

Between her archaeological excavations she explored many dark side canons leading off from the main canon, and in some of these, ancient paintings were still quite fresh upon the walls. Less appealing were the fresh bear-tracks.

Mrs. Morris was instructed at the American School for Prehistoric Study in Paris. The students every summer continue investigations at the La Quina station in southern France, where fossils from 50,000 to 100,000 years old are frequently unearthed.

"Some of those caves in the Pyrenees are two miles long. They open into the hillside and slope down into darkness. The walls are covered with beautiful paintings and carvings. You have to wriggle for long distances on your stomach to explore those caverns, but we thought nothing of that," said Mrs. Morris, who was therefore not dismayed by the caves of Dead Man's Canon.

CORN GROWN IN 70 DAYS; EARS BURIED IN GROUND

Corn with stalks so short that the ears appear to grow directly out of the ground and maturing in 70 days is now being grown at experiment stations under the direction of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. In an effort to produce corn of short growing season and high resistance to cold, this corn will be bred with new varieties discovered in the Andean highlands of South America by Fred D. Ritchey of the Bureau of Cereal Investigations and who has just returned to Washington. This South American corn matures in a climate 20 degrees colder than that of the "corn belt".

"Corn with such short stalks is now being grown that the northern farmer may before long be harvesting his corn crop with a potato digger," said Dr. E. D. Ball, director of scientific work of the Department of Agriculture to a Science Service reporter. "Last summer I saw at the experiment station at Akron, Colorado, corn with stalks less than two feet tall when mature. The ears were so close to the ground that after hilling up they were nearly completely buried and appeared as if they were sprouting up through the ground directly from the roots. This corn matured in about 70 days."

These short season corns are not the result of cross-breeding by Department experts but are discoveries of varieties which have been grown in isolated sections in the northern parts of the continent. One of them has a rather eventful history. It was brought to Manitoba by Ruthenian immigrants a number of years ago from their native country on the slopes of the Carpathian mountains where the season is short. They have cultivated it in their colony 250 miles northwest of Winnipeg for years and have evolved a distinct variety. Others of even shorter season have been found in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and other northern sections.

In Bolivia and Peru, Mr. Ritchey found corn maturing in spite of the fact that the average temperature for the year was 50 degrees Fahrenheit, while the average minimum temperature during the growing season was as low as 39 degrees. In our corn belt, an average night minimum of 55 degrees is considered the limit for commercial production and the average temperature during the growing season is about 72 degrees.

Few varieties of corn raised commercially in this country mature in less than 120 days although some can be grown in 90. In the South, 150 to 180 days is the rule. It is the hope of the Department through the crossing of these South American varieties with those from the far north to obtain a short season corn, highly resistant to low temperatures. If the results are successful the product will probably be a dwarf variety, and the potato digger may come in handy when harvest time comes.

VENUS NOW MOST BRILLIANT

By Isabel M. Lewis
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The planet Venus, which has been such a magnificent object in the western sky during the past winter and spring, far surpassing in splendor the other planets and brightest stars, will reach her greatest brilliancy on May 24. A few weeks later she will be so close to the sun that it will be impossible to find her in the twilight haze after sunset and on July 1 she will be in inferior conjunction with the sun and pass between earth and sun. After that she will be in the morning sky and late in July the early riser will find her ready to greet him before sunrise. At the end of the first week in August Venus will again be at her greatest brilliancy and after that will draw farther away from the sun and gradually decrease in brightness as she recedes from the earth.

About a month ago, in the latter part of April, Venus was at her greatest distance from the sun in the western sky, at greatest eastern elongation as it is called. She was then setting more than three hours after sunset and viewed in the telescope she looked like a little half-moon. After that date she began to draw in gradually toward the sun on the side of her orbit nearest the earth and began to resemble the crescent moon in the telescope. When Venus reaches her greatest brilliancy on the 24th of this month she will look like the crescent moon at the age of five days. This crescent will gradually grow thinner until at inferior conjunction on the first of July it will disappear and the planet will be invisible even in the telescope.

It may seem strange that Venus should be at her greatest brilliancy when she shows the crescent phase instead of at eastern elongation when half her surface is illuminated and she resembles the half-moon or earlier when she looks like the gibbous moon in the telescope. It must be remembered, though, that Venus is much nearer to us and so appears larger when the illuminated portion is crescent-shaped. As a result this crescent is greater in area than the half moon or gibbous moon of eastern elongation and earlier which we see when the planet is farther from the earth. As the brightness of Venus is proportional to the area of the illuminated part of its surface its brightness will be greatest when the planet is in the crescent phase. But this crescent increases in size while it narrows in width as Venus draws in toward the sun and it is a nice problem in mathematics to determine just when the area of the crescent is a maximum and when as a result the brilliancy of the planet is greatest. It has been found that this always happens 36 days before and after inferior conjunction.

As Venus will be in line with earth and sun at inferior conjunction on July 1 you can figure it out for yourself that Venus will be most brilliant on May 24 when she is visible in the west after sunset and on August 6 when she will be