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For County People

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1,250 NEW HOMES IN MONTGOMERY

Real estate development soared to previously unscaled heights in Montgomery County during 1935 with construction of a speculative and individual nature representing an outlay of $5,529,330 being carried on in the greatest boom in the country's history.

The mark attained during the year surpassed by $1,677,435 the former record of $3,851,895 established in 1927, when the intensive development of the suburban districts bordering the National Capital was begun, while it was $3,539,315 higher than the $1,990,015 reported in the county in 1934.

The western suburban district located in the southwest section of the county, underwent the largest development in Montgomery, as is its custom, with permits issued for $3,101,445 worth of construction, while the eastern suburban district, located in the southeast area, reported $1,851,860. Both figures greatly exceeded 1934 totals, which were $832,190 in the eastern district and $981,725 in the western section.

No figures for the incorporated towns are included in the suburban reports, the towns issuing their own permits. Takoma Park led this group with $248,220. Kensington reported $38,500, and Glen Echo, $26,500, including the $20,000 fire house and hall.

WISCONSIN AVENUE PARKWAY PLANNED

A parkway stretching along Wisconsin Avenue from the District of Columbia line to Old Georgetown road will be constructed next Spring to fill in the dangerous gulley left in the center of the thoroughfare by recent widening and resurfacing work.

Nathan L. Smith, chief engineer of the State Roads Commission, reports that his organization has carefully weighed proposals to remove the hazardous ravine either by paving or installing a landscaped parkway and finally decided in favor of the latter method.

The highway engineer also said a final check is being made to determine whether the commission has obtained all of the rights-of-way needed for the Kensington and Rockville grade crossing eliminations and bids for construction of the spans are to be sought as soon as this task is finished.

HEARING ON NEARBY BOND ISSUE TODAY

Approval by the Public Service Commission of a proposed $250,000 bond issue is asked by the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission.

The applicant will be heard today on plans to sell the bonds to supply funds in addition to a $180,000 P. W. A. grant for building and extension of new water mains and sewers in Takoma Park, Rock Creek Valley, College Park, Hyattsville, East Riverdale, Chevy Chase and Bethesda.

Beginning of Volley Ball

Volley ball was invented in 1895 by William G. Morgan, then physical director of Holyoke (Mass.) Y. M. C. A. He created the game to supply the need for a gymnasium sport that was competitive, yet not combative. A tennis net and a rubber bladder, taken from a basketball, were the crude implements originally used. The game was intended for middle-aged men who could not indulge in a strenuous sport like basketball. It is now an "all-ages" sport, the boys having speeded it up so much that the action is little short of cyclonic. Women also play the game.

Robin Greatest Songster

Of all the true songsters the familiar robin has one of the most extensive repertoires in the whole of the bird choir, for it can trill out a good half-hour of ringing happy tunes without repeating itself.

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KENTUCKY COLONEL HONOR CONFERRED ON "CY" CUMMMINGS

Andrew J. ("Cy") Cummings, genial director of the Laurel race track and a leader in the Democratic party in Maryland, has joined the ranks of Kentucky's Colonels.

The distinction of receiving the last commission issued by Gov. Ruby Yaffoon was accorded Cummings several days before Laffoon retired from office this month, as chief executive of the Blue Grass State.

Cummings, president of the Maryland State Fair, Inc., which operates the Laurel track, met Gov. Laffoon at the Kentucky Derby several years ago through a mutual friend, Col. Matt Winn, president of the American Turf Association. Cummings, who is known to thousands of Washingtonians and Maryland residents, served 11 years in the Maryland General Assembly as a delegate from Montgomery County. He is now 57 years old.

4 OF 7 TAX AREAS IN CHEVY CHASE ARE OUT OF DEBT

For the first time in more than a decade, four out of seven special taxing areas in the Chevy Chase district of Montgomery County will enter upon the New Year free of debt.

