



### Storm-Spared

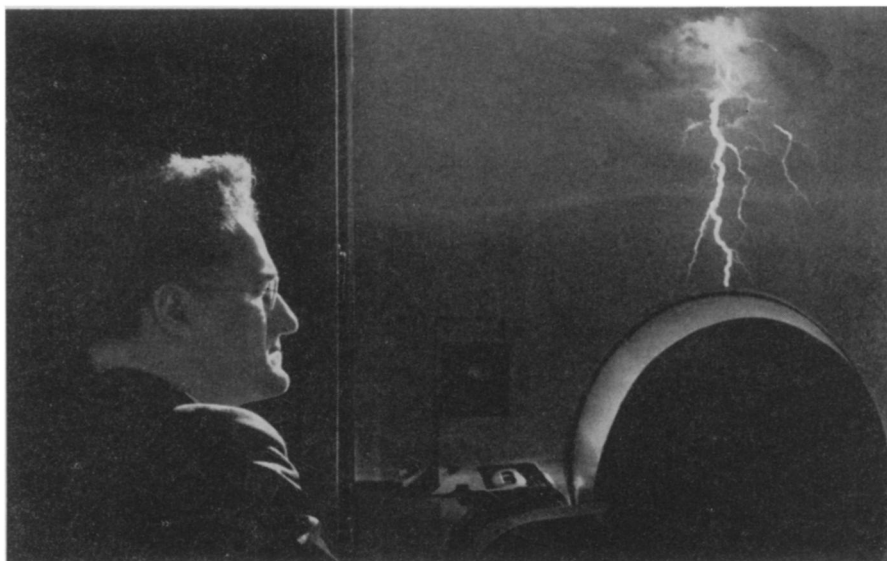
**W**AR, that shoves whole masses of human beings around the map like poker chips across a gaming table, or does them to death in a thousand cruel ways, has ironically spared a choice grove of very ancient yew trees, in the debated zone that once was Prussian, then was Polish, now is Prussian again. A Swiss observer, recently returned to his country after a trip into the area of newest conquest, tells of his visit to these yews.

The trees stand in a compact mass of about 50 acres, near Lake Mukrz, in the Lindenbusch state forest, in the formerly Polish province of Posen. There are all told some 5,500 trees, the largest about six feet in circumference. Since yews are usually small trees, this size is relatively gigantic. Sample ring counts indicate that the trees may be as much as a thousand years old—probably the oldest yews in the world.

The grove was made a special preserve as early as 1918, when it was still in Prussian possession. When the Polish republic was set up, it became Polish territory. Now conquest has made it German again. But through both changes of ownership the same meticulous care has been taken of the trees. As a matter of fact, at last reports, the Polish forester was still in charge, and the grove was still being called by its Polish name, *Reservat Cisy*. (“Cisy” is Polish for yew.)

How this grove managed to escape the hatchets of medieval bowyers, in the days when yews were munitions plants in the most literal sense of the term, is something of a mystery. It has been suggested, however, that it was once an inaccessible island in a larger Lake Mukrz, which has receded in recent centuries.

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## He Set a Trap for Lightning

**S**TALKING thunderstorms is nothing unusual for Karl McEachron. He's done it for years—photographing lightning bolts, traveling miles to study struck trees and buildings, enticing lightning to strike his equipment so that it will write a record of its voltage and power. He even has in his laboratory a machine to imitate it—a 10-million-volt lightning generator like the one seen in action last year by two and a half million visitors to the G-E building at the New York World's Fair.

Dr. McEachron's work has won him world recognition as an authority on lightning. And at Pittsfield, Massachusetts, in the G-E High Voltage Laboratory, he and his associates are learning how to outwit this “outlaw” of nature—how to keep it from interfering with your electric service. That's one reason why a passing thunderstorm isn't the signal for a “black-out” in your home, as it used to be. Your lights may blink, but they seldom stay out.

Karl McEachron is one of the hundreds of men in General Electric who are devoting their lives to making electricity more useful to you—are helping industry to improve its products and services, to sell them for less, and so make them available to more millions of people. These men are helping to raise the living standards of everyone by creating “More Goods for More People at Less Cost.”

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