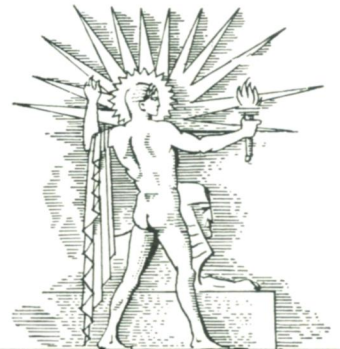
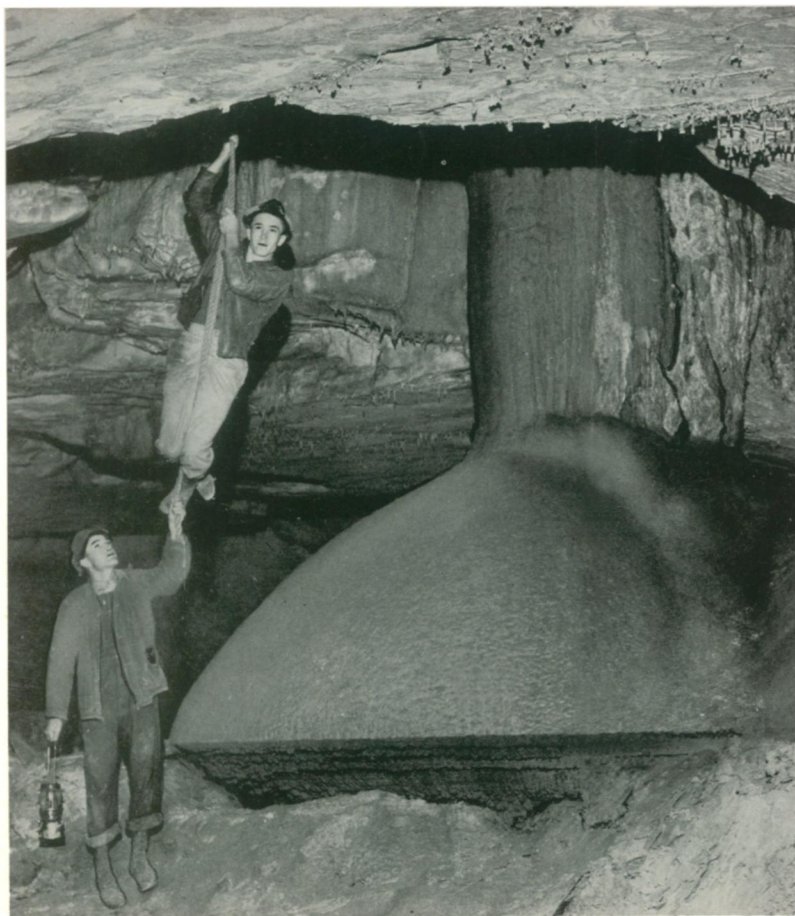


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# SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE ●



July 27, 1940

Mushroom Cave

See Page 56

A SCIENCE SERVICE PUBLICATION

## Do You Know?

*Mental tests* were given to college students experimentally about fifty years ago.

Three-fourths of the cost of an average *oil well* is spent before a drop of oil is produced.

In their useful work of cultivating the soil, *earthworms* tunnel downward three or four feet.

*Egg caddlers* expertly hold three eggs in each hand, passing them before a spot of light.

A new plastic made from sugar cane *bagasse* is reported as costing about 4.5 cents a pound.

It has been stated that 12,000 tons of *mustard gas* were used in the World War, causing 400,000 casualties.

Experiments indicate that lack of common salt in their diet is a cause of quail and other game birds sometimes turning *cannibal*.

With a view to producing *camouflaged* homing pigeons for army use, if needed, a California man has bred a line of oddly mottled birds.

In some German cities, owners are required to have wood construction on *roofs* flame-proofed, to lessen fire danger in air attacks and bomb raids.

What may be the oldest piece of American *pewter* on record is a fragment of a spoon dated "Chunkatuck 1675" unearthed at Jamestown, Virginia.

## QUESTIONS DISCUSSED IN THIS ISSUE

Most articles which appear in SCIENCE NEWS LETTER are based on communications to Science Service, or on papers before meetings. Where published sources are used they are referred to in the article.

### AERONAUTICS

What would be the advantages of plastics in airplane construction? p. 52.

How many men will be needed to build planes for the Army? p. 57.

### AGRICULTURE

What parts of the Americas did white men open up for agriculture? p. 57.

### ASTRONOMY

Who gave the first correct explanation of the Milky Way? p. 58.

What is the principal activity on the scientific program of Cook Observatory? p. 59.

### ASTRONOMY—GEOLOGY

When did ice fields flow away from the equator? p. 53.

### BOTANY

How dead is the Dead Sea? p. 57.

### CHEMISTRY

How is the American output of synthetic rubber to be increased? p. 57.

### CLIMATOLOGY

How is the aridity coefficient determined? p. 53.

### FORESTRY

How is valuable time lost in fighting forest fires? p. 62.

### GENERAL SCIENCE

What nations are trying to help antifascists now in France? p. 51.

### GEOLOGY

How was the Giant Mushroom in Mammoth Cave formed? p. 56.

### INVENTION

Who recently patented a rocket projectile? p. 60.

### MEDICINE

How is zinc peroxide used in cancer treatment? p. 55.

### METEOROLOGY

How do robot weathermen report their observations? p. 51.

### NUTRITION

When was grapefruit unfamiliar to average Americans? p. 56.

### PALEONTOLOGY

When did *Hesperornis* live? p. 55.

### PHYSICS

What is a recording spectrophotometer? p. 56.

### PSYCHOLOGY

How can we learn the way to peace? p. 54.

How can a fat man be identified in a blackout? p. 57.

Do monkeys really need their brains? p. 61.

### SAFETY

What age group is most prone to pedestrian accidents? p. 56.

### ZOOLOGY

Of what use is tobacco to a mouse? p. 62.

Norway has been a leading source of Italy's *nickel* supplies.

Rust proof *nails* for boats are being made of Monel metal.

Fencing off 15 acres of his farm for *wildlife*, a North Dakota farmer says: "I believe that providing an area for the nesting and protection of wildlife, grouse, Hungarian partridge, pheasants, and other birds will help me solve some of the insect problems on the farm."

Glass curbs, making highway edges stand out more *clearly* at night, are being tried in England.

To find ways of preventing *peaches* from browning, scientists tested 10,000 samples of peaches and used 124 solutions.

By putting *apples* into a state resembling suspended animation, in gas storage, growers can now market fresh juice apples in early summer or spring.

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