Somerset, the only incorporated town in the area, made the final payment during the Summer on a debt of $40,000 contracted in 1924 for paving the town streets. Under normal conditions, this debt would have been wiped out three years ago. Owing to the failure of the bank in which town funds were deposited, in 1932, and also to the inability of the owner of a large tract of undeveloped land in the town limits to pay taxes for the past five years, final payment on the paving debt was delayed until last July.

Cuckoo Selects Nest of Other Bird to Lay Eggs

In appearance the cuckoo is much like the sparrow hawk or kestrel, and just as most of the smaller birds will attack a hawk when they see it in the air, so will they attack the cuckoo when it shows itself.

The cuckoo has kept a secret for thousands of years. From earliest records, notes a writer in Tit-Bits Magazine, going back to the ancient Greeks, it was thought that she laid her egg upon the ground, picked it up in her beak, carried it to the selected nest and dropped it in, but investigation proves that the cuckoo lays her egg directly into the nest.

When the female cuckoo is ready to lay, she will sit on a perch almost motionless from half an hour to six hours, and this corresponds to the time that any other bird would sit on the nest before laying. Then she glides down to the selected nest, for during the previous days she has carefully watched the owners. She wastes no time, but goes quickly to it, stealing one of the eggs. Holding this in her beak, she moves her body on to the nest, lays her own egg in the place of the one removed, and flies off with the stolen egg. This is devoured, sometimes while she is flying away, but more often when she reaches a convenient perch.

State Has Four National Parks

California is the only state having four national parks. Each has some outstanding feature, all are in mountainous country. The northernmost one, Lassen Volcanic National park, encloses Mt. Lassen, the only active volcano in the United States. Directly east of San Francisco are the great valley and granite domes of Yosemite National park, deep in the Sierras. Farther south are Sequoia and General Grant National parks, preserving giant sequoias and redwoods.

Bear Sucks Up Ants

When the black bear of India finds an ant-hill it takes but a few minutes to tear up the hard, cemented clay and lay the deep galleries bare; then putting its gutta-percha muzzle to the mouths of each gallery, it draws such a blast of air through them that the industrious laboring ants are sucked into its gullet in drifts. Afterwards the bear digs right down to the royal chamber, licks up the bloated queen and goes on its way.

Many Languages Used

There are 2,796 languages used by the 2,000,000,000 inhabitants of this earth. Chinese leads in popularity with a variety of dialects, as the mother tongue of 475,000,000 persons, and English rates second with 224,995,500. Then follow in order Hindustani and the other Indian languages, Russian and dialects, Japanese, Spanish, German, French, Portuguese, Javanese Italian and Arabic.

People of Gaspe Peninsula

The people who live on the Gaspe peninsula are the descendants of the early traders and fishermen who arrived from France shortly after the country had been discovered, of Channel islanders who settled on the coast in the early days of the new colony, of Loyalists who came from the United States, of Acadians who were exiled from their country, of English, Irish and Scotch immigrants.

Evolutionary Changes

In general it may be said that evolutionary changes are taking place but so gradually among the living animals and plants that they are almost imperceptible. A case in point is the little toe of human beings which seems to be gradually disappearing.

As the Blood Circulates

It takes 15 seconds for the blood to circulate through our bodies; thus it passes through the heart four times every minute.

AVERAGE NET WORTH OF FAMILIES RISES

Special Survey Shows Home Mortages Reduced.

Minneapolis.—The average insured family has 30 per cent more cash in the bank today than it had in 1933, and has reduced the mortgage on its home by 10 per cent in the same two-year period, according to a survey of 10,000 policy holder families by the Northwestern National Life Insurance company of Minneapolis.

An average reserve of $356 per family of cash on hand and in banks, was reported as of the spring of 1933 in response to the insurance company's questionnaire; this compares with $464 per family at the present time, an increase of $108, or 30 per cent.

A reduction in the size of the average mortgage from $3,464 in 1933 to $3,110 in 1935 was shown in the reports. Approximately 49 per cent of the policy holders investigated were home owners; the average home valuation was $5,301. Half of the homes owned were clear of encumbrance; the remaining 50 per cent were mortgaged.

