

Strange But True

By F. H. MacArthur

The first wedding rings were worn by Egyptian ladies but the true origin of rings is shrouded in mystery, forever buried in the dim and dusty past.

The early Romans used a plain iron ring, implying a marriage that would bind the wedded pair throughout eternity.

The ring was used in marriage among Christians as early as 850, and were made of gold, silver, brass, rush, leather and wood, according to the needs of the moment and the price the bridegroom could afford to pay.

In the 18th century, we are told, ministers carried a supply of brass curtain rings in their pockets — just in case of an emergency!

Wedding rings have a fascinating and interesting history. Primitive man believed that a woman was only half woman and a man only half man, until they were married. The ring, of course, joined together the two and made them one.

In the 17th century most wedding rings were beautifully engraved in tiny letters so small as to be scarcely readable. And here's an example of a motto used at that time: "I will be yours while life endures."

Just why is the ring worn on the 4th finger of the left hand? There are a number of curious and legendary reasons, none of which bear the elements of truth. The true reason for wearing the ring on this finger is that it is the least used of all the fingers, and therefore ornaments worn upon it are not inconvenient.

But the ring was not always worn on the fourth finger for in Southern's "Maid's Last Prayer" we find:

"Marry him I must, and wear my wedding ring upon my thumb, too, that I'm resolved."

Many portraits of the ladies of Queen Elizabeth's day show them wearing their wedding rings on their thumbs, but of course, this was nothing but a fad which soon passed out of fashion.

Wind instruments are as old as the hills. They were made of almost every conceivable material including reeds, birds' wings, bones, wood, clay and what have you. The first stringed instrument was a shell across which a string or strings had been stretched to give out sound.

The harp, too, is of ancient vintage, for the Bible mentions it.

The first stringed instrument played with a bow was invented by a King of Ceylon, 5,000 B. C. It

was called the "rebek."

In 1644, Antonio Stradivari gave the world its first violin.

If some day you should happen to pay a visit to Hawaii, you'll hear the natives playing captivating airs on the ukelele. The natives believe that the ukelele is of Hawaiian origin, but this is not true. The uke was invented by a white man. The Hawaiians liked the twanging, tuneful sound it gave forth and so they adopted the instrument and used it ever since at their festivities, as an accompaniment to their wierd, soothing songs.

Then in their proper order of sequence came the cithara, the psalterion, harpsicord, spinet, pianoforte, piano and organ. The first piano was built in the city of Florence, 1709 by an Italian named Bartolomeo Cristofari.

The square piano went on the market in 1780 and in 1800 the first upright piano made its appearance.

The accordion, also invented by an Italian, came out in 1800, so is of comparatively recent origin.

These are but a small collection of primitive and modern musical instruments. It would require a whole volume to tell you about them and of the many strange tribes who used the primitive ones.

Perhaps one day you will visit the great Metropolitan museum and see for yourself the strange collection of musical instruments which are now obsolete. Musical instruments that fill the visitor with curiosity and amusement, and perhaps create in his fertile mind a picture of the forgotten tribes which once played upon them.

Many of us entertain the false notion that Russia is a country made up almost exclusively of Russians. Don't believe it! There are nearly 200 different groups; in 1940 newspapers were published in 70 different languages, and books in 111 different tongues.

With three times the area of continental United States, the U. S. S. R. is the largest unbroken political unit in the world, occupying more than one-seventh of the land surface of the globe.

Too, Russia is the richest country on earth in mineral resources containing deposits of almost every mineral known to man. It ranks fourth in coal production; second in pig iron, and gold; second in iron ore; third in petroleum; first in platinum. Other natural resources include aluminum, copper, silver, lead, uranium, etc., while its forested area covers some 3,500,000 square miles. But this vast country has a potential military power of between fifteen and twenty million soldiers.

Considering that the Roman

Mustard Weed Menace Stressed In Circular

Some grain fields in P. E. I. contain more mustard than grain! If this weed is to be efficiently killed, action must be taken now, advises the Provincial Department of Agriculture in a circular just issued.

The modern farmer of today does not consider so much the cost of doing regular cultivations or other jobs, but how much he will lose if he neglects to do any of these common accepted practices, the circular states. "If we consider weed control in this way, in a great many cases farmers are losing large sums of money annually due to neglect of weed control. This, of course, does not apply to all farms but in some districts, weeds such as wild mustard, wild radish, (also called wild turnip or yellow mustard) and sow thistle are a serious problem and a menace to surrounding districts. In fields where these weeds have become established, yields have been and are being reduced by as much as 90 per cent. In some cases the grain is not worth harvesting. This, then, is a direct loss of money.

Until the advent of 2,4-D there was no practical method of killing wild mustard in grain. Now, control of such weeds is a simple matter and costs less than the price of two bushels of grain per acre. An increase in yield of only five bushels per acre would make spraying worth while. But often the yield is increased by 50 per cent. Spraying then is an investment on the part of the farmer. Besides increasing the yield of grain there are other reasons in favor of spraying. Weedy grain costs more to harvest in that it requires more binder twine to tie an

Catholic Church regards the Apostle Peter as the first Bishop of Rome is it not strange that there have been no later popes named Peter? There have been quite a list of Johns and Pauls, but none have the name of Matthew or Luke. Only one was named Mark. Net result of two wars: Communism. A third war may build up in the Allied Nations a new name. The very thing we are out to destroy — Communism. For since V-E Day the U. S. S. R. has added 4 million square miles and 330,000,000 people to the area under its control. In other words, one-third of the human race is now subject to Russian law. If the Democracies can look forward to nothing more than ever-increasing taxes to pay ever-increasing interest charges on ever-increasing public debt, what can we expect but Communism in the end?

acre of weedy grain of low value than a clean acre; there is more handling of the extra bulk of weeds; there is time lost in threshing weedy grain; and the value of the grain for feed or seed is greatly reduced when it is infested with weed seeds. These are some of the reasons why weeds should be kept under control and is common knowledge to all good farmers.

When To Spray

Experience has shown that common annual weeds such as wild mustard are most easily killed when they are young and growing fast. That stage is right now. Grain that was sown in May has reached the height of four to six inches and practically all the weeds that are going to compete with the grain have come up and

can be easily killed. When weeds come into bloom, it requires approximately twice as much 2,4-D to kill them and half the damage they cause is done, so it is quite important to spray early if good results are to be expected.

How To Apply 2,4-D

"The application of 2,4-D is as simple and safe as spraying potatoes if the recommendations on the container are followed and it is done at the proper time. In general, for annual weeds in the seedling stage in grain not seeded out, four to six ounces of pure 2,4-D ester per acre is recommended. This means ten to fifteen ounces of 2,4-D containing 64 ounces of the acid in a gallon would be required (160 fluid ounces in a gallon). Using the powder, 8 to 12 ounces of a 50 per cent 2,4-D product would have to be used to give four to six ounces of the pure acid. Conversion tables are usually printed on the container which will give the amount required of pure 2,4-D per acre. "Liquid and wettable powder 2,4-D can be sprayed on grain

fields with an ordinary potato sprayer. However, the bottom nozzles should be adjusted so that an even spray is applied throughout the length of the boom, otherwise, some crop plants will get enough 2,4-D to cause injury and some of the weeds will not be killed. If large acreages are to be sprayed, it would be to one's advantage to construct a straight boom with evenly spaced nozzles about twenty feet long.

What Crops Can Be Sprayed

"2,4-D can be used on grain seeded out without too much danger of killing the clovers. However, not more than four ounces per acre (pure 2,4-D) should be used when the plants are small. If spraying is done early, many of the clover plants will escape as they will not be above the surface of the ground. Alfalfa and sweet clover should not be sprayed. Before spraying the potatoes for blight the sprayer must be washed out with washing soda or damage

to the potatoes will result. The three groups or formations of 2,4-D are often confusing. They are namely the sodium salts, the amines, and the esters. All three are slightly different in their speed of killing and effectiveness. The sodium salts are slow killers, the esters act much faster, while the amines are intermediate in speed of action and killing. As the sodium salt is weakest, more of it has to be used. Since the ester is stronger than the amine, slightly less has to be used to get the same results. The ester acts rapidly enough to avoid the danger of being washed off by sudden showers as might be the case in using the amine and more particularly the sodium salt.

SAN FOUNDER DIES

GREENWICH, Conn., July 2 — (CP)—Mrs. William H. Wiley, 72, co-founder of the big Blythwood Sanