beauty
With deliberate and measured tread, one of the most beautiful shells, the sunray, hides its beauty in the mud, where no appreciative eye can see and where its slanting shafts of simulated sunlight know only darkness. Buried in a mudbank, or tidal flat, wherever tidal waters surge and ebb, this masterpiece of the master Creator, hides and sulks, its iridescent colors obscured by mud and silt.

Never attached to a solid object, like the oyster, the sunray has a limited power of movement, never too fast nor very far. They are content to travel six inches in a day's time; even this would not be attempted unless food supplies become scarce at the place where they happen to be feeding. If conditions remain favorable, they will seldom move over a couple of yards during their entire lifetime.

Few Inches
What limited migrations they attempt will be mostly vertical, that is, up and down in the mud, perhaps a total trip of but a few inches. They travel in the upper layer of mud, when the weather and the mud is warm, or down where it's a little cooler, or up to the surface of the mud, when the temperature is right. If a cold snap chills the shallow water, they respond by digging themselves deeper into the mud.

Always, when at rest or feeding, the sunray shell is careful to have the hinge of its shell down, with the two valves held open to suck in the sea water that contains its food. Because of the strength and toughness of the ligament that holds the valves together, perfect pairs are often found by the shell collector. If death overtakes the sunray shell, in its muddy home, the waves may bring to the beach the entire shell without the soft body that was destroyed by some hungry predator of the sea.

The casual shell collector always admires the sunray shell and is impressed by the aptness of the common name; the outer surface of the shell is a fair reproduction of a sunset—a sunset where the rays slant off into the upper air from behind broken clouds, radiating from the great orb like spokes of a wheel.

The ray-like colors are in pink, purple, or yellow; each stripe of color interrupted, or broken somewhere along its length, with lilac, or deeper pink. And all this is on a background of light brown. In some shells, almost a plaid effect is evident. The younger the shell, the brighter the colors. As the shell grows it loses much of its brightness.

Peppery Taste
Many sunray shells are found that have attained considerable size, so it has been suggested as a source of human food. In some tropical lands it has some importance. In American waters it has never attained any edible status; it has a strong and peppery taste.

There is no understandable reason why such a beautiful shell should always be hidden in the mud. The mud and the sea water is the reason for the colors; chemicals in sea water act on the body chemistry, and tint the limy shell with pastel shades. There in the mud is broad, divergent rays of pink extend from the lower edge to the upper margin, like bands of lights from the setting sun.

To do work equal to that of a mole, an average sized man would have to dig a tunnel wide enough to permit passage of his body almost 37 miles long in a single night.

Thunderbird Market's ANNUAL SUMMER SALE

3 MORE BIG SALE DAYS

3 MORE BIG SALE DAYS

TONIGHT, FRIDAY, SATURDAY and SUNDAY

<p>3 MORE BIG SALE DAYS</p> <p>ROUND STEAK</p> <p>Lean well trimmed center cuts. Well aged tender young beef. A post holiday "budget stretcher" —An all time favorite, too</p> <p>65¢ lb</p>	<p>ANNUAL MID-SUMMER SALE</p> <p>SWISS STEAK</p> <p>Lean, boneless cuts of the lower round. Tender and tasty</p> <p>59¢ lb</p>	<p>3 MORE BIG SALE DAYS</p> <p>RUMP ROAST</p> <p>Lean and tender meaty cuts. Well trimmed</p> <p>First Cuts... 59¢ lb. Center Cuts... 65¢ lb.</p>	<p>ANNUAL MID-SUMMER SALE</p> <p>Sirloin Tip ROAST</p> <p>Boneless, lean and tender, waste free</p> <p>79¢ lb</p>
<p>3 MORE BIG SALE DAYS</p> <p>LAMB ROAST</p> <p>Swift Prem. genuine spring lamb. Well trimmed square cut shoulder. Tender and tasty</p> <p>39¢ lb</p> <p>BREAST OF LAMB</p> <p>Lean, tender, tasty meat for a grand old fashioned "Irish Stew." While Supply Lasts</p> <p>10¢ lb</p>	<p>ANNUAL MID-SUMMER SALE</p> <p>BACON SQUARES</p> <p>Light lean squares. Real well smoked. Fine flavor—for frying or seasoning... SPECIAL</p> <p>19¢ lb</p>	<p>ANNUAL MID-SUMMER SALE</p> <p>CORN on the COB</p> <p>Fresh U.S. No. 1</p> <p>69¢ dz</p>	<p>3 MORE BIG SALE DAYS</p> <p>NEW SPUDS</p> <p>Shafter long White. U.S. No. 2</p> <p>20 lb. Bag 69¢</p>
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<p>ANNUAL MID-SUMMER SALE DAYS</p> <p>APRICOT HALVES</p> <p>Stockton No. 2 can</p> <p>59¢</p>	<p>3 MORE BIG SALE DAYS</p> <p>SALAD OIL</p> <p>Southern Maid 24 oz. bottle</p> <p>29¢</p>	<p>ANNUAL MID-SUMMER SALE DAYS</p> <p>Strawberry Preserves</p> <p>Ladies Choice Pure 44 ounce jar</p> <p>69¢</p>	<p>3 MORE BIG SALE DAYS</p> <p>LIGHT TUNA</p> <p>Carnation Chunk No. 3/4 can</p> <p>39¢</p>
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