

6. Get in extra food, especially things which can be eaten without cooking or with very little preparation. Remember that electric power may be off and you may be without refrigeration.

7. If emergency cooking facilities are necessary, be sure they are in working order.

8. Sterilize the bathtub and fill it with water, advises the Weather Bureau. Also sterilize and fill all jugs, bottles, cooking utensils and other containers. Even for some time after service has been restored it may be wise to boil drinking water, unless you are sure the supply received from the city's mains is safe. Your health department can tell you about this.

9. Have a flashlight in working condition and keep it handy.

Danger to life and health threatens even after the hurricane is over. To avoid some of these dangers, follow these rules of the U. S. Weather Bureau:

1. Seek medical care at Red Cross disaster stations or hospitals for persons injured during the storm.

2. Don't touch loose or dangling wires. Report such damage to the light and power company, or nearest police officer.

3. Report broken sewer or water mains to the water department.

4. Don't empty water stored in bathtubs or other receptacles until you are sure that a safe water supply has been restored.

5. Guard against spoiled food in mechanical refrigerators if power has been off any length of time.

6. Take down shutters and save the lumber. Store in a handy place for future use.

7. Beware of broken tree limbs. Collect fallen limbs and debris around the premises and pile along curb to facilitate collection.

8. Unless you are qualified to render valuable emergency assistance, stay away from disaster areas where you may hamper first aid or rescue work.

9. Drive automobiles cautiously. Debris-filled streets are dangerous so keep your eyes on the road. Along the coast the soil may be washed away from beneath the pavement, which may collapse under the weight of vehicles.

10. Be alert to prevent fires. Lowered water pressure makes fire-fighting difficult after storms.

Science News Letter, August 11, 1951

INVENTION

Bath Tub Use by Invalids Made Easier

► THE USE of the bath tub is made easy for invalids by means of an improved bath chair on which patent 2,562,598 was issued to Margaret Brown as executrix of Omer G. Brown, deceased, of Kane, Pa. The seat is attached to a frame on the wall behind the tub and can be moved up and down to the bottom of the tub by manual operation.

Science News Letter, August 11, 1951

ARCHAEOLOGY

First Tree Felled By Man

Birch tree found in Yorkshire was cut down over 7,000 years ago and preserved because it was lying in a permanently water-logged area.

► WHAT MAY very well be the first tree ever felled by man has just been dug up at Seamer, in the English county of Yorkshire. It is described by the British archaeologist Dr. Grahame Clark, in the American scientific journal, *ARCHAEOLOGY* (Summer).

The tree is a birch, cut down 7,000 to 8,000 years before Christ and preserved until now because it has been lying in an area that is permanently water-logged.

The woodsman was one of a hunter-fisher people who lived in England in the Middle Stone Age at the beginning of the post-glacial period when it was possible to walk across the North Sea. Flint blades of his roughly chipped adz were also found along with birch bark in tightly wound rolls like those in which the Lapps store their bark at the present day.

Every specimen of wood found in this archaeological site was identified as birch. These people were living before the spread of hazel and of such warmth-demanding trees as alder, oak, elm or lime. Analysis

of fossil pollen confirms that the forests of those times were dominated by birch, although a certain amount of pine and willow may have grown not far away.

Quantities of the bracket fungus *Fomes fomentarius* were found at the site. These have been used for tinder and other purposes by European peasants down to recent times, but no conclusive evidence was found that the Seamer people gathered them; they may have been brought in clinging to the birch brushwood. Samples of the birch have been dated by carbon 14 tests as 9,488 years old—plus or minus 350 years.

The Seamer people apparently used animal skins for clothing, tents and possibly even for boats. Deer antlers were worked into barbed weapons for the chase.

Science News Letter, August 11, 1951

SURGERY

Skin Flap Operation Relieves Neuralgia

► A SKIN raising operation may relieve the intractable and often unbearable neuralgia that commonly follows an attack of shingles in old people, Drs. Kenneth H. Abbott and Bruce C. Martin of Ohio State University in Columbus find.

"Excellent relief from the burning pain" in two patients and "fair to good results" in a third are reported by them in the American Academy of Neurology's journal *NEUROLOGY* (July-Aug.).

The patient in whom results were only fair to good was a 63-year-old woman who had suffered a nervous break-down at the age of 33 and had shown various other neurotic symptoms.

The operation itself consists in cutting and lifting a flap of skin in the area affected by the pain. The cutting is done down to the muscle. The skin is then stitched back in place by silk sutures.

In this operation, both the nerves of sensation under the skin and also some of the sympathetic nerve fibers are cut. It is this double nerve-cutting that brings the relief, the Ohio surgeons believe.

One patient has been free of pain for three years, another for two years after the operation. This last has had return of sensation and some mild pain in the third year since the operation.

Only when the skin raising operation fails to give relief, Drs. Abbott and Martin state, should the more extensive kinds of nerve-cutting operations be tried.

Science News Letter, August 11, 1951



OLDEST FELLED TREE—Among the earliest traces of tree-felling yet found are these birch trees lying on the shore of the old lake at Star Carr, Seamer, Yorkshire, England, where recent excavations uncovered evidences of Stone Age men's work.