The average amount of life insurance owned per family was $7,710 in 1933, and $8,199 in 1935, an increase of 6.3 per cent.

The average net worth of each family, including equity in home but exclusive of life insurance, was $2,953 in the spring of 1933, and had risen to $3,440 two years later, the survey showed, an increase in average wealth of 16 per cent. The 10,000 families were selected at random from policy holder lists.

A special survey of urban housing conducted in 61 cities by the United States Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce showed a reduction in the average mortgage on owner-occupied homes of 3.29 per cent from 1933 to 1934. The fact that the reduction for the two years from '33 to '35 totaled 10.22 per cent in the insurance company's survey would seem to indicate that the average family is paying off its obligations at an increasingly rapid rate, the report concludes.

Common House Fly Found to Carry Million Germs

New York.—Two scientists recently examined 400 house flies to determine how important that common insect really is in the spread of germs. Securing flies from all sorts of places they found that the average number of bacteria carried per fly was more than 1,000,000, reports the American Institute of Sanitation.

"Under the microscope the fly appears like an animated feather duster. The legs and body are covered with fine hairs which carry countless germs from place to place. Each of its six legs have two hairy pads in which a sticky fluid is secreted. By means of these adhesive pads on its feet a fly can perform the novel trick of walking upside down on a ceiling. But those pads, so useful to the fly in defying gravitation, pick up all sorts of bacteria as the scavenger walks along.

"A single fly may alight on a dozen objects in a few minutes and leave an unseen trail of germs that would be appalling if made visible to the eye of a housewife. Yet it is easy to demonstrate scientifically that a housefly literally sheds germs with every step he takes."

Confederates Rejected Man Who Lived Century

Nashville, Tenn.—Too frail for the Confederate army, William M. Bess, Nashville citizen, was not too frail for the battle of life. He died at the age of one hundred, just 21 days before his one hundred and first birthday.

Full of vigor until the last days of his life, Bess was able to take a daily walk of about three-quarters of a mile. Until three years ago, he would "walk down to Nashville," a distance of nearly 12 miles, whenever he took "a notion."

When the Civil war broke out, Bess volunteered, but because whooping cough and measles had settled in his lungs, he was ruled too frail.

Chinese Girl Student Wins Maine Scholarship

Orono, Maine.—The University of Maine's School of Education held a scholarship contest.

First prize in English went to Miss Mary Chin Heung. Both her parents were born in China. She was born in Portland 17 years ago. Not only a good scholar, she stars, too, in baseball, basketball and field hockey.

Find Many Mental Ills Among Workers

Dallas, Texas.—Fully 50 per cent of all persons employed in American industries suffer form varying degrees of emotional or mental ill health, according to Dr. H. L. Pritchett, professor of sociology at Southern Methodist university.

Many men and women who are highly successful in business and are entirely rational, nonetheless suffer from emotional maladjustment, Pritchett said.

Relatively few people are engaged in the type of work they really wish to follow, he said. Most people are engaged as they are because of compulsion or circumstance.

Montreal, Largest in Canada

Montreal is the largest city of Canada, modern and its financial center, but gayly French in its way. It is an interesting combination of French and Scotch, the two most important elements in the founding and building of the city.

Iran and Iraq

Iran and Iraq are the official names respectively for Persia and Mesopotamia.

All Sorts of Muskets in Use During Revolution

In the American Revolutionary war the battling patriots of the new world carried all sorts of muskets, and a few were armed with the long rifle, later known as the Kentucky rifle. At Bunker Hill the British troops carried smoothbore muskets, and the farmers and militiamen who faced them likewise were armed with smoothbores, with the likelihood that a few of the last named carried the rifle that had been introduced into this country by German immigrants.

