

films OF THE WEEK

GEOLOGY LANDFORM FILM LOOPS. Sixteen titles in 8mm or Super 8mm, and correlated to special terrain models and other materials. Titles include: Mature River Landforms; A City on a Coastal Plain; Erosion and Deposition in an Arid Region; The Cycle of a Plateau—Youth, Maturity, Old Age; Dynamics of Formation and Structure; Origin of Associated Land Forms; Formation of Anticlines and Synclines; Erosion and Drainage Systems; Land Forms Produced by Wave Action; Land Forms Produced by Coastal Depression; Alpine and Valley Glaciers; Erosion and Deposition; Eruption of Volcano and Lava flows (Extrusive Formation); Volcanic Necks, Sills and Dikes (Intrusive Formations); Collecting in Ancient Fossil Beds; and Collection and Restoration of Fossil Skeletons. Purchase 8mm \$21.50 each or Super 8mm \$22.95 each from Hubbard Scientific Co., P. O. Box 105, Northbrook, Ill. 60062.

THE GREAT SWAMP: A LAST WILDERNESS. 16mm, color, sound, 25 min. Created when the Wisconsin Glacier melted about 20,000 years ago, the Great Swamp in Morris County, New Jersey, is now a wildlife refuge operated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, protected against violation from man and his machines by Federal law. We see how the Great Swamp is utilized as a living laboratory, and come to have a better understanding of the relationship between living organisms and their environment, and the need for conservation. Audience: high school. Purchase \$325 or rental \$16 from McGraw-Hill Films, Dept. DF, 330 W. 42nd St., New York, N.Y. 10036.

INTERFACE FILM SERIES. 16mm, color, sound, 30 min. each. Twenty films from ETV series designed to help speed the flow of technological progress by providing accurate information on current developments in a variety of technological fields. Titles include: Paris Air Show 1969, Part 1 and Part 2; Liquid Crystals; Neutrons at Work; Cross-Channel Hovercraft; Turbo-train and Metroliner; Holography; Computer Animation; Robots Get Smarter; Geothermal Power; Some Simulators; Why Microelectronics Fail; Orbital Photogra-

phy; Man Amplifiers; Reverse Osmosis; Thermography; Aircraft Collision; Rotary Combustion Engine; Drug Decision; and Apollo is a Californian. Audience: industrial. Purchase \$360 per title or rental \$22.50 per title from University of California Extension Media Center, Berkeley, Calif. 94720.

TOPOLOGY: THE STUDY OF SURFACES. 16mm, b&w, sound, 28 min. An understanding of the theory of closed loop topology helps in solving familiar puzzles. Surface topology is explored with the famed "Moebius strip" that becomes "one" when cut in "two." Three dimensional objects such as a cup, sugar bowl, pretzel, watering can, bed spring and tea strainer are examined and classified into proper "genera" according to topological theory. One way to solve a maze (the famous maze at Hampton Court) is made clear when it is recognized as a "closed loop" of topology. Audience: upper elementary, junior high. Purchase \$130 from Prism Productions, 220 E. 23rd St., New York, N.Y. 10010. (Part of Inquiries in Science Series, with TV's Mr. Wizard.)

TREES: HOW TO KNOW THEM. 16mm, color, sound, 14 min. Presents the identifying features of trees as they change through the seasons. The bud and leave scars of the deciduous broadleaved trees are examined, as well as the distinguishing features of their bark. The cones and needles of the narrow-leaved evergreens are also described and compared. Extensive time-lapse photography shows the emergence of new leaves and flowers as spring arrives. Throughout the film, suggestions are made for collecting twigs, cones and leaves for identification purposes. Audience: elementary science, youth and scouting groups, beginning biology and botany classes. Purchase \$185 or rental \$10 from International Film Bureau, 332 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60604.

Listing is for readers' information of new 16mm and 8mm films on science, engineering, medicine and agriculture for professional, student and general audiences. For further information on purchase, rental or free loan, write to distributor.

SCIENCE NEWS

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Published every Saturday by SCIENCE SERVICE, Inc., 1719 N St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036. North 7-2255. Cable Address: SCIENSERV.

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to the editor

Tsunami

I was very surprised to see in your article "Rerun on Amchitka" the misuse of "tidal wave" (SN: 4/11, p. 367). A tidal wave is caused by gravitational effects, whereas the wave to which you refer is properly called a tsunami or seismic sea wave, which is generated by an underwater earthquake, volcanic eruption or large rock slides.

Robert H. Banks
Hyattsville, Md.

(Webster's authoritarian Second Edition defines tidal wave "popularly" as "the great sea wave that sometimes follows an earthquake." The more permissive Third Edition, which records popular usage and does not set rules, says tsunami and tidal wave are synonymous. Ed.)

Vote for data

Jeffrey F. Gilman's letter (SN: 2/28, p. 214) about irrigation causing more rain and fog raises a question that has bothered me for a long time. I refer to speculation based on the memory of old-timers—including my own. I recall driving through intermittent fog belts all the way from Pullman to Vantage via Moses Lake (the locale of Gilman's letter) in 1929 and also in 1944.

In the same issue in which Gilman's letter appears (page 224), is an article about increasing rain due to pulp mills which spew out nuclei for moisture condensation and the increase in rain in western Washington since 1946—the same year of change noted in Gilman's letter. On the same page is an article about beach erosion in California citing low rainfall in the past two decades. Are all these changes part of the same pattern and not related to local factors?

People tend to remember things the way they want them, forgetting unpleasant items unless they were extremely unpleasant. Responsible old-timers in Hawaii told me that most pineapples in Hawaii in the good-old-days weighed five to six pounds. The records for the period in question show averages around 3.5 to 4 pounds. People here clearly recall a six-month period with no rain, but the Government record for the period shows no span longer than 63 days between fairly good rains and that within the 63-day period several very light rains fell. I vote for the records and interpretations based on wide sampling and correlations.

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