



### RECORD-BREAKING "IVY STALK"

The photograph shows the discoverer, Jim Shelton, right, and Wesley Ogle, left.

Mothers and fathers who are over-solicitous about their children and take too much care of them, may hinder their development. On the other hand, there are homes in which the children "just grow" like Topsy. If they roam the streets in a poor neighborhood, such children may attain a hard maturity beyond their years.

The popular belief that city boys are more grown-up than country boys is confirmed by tests which we made with nearly 200 boys aged 11 to 13 years.

We found that, at 11 years, the city boy is apt to be a year and a third ahead of the country boy in his ambitions, ideas, sports, and so on. At 12, the city boy is apt to be fully two years more grown up than the country boy. But—this is rather curious—when the boys reach 13 years, there is not so much difference. The country boy has almost caught up with his city cousin, and there is only a third of a year difference between them.

If this is true, then we should not try to fit urban and rural boys into the same mould. Recreational programs should not be taken over bodily from the city and applied to country boys without making allowance for urban precocity. Books written for parents should take account of these differences.

Altogether, modern social science is making a determined effort to treat the child as an individual. To do this intelligently, we need to know what is

normal and what leads to favorable or unfavorable results.

This does not mean that we shall ever reduce a human being to a mathematical formula; but it does mean that a discreet use of tests and measurements can be very helpful.

*Science News Letter, August 1, 1936*

#### PLANT PATHOLOGY

### Tropical Tobaccos In "Health" Contest

NOT all the health contests are for bouncing babies. Government scientists, seeking tobaccos that will resist disease, have planted seed from over 600 samples of tobacco gathered in tropical America.

Among the diseases that now cause huge loss to the tobacco crop each year are included wildfire, blackfire, mosaic, mildew, stem rot, wilt, black shank, root knot, and black root rot.

The region where the seed was collected, in Mexico, Central America and northern South America, is undoubtedly the native home of the tobacco plant, declares Dr. E. E. Clayton, tobacco disease specialist of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. But this is the first systematic effort to collect and test some of the innumerable types and varieties that have existed there for centuries.

*Science News Letter, August 1, 1936*

#### BOTANY

### Giant Mountain Laurel Found in Great Smokies

"WHEN bigger mountain laurels are grown, the Smokies will grow 'em," declared Dr. H. M. Jennison, of the University of Tennessee, following his verification of the find of a veritable giant laurel in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The butt of the giant laurel measures 82 inches in diameter—quite a find, considering that the largest laurel previously listed in the Great Smokies Park was 21.6 inches in diameter. One limb of the plant was found to be 31 inches in diameter, measured through its base.

There is a confusion of names for shrubs, in the Great Smokies. What is locally called laurel is really rhododendron; the great "laurel slicks" on the mountainsides are dense jungles of rhododendron bushes. The true mountain laurel is known only as ivy in the Smokies. One mountaineer remarked to Professor Jennison, as two men examined the giant mountain laurel bush, "I don't reckon many people hain't never saw the ivy stalk!"

*Science News Letter, August 1, 1936*

#### ZOOLOGY

### Bears Follow the Grub 50 Miles Over Mountain

BEARS, like hoboes, seem to have an uncanny knack of finding out where the hand-outs grow.

When Yellowstone National Park opened up for the tourist season last spring, the bear "cafeteria" at Old Faithful, where the Bruins have for years been regaling themselves nightly on hotel and camp table scraps, was shut down in accordance with the Park Service policy of making the bears rustle for their own grub. Only the "cafeteria" at the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone, about fifty miles away, was kept open for business this season.

Now, Ranger Wayne Replogle, who got to know a lot of the bears at sight during several seasons on "bear ground" duty at Old Faithful, has recognized quite a number of his old friends in the new locality.

It looks as though an old song will have to be revised:

"The bears went over the mountain, to see what they could see—  
"Free grub by the side of the Canyon was all they cared to see!"

*Science News Letter, August 1, 1936*