

**Small Worlds Around Us**  
By Lynn W. Watkins  
Register & Tribune Syndicate, 1963

**Night-Flying Moths' Beauty Is Much Too Often Wasted**  
It is not only flowers that are destined to blossom unseen and waste their beauty on the desert air, for just as beautiful and mostly unseen are the many night-flying moths that glorify the warm summer nights, many of which are the most beautiful creatures on earth. One, the leopard moth, a true lady of the evening, is actually spectacular.

The moths that inhabit clothes closets, hunting up woolen garments to gnaw on, are the "poor relations" of the much larger, very gorgeous moths that waste their beauty in the darkness of night.

In the populous world of moths there are some that are so magnificent as to seem artificial. They work the night shift, leaving the sunny hours to their cousins, the butterflies, for most of the moths are nocturnal. Of course, most of the moths as well as the butterflies, have a rather shady background, for they will produce creatures much less lovely than themselves, many of which may be harmful or destructive.

From a grub, a worm or a caterpillar, after a period of pupation in a cocoon or in the ground, comes the moth, no longer a repulsive worm or grub, but a beautiful and graceful creature with wings and a soft, delicate body. They have completed a transformation, a change-over.

From egg to larva, to grub, to moth; one more move than a triple play, and all operating smoothly and silently by what we could call the chemistry of life. In so many words, it all sounds a little silly. In operation it is one of the complex mechanisms that brings life from a tiny egg to an adult, functioning being.

There are moths frequenting the hours of darkness that will measure six or more inches across their outspread wings. Others, equally beautiful, may be so tiny they must be viewed with a hand lens. One which is medium in size but very lovely, is the lady of the evening, the petite leopard moth. She wears a snow-white evening dress decorated with many little black rings. On the fore part of the body the rings or circles are often filled in and are merely black dots.

There are a couple of very large, black spots forward that are often mistaken for eyes.

The six delicate legs are white, but the elbows, or knees, are black as are the feet. On back of the head, is a raised section which resembles a cloak or cape. She is a very lovely lady "dressed" in an ermine-like wrap.

The pretty little lady in the white dress, with the circular markings, is never in great abundance, but some night when the air is still and warm, in the middle or even late summer, turn on a light in a garden or near a woodlot. Leave it for a little while and to it will come winging, from the outer darkness, many of the night flying moths and probably the little leopard will be one of them.

She, like the others, will be fascinated by the brightness. She will be about two inches in length, very dainty, with a white dress and the black circles adorning it. You will say what the small boy said when he first saw one, "She's too pretty to be a bug; she looks more like candy."

**Sixteen Lost in Northern Mexico**

CHIHUAHUA, Mexico, (UPI) — Fourteen scientific adventurers and two Indian guides are lost and feared starving on a torrential river in the wild Sierra Madre country of northern Mexico.

The expedition members were from Utah, California and Pennsylvania. Gigantic boulders and wicked waters slowed their rubber rafts until they ran low on food.

Two explorers, one now hospitalized with an injured leg, battled the elements four days seeking help and supplies. One returned with the two unidentified guides from the village of Creel. They left Wednesday and had not been heard from since.

Killer updraft winds and narrow canyon walls were described as a hindrance to U.S. and Mexican government helicopters which were summoned for tomorrow. A mule train entered the Rio Urrique canyon today hunting the experienced boatmen, consulate officials said.

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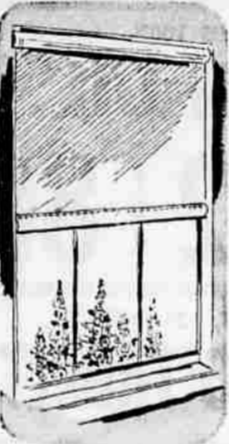
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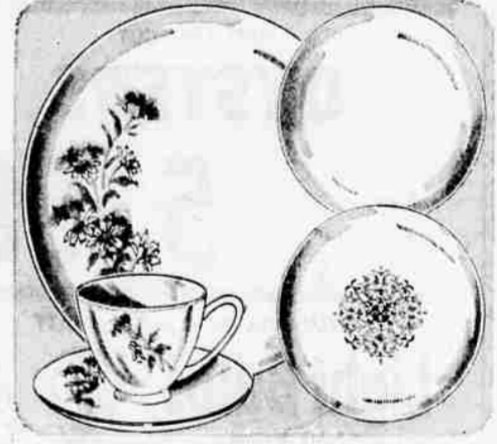
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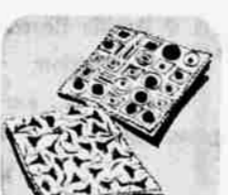
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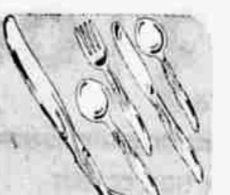
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