



Feudal Fortifications

► **WALLED CITIES**, we are told in school, became obsolete with the passing of feudalism.

They served their purpose in ancient and medieval times, first as the hard-shelled nuclei of city-states, then as strong centers of resistance to the raids of barbarian hordes and the anarchic attacks of only slightly more civilized robber barons. But with the firm establishment of modern states and the development of modern arms, the every-town-for-itself idea lost its usefulness.

This may be true in the field of human relations but when it comes to protection against the wild forces of nature our cities still remain largely medieval.

When rivers rise to flood stage in spring, we find river towns becoming increasingly concerned about the height and strength of their river walls. If a neighboring city has a higher and stronger levee, there is apt to be a good deal of envious comment in newspaper editorials and radio comment. We even find mile upon mile of embank-

ments along our larger rivers, especially in the South, to protect farm lands.

This kind of fortification of whole regions has not been practiced in a military way since the Chinese in Asia and the Romans in Europe built their famous great walls to check the hordes of northern barbarians.

True flood protection of our river cities and lands, conservationists never tire of pointing out, can be achieved only by stopping the floods where they start—far up on the watersheds, where rivers are still not more than creeks.

Reforestation or resodding of sloping lands, to reduce runoff and encourage the absorption of water into the soil and its long-time storage there will do much to cut down the number of small floods and mitigate the severity of big ones.

These water-conserving measures are also soil-conserving, for they hold the soil in place and prevent it from washing down into the rivers. Once washed into the streams, such ruined soil becomes channel-choking silt and sand, raising the level of the bottom and compelling the building of downstream protective embankments to ever more towering—and costly—castle-like heights.

So it is good economics, as well as good civics, to seek your flood protection as far upstream as possible.

Science News Letter, May 17, 1952

METEOROLOGY

Scattered Air Followed By Fluorescent Tagging

► A PARTICULAR parcel of air as it moves through the atmosphere, will scatter and diffuse into an area one million times its original size before it has gone ten miles. This takes place in as short a time as two hours.

This was the discovery of three scientists at the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology who "tagged" air with minute fluorescent pigments and then followed with airplanes their travels through the skies.

With this new technique the scientists were able to trace the diffusion of the air for more than 100 miles, about four times as far as it had ever been done before. The scientists are Drs. Roscoe R. Braham, Ben K. Seely and W. D. Crozier. Dr. Crozier told a meeting of the American Meteorological Society in Washington of the work.

Tagging air is useful, he said, in measuring diffusion of our atmosphere due to turbulence. Out of such work may come knowledge useful to industry in preventing air pollution with factory smoke and other exhausts. Weather men want to know how air moves about and is diffused so they can make better forecasts.

Science News Letter, May 17, 1952

How To Stop Saying

"I Always Spend Too Much On My Vacation"

No matter what kind of vacation you want this year or where you want to go, Norman D. Ford, founder of the world-famous Globe Trotters Club, can tell you *exactly*—where to go—what to see—what to wear, take, and tip

and how to have the best vacation of your life and do it all for less money.

Where to go for a happy vacation

In his new book, **Where to Vacation on a Shoestring**, Norman Ford shows where to get real vacation bargains from one end of America to the other, from Florida to California, and he doesn't forget Canada, Mexico, Hawaii, Cuba, and other favorite vacation spots. He names the most delightful places to spend a day, a weekend, or your entire vacation. He doesn't expect you to spend a lot, so he tells you all the many things you can do within your budget and how to stretch that budget.

How to get there—seeing more, spending less

No matter how you want to reach your vacation spot or if you want to spend your entire vacation touring, Norman Ford draws upon his long experience and the advice given him by thousands of travelers, so that you can save, while enjoying yourself more, whether you go by auto, plane, rail, or ship. On auto travel alone, his simple ways to cut costs can save most automobile parties \$6 or \$7 a day.

What to do when you get there

Whether you want to spend a weekend at Jones Beach or a full week in Los Angeles or other big cities; whether you want to tour the national parks or take in the magnificent Colorado Rockies or swim in the unbelievably warm waters off Nova Scotia, that Canadian paradise of low cost vacations—no matter what you want to do, you can find hundreds of ideas in this book for enjoying yourself more and filling your entire vacation with a round of fun.

Hundreds of other ideas for happier vacationing

There's a lot more besides. If you are a parent, you will think that the chapter on how to go driving with your children is worth the price several times over for with its advice you will keep your children interested and entertained every minute of the trip.

There's a whole chapter, too, on the real bargain basement in foreign travel, and another on the unknown vacation wonderlands almost on your front door. There's all you want to know about low cost sailing ship cruises, about fantastically low cost mountain vacations, and many another idea to give you a wider choice in this year's vacation. To top it all, you'll find its detailed chart on whom to tip

and how much to tip just the final touch to smooth your vacation and make you feel this year's was the best you ever had.

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