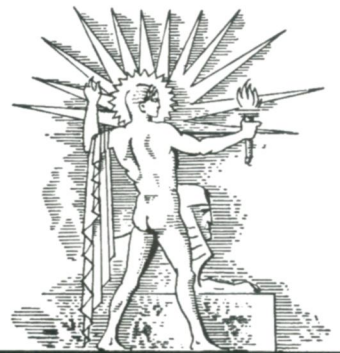


PRICE  
15¢

# SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE ●



February 24, 1940

Wings for Skiers

See Page 120

A S C I E N C E S E R V I C E P U B L I C A T I O N

## Do You Know?

In matching bells, some makers consider not only tones and overtones but also "personality."

A new life jacket automatically turns on its own distress signal light when the jacket—with the wearer inside—is immersed in water.

Athens College in Alabama will start a hosiery mill in which 400 students will work part time to meet their college expenses.

Spanish calves brought to America in 1521 founded the huge herds of millions of longhorn cattle that once roamed Western plains.

Hidden under plastering, large frescoes done in the fifteenth century have been detected in church buildings at the village of Brunello, Italy.

The earliest known example of canned food is in London, in a glass tube containing roast veal taken from a can more than a hundred years old.

Efforts to restore the Florida Everglades are being initiated by conservationists, who say that 25% of the area has been almost ruined for agricultural use by fires.

An early gas mask invented by an Englishman about 1825 had a leather hood, with mica or glass introduced for visibility, and a flexible leather pipe projecting from the nose to a flared tin opening equipped with filter and moist sponge.

## 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.

### ARCHAEOLOGY

What did a sixteenth century king's armor cost? p. 116.

### ASTRONOMY

What important astronomical happening occurs in March? p. 122.

### BOTANY

What makes corn "lazy"? p. 120.

### CHEMISTRY

How is glycerine made in the laboratory? p. 115.

What useful purpose is served by a cloth made of metal? p. 118.

### ENGINEERING

What development has made possible a simple method of large-scale production on the light-weight metal magnesium? p. 115.

### ETHNOLOGY

Where were skis invented? p. 121.

### GEOLOGY

From what island does a large share of this nation's manganese come? p. 116.

### INVENTION

For what purpose do skiers use sweeping cloaks? p. 120.

### MEDICINE

How does insulin aid one type of gastrointestinal disorder? p. 127.

What relative in the sulfanilamide family has been found useful in veterinary medicine? p. 121.

### METALLURGY

What discoveries have made it possible to develop a steel industry on the West Coast? p. 117.

### METEOROLOGY

How does a special type font speed weather reports? p. 127.

### MILITARY SCIENCE

What are present plans for research in the Navy? p. 116.

### OCEANOGRAPHY

What sort of message has recently been received from the liner Columbus? p. 120.

### PHYSIOLOGY

What activity does most to develop lung capacity? p. 120.

What mammal lives the longest? p. 120.

### PSYCHOLOGY

Why is the propaganda of European warring nations less effective than that of the World War? p. 126.

### RADIO

What invention has made it possible for blind persons to do radio servicing? p. 121.

A machine for measuring the warmth of fabrics used in clothes and bedding has been devised.

Germany plans to treat at government cost all children suffering from rickets—the number needing treatment being figured at 1,500,000.

Romans did not mark white lines on highways to divide traffic lanes, but they used wooden blocks as permanent markers down the middle.

Liege, Belgium, has been called the Thermopylae of Europe, because of its defensive position.

The white pine blister rust is reported to be advancing 80 miles farther south through California's sugar pine forests each year.

An Illinois experiment showed that when corn was not cultivated and weeds grew freely, the corn yield was reduced about 80%.

## SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

Vol. 37 FEBRUARY 24, 1940 No. 8

The Weekly Summary of Current Science, published every Saturday by SCIENCE SERVICE, Inc., 2101 Constitution Avenue, Washington, D. C. Edited by WATSON DAVIS.

Subscriptions—\$5.00 a year; two years \$7.00; 15 cents a copy. Ten or more copies to same address, 5 cents a copy. Back numbers more than six months old, 25 cents.

In requesting change of address, please give your old address as well as the new one, at least two weeks before change is to become effective.

Copyright, 1940, by Science Service, Inc. Reproduction of any portion of SCIENCE NEWS LETTER is strictly prohibited. Newspapers, magazines and other publications are invited to avail themselves of the numerous syndicate services issued by Science Service.

Cable address: Scienservc, Washington.

Entered as second class matter at the post-

office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of March 3, 1879. Established in mimeographed form March 18, 1922. Title registered as trademark, U. S. and Canadian Patent Offices. Indexed in Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature, Abridged Guide, and in the Engineering Index.

Members of the American Association for the Advancement of Science have privilege of subscribing to SCIENCE NEWS LETTER at \$3 a year.

The New York Museum of Science and Industry has elected SCIENCE NEWS LETTER as its official publication to be received by its members.

Advertising rates on application. Member Audit Bureau of Circulation.

SCIENCE SERVICE is the Institution for the Popularization of Science organized 1921 as a non-profit corporation, with trustees nominated by the National Academy of Sciences, the National Research Council, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the E. W. Scripps Estate and Journalistic profession.

Board of Trustees—Honorary President: William E. Ritter, University of California. Representing the American Association for the Advancement of Science; J. McKee Cattell, Edi-

tor, Science; Henry B. Ward, University of Illinois; Edwin G. Conklin, President, American Philosophical Society. Representing the National Academy of Sciences: W. H. Howell, Vice-President and Chairman of Executive Committee, Johns Hopkins University; R. A. Millikan, California Institute of Technology; Harlow Shapley, Harvard College Observatory. Representing National Research Council: C. G. Abbot, Secretary, Smithsonian Institution; Harrison E. Howe, Editor, Industrial and Engineering Chemistry; Ross G. Harrison, Yale University. Representing Journalistic Profession: John H. Finley, Editor, New York Times; Neil H. Swanson, Baltimore Evening Sun; O. W. Riegel, Washington and Lee School of Journalism. Representing E. W. Scripps Estate: Harry L. Smithton, Treasurer, Cincinnati, Ohio; Warren S. Thompson, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio; Karl Bickel, E. W. Scripps Co.

Staff—Director, Watson Davis; Writers, Frank Thone, Emily C. Davis, Jane Stafford, Marjorie Van de Water, Robert Potter; Correspondents in principal cities and centers of research. Photography: Fremont Davis; Librarian: Minna Gill; Sales and Advertising: Hallie Jenkins, Austin Winant, Howard Bandy.