The smoothbore musket of the revolution, and the weapon with which a majority of Washington's troops were armed, was the French Charleville musket, says a writer in the Chicago Tribune. It had a maximum range of about 880 yards, or a half mile, and an accurate range of about 100 yards. If a soldier could hit a man or a horse at 100 yards with his musket he was considered a good shot, the order of the officers to the men then invariably being to "wait until you see the whites of the enemies' eyes." The long rifle, on the other hand, a weapon in existence at that time, had a maximum range, with a full charge of powder, of about 1,320 yards, or three-quarters of a mile, and was accurate up to 150 to 200 yards, depending entirely upon who was doing the shooting. Some of the most skillful of the marksmen of that time could shoot the old long rifle accurately at a distance of even more than 200 yards.

Close Weaving Is an Art Common With Araucanians

Araucanian textiles are beautiful examples of the craft. They are closely woven and have a deep, rich nap. They are prized also for their characteristic designs, the blending of colors and the quality of their dyes. It is well to know quality, however, for aniline dyes have in recent years gained some favor with the natives and replaced to some extent the vegetable coloring used for centuries.

Close weaving is an art which nature forced upon the Araucanians, states a writer in the Washington Star. Persistent rains at certain seasons of the year have led them to fashion cloth and robes as waterproof as possible. A variety of colors and striking patterns, make the garments gay and lovely.

Ponchos usually are woven with stripes or rectilinear designs. Sometimes a Greek cross forms the center of the pattern, and others have small squares with zig-zag sides. The background is usually blue or black and in bringing out the pattern, the Indians use a method which has been followed for generations. Upon the wool that is to remain white, the craftsman ties strips of leather or resistant vegetable fiber. After the dyeing is completed, the coating is removed.

Mistletoe First State Flower

The mistletoe was the first state flower to be chosen, Oklahoma making the choice in 1893. Since that time many states have chosen flowers and have changed from one flower to another. Selections have been made by vote of the school children, by vote of the state legislatures and some stand by general adoption. A national flower still remains to be chosen, the dogwood, rose, mountain laurel, daisy, columbine and golden rod having been suggested. The wild rose was chosen for the United States by vote of the readers of Nature Magazine, but no flower has been officially selected. The rose is very popular in state-naming lists, the District of Columbia selecting the American Beauty rose, Iowa and North Dakota, the wild rose, New York, the rose, and Georgia, the Cherokee rose.—Detroit News.

The Brown Thrasher

Graceful and alert, his reddish brown back, head, tail and wings make him blend into his surroundings so well that the sly Brown Thrasher is often overlooked. There are some black markings across the upper part of the wings. This black is bordered with white, so that two white bars seem to extend across each wing. The side of his head is light yellow-gray. The eye is pale yellow. The throat, breast and other underparts are pale gray, tinted with light brown. The undermarkings are black. His feet are brownish gray, and the beak is dull blackish brown. The Brown Thrasher ranks with the mockingbird as a songster.—Indianapolis News.

Violin Has Not Changed

While every other musical instrument of the modern orchestra, with the organ and piano, have undergone such changes in construction as almost to make them different instruments, the violin has not changed for the better in the last 300 years. Amati, Stradivarius, Guarnerius, and the others, found the perfect model, and although many attempts have been made to improve on it, they have resulted in failure. The Cremona type became the class model for the violin and it is accepted as such, universally.

May Be Cause of 'Quakes

Scientists believe that earthquakes are very rarely due to volcanic explosions below ground. We live on the solid crust of the earth, which is some forty miles thick and continually subject to slow earth movements. These put the earth's crust into a state of strain, which increases until it becomes too great at one point for the strength of the rock to resist. Then there is a sudden slip or rupture, which appears on the surface as an earthquake.

Degrees for Presidents

Forty-nine American universities and colleges have conferred degrees on Presidents. Collegiate honoring of Presidents began with George Washington and has continued almost uninterruptedly.

Step on Your Troubles

Jud Tunkins says troubles are like colds. It's unfair to scatter 'em around among innocent bystanders.

U. S. RENEWS FIGHT ON LOTTERY SALES

Fraud Orders Deal Blow at Use of Mails.

Washington. — Renewing its war against foreign lottery operators, the Post Office department has recently issued fraud orders against 450 residents of foreign countries, the longest individual list ever issued by the department. Notwithstanding the close watch maintained at the border by customs officers and the vigilance of post office investigators, foreign lottery tickets find a wide sale in the United States.

The results of the current offensive will be in proportion to the success of federal authorities in locating and identifying foreign distributors and in intercepting lottery material. Existing federal statutes, which carry a blanket ban on the sale of lottery tickets through the mails, are declared to be adequate. A more difficult job—one that does not fall within the jurisdiction of the Post Office department—is the prevention of the peddling of lottery tickets in the country—prohibited by the laws of most states.

Annual Sales $10,000,000.

Money sent abroad by Americans, either for the purchase of legitimate sweepstake tickets or "phonies," totals to a vast sum. The best estimates, based partly on the prize money won by Americans, place the value of ticket sales at $10,000,000 annually. In addition to the tickets sold for the Irish and other recognized sweepstakes and lotteries, thousands of counterfeit tickets have found an easy market in this country. Not only are counterfeits peddled in large quantities, but there have been many sales on fake sweepstakes. That is, the agents sell tickets, comb their "sucker" list, and then fold up completely, purchasers of tickets never hearing from them again.

The Post Office department receives a variety of information that is passed to its inspectors. Practically all the agents and distributors of tickets who use the mails reside outside the United States. When a customs inspector, a local postmaster, or any other federal official sees a large batch of letters in a single mail shipment, from the same address, suspicion is around. (Lottery agents customarily use first-class mail, in their efforts to build up a customer list).

Promptly Confiscated.

Though postal authorities have no authority to open first-class mail, they do have the authority, on suspicion, to stamp a letter: "Supposed to contain matter prohibited importation." When a letter so stamped reaches the post office of destination, the American addressee is required to open it in the presence of the local postmaster.

If the letter contains a lottery ticket it is promptly confiscated, and the Post Office department issues forthwith a fraud order against the foreign agent. The order is a double-barreled weapon. The Post Office department will not deliver letters from the foreign person or address, nor will it accept mail matter originating in the United States for names that appear on a fraud order.

Blame Henpecked Mates if Women Go Hysterical

Berlin.—"If women go hysterical their husbands are to blame in most cases, and especially the henpecked ones!"

This is the conclusion reached by Dr. G. Giehm, psychiatrist of a large sanitarium at Zeppernick in the north of Berlin, as a result of an investigation of cases of hysterical women.

Writing in the German Medical Weekly, Doctor Giehm says: "As a practical consequence of this discovery the husbands should be treated and cured rather than their wives, in the first place."

Doctor Giehm found that the henpecked husbands were very sensitive, inactive, soft, over-careful, wavering men who covered up their weakness by pretending to be "kind and gentle" sympathizers with their wife's malady.

This kind of husband constitutes the greatest danger for the hysterical patients, he believes.

Best Pen Ever Found in Post Office, Woman Says

Newark, N. J.—The millennium is here, Postmaster Sinnott believes.

A woman walked into the post office, picked up a pen, dipped it in ink and began to write. As she finished, she scrutinized the pen carefully, and then walked to the inquiry window. Holding forth the pen to the amazed clerk, she said:

"Could you tell me what make this pen is? It's the best I have ever used."

This will answer all future critics of post office pens, chuckles Sinnott.

Monument Marks Grave of Friendly Sioux Chief

Chamberlain, S. D.—The first monument ever erected over the grave of a Sioux Indian chief, so far as the history of South Dakota reveals, stands on Medicine creek across the Missouri river from here. It marks the grave of Iron Nation, head of the Lower Brule, hereditary enemies of the Pawnees, Gros Ventres, Poncas and Crows.

Iron Nation was a prominent figure in the tribe for 60 years, the early ones being spent as a war chief. During his latter years he was a firm friend of the whites.

Largest Herd of Moose

The largest herd of moose on this continent is probably the one on Isle Royal in Lake Superior. The National park service estimates that there are more than 2,000 moose in this herd. The number is constantly increasing.

Alcohol on the Brain

Up to a drop of alcohol may be found in the brain of a person who has never touched liquor, says a New York university professor.

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