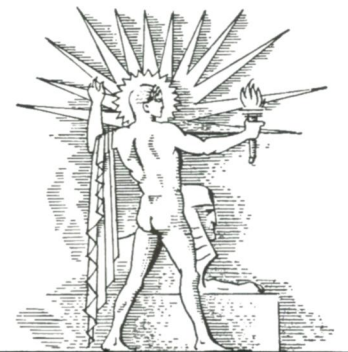


PRICE  
15¢

# SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE ●



August 2, 1941

For Light in Blackout

See Page 68

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?

All of the world's *great white herons*—about 800—are in Florida.

The only Australian *boomerangs* designed to return when thrown were those made for hunting.

Due to a shortage of nickel, Swedish metallurgists have developed alloy construction *steel* with little or no nickel.

The number of *Jews* in the world at the beginning of the Christian era has been variously estimated at one to eight million.

Once dependent on Europe for its *quicksilver* needs of about 30,000 flasks a year, the United States is now producing 50,000 flasks a year.

As the population of London increased from 2,800,000 to 4,700,000, *foggy* days per year increased from 50.8 to 74.2, says Dr. Helmut Landsberg, Pennsylvania State College geophysicist.

One explorer says that probably the world's severest mountain-top *weather* is on Mount McKinley, Alaska, which is over 20,000 feet high and nearer the North Pole than any peak of similar size.

San Diego's Natural History Museum is to have an Emperor *penguin* and an Adelie penguin from the Byrd Antarctic Expedition's specimens, and these are believed to be the first Antarctic penguins exhibited in a Pacific Coast museum.

## 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.

### AERONAUTICS

When will the "contra-prop" system be tried out in the United States? p. 68.

### ARCHAEOLOGY

What is the latest scientific good neighbor project? p. 67.

### ASTRONOMY

Where were a bright meteor and northern lights observed together? p. 72.

### BOTANY

What bad news is being passed out to hayfever victims? p. 78.

### CHEMISTRY

What material for varnish is obtained from cashew nut shells? p. 77.

### ECOLOGY

How can the sites of vanished mining camps be located? p. 73.

### ENGINEERING

Where will America have a "blackout factory"? p. 68.

### ENTOMOLOGY

What new disease is attacking the citrus red scale? p. 72.

What scent can be used to lure insects to their deaths? p. 73.

### MEDICINE

To what vitamins are some individuals allergic? p. 72.

What chemical is being tried against infantile paralysis in England? p. 69.

What combination of vitamins with yeast prevents growth of transplanted cancer in mice? p. 69.

What operation has been used successfully against high blood pressure? p. 72.

What sort of ailment is produced by drinking "smoke"? p. 69.

What will stop the itching of mosquito bites? p. 73.

### NUTRITION

At what university has a school of nutrition just been established? p. 74.

### OCEANOGRAPHY

What sort of material is found on the bottom of the deepest seas? p. 75.

Where have miniature oceans been built in laboratories? p. 70.

### PHYSICS

What causes the glow of the sky at night? p. 78.

What have British physicists found out about bomb explosions? p. 71.

Where will scientists study cosmic rays three miles up? p. 70.

### PHYSIOLOGY

Where is a chemical heart brake produced? p. 73.

### PSYCHIATRY

What difficulties are faced by America's mental hospitals? p. 77.

### PSYCHOLOGY

How can the draftee bridegroom be kept happily married? p. 77.

### PUBLIC HEALTH

How can America speed up human power? p. 74.

To insure that a *range finder* for a fighting ship can "take it," the instrument is tested with terrific shocks and vibrations.

The *St. Lawrence waterway* is now 14 feet deep and handles 9,000,000 tons of traffic; if deepened to 27 feet with necessary lengthening of the canal locks, it would have 25,000,000 tons traffic capacity.

*Tires* of the huge bomber B-19 weigh more than a ton apiece.

Colombia has a new *chemical society* patterned after the American Chemical Society.

*Boulder Dam* is higher than Grand Coulee Dam, but the latter is nearly four times longer and has nearly 50% greater capacity.

## SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

Vol. 40 AUGUST 2, 1941 No. 5

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, 1941, 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: Scienserv, 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.

*Board of Trustees—Nominated by the American Association for the Advancement of Science:* Henry B. Ward, University of Illinois; Edwin G. Conklin, American Philosophical Society; J. McKeen Cattell, Editor, Science. *Nominated by the National Academy of Sciences:* R. A. Millikan, California Institute of Technology; Harlow

Shapley, Harvard College Observatory; William H. Howell, Johns Hopkins University. *Nominated by the National Research Council:* Ross G. Harrison, Yale University; C. G. Abbot, Secretary, Smithsonian Institution; Harrison E. Howe, Editor, Industrial and Engineering Chemistry. *Nominated by the Journalistic Profession:* O. W. Riegel, Washington and Lee School of Journalism; A. H. Kirchhofer, Buffalo Evening News; Neil H. Swanson, Baltimore Evening Sun. *Nominated by the E. W. Scripps Estate:* Frank R. Ford, Evansville Press; Warren S. Thompson, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio; Harry L. Smithton, Cincinnati, Ohio.

*Officers—Honorary President:* William E. Ritter, President; Edwin G. Conklin, Vice-President and Chairman of Executive Committee; Harlow Shapley, Treasurer; O. W. Riegel, Secretary; Watson Davis.

*Staff—Director:* Watson Davis. *Writers:* Frank Thone, Emily C. Davis, Jane Stafford, Marjorie Van de Water, James Stokley. *Photography:* Fremont Davis. *Librarian:* Minna Gill. *Business Manager:* Alvin C. Stewart. *Sales and Advertising:* Hallie Jenkins, Austin Winant. *Correspondents* in principal cities and centers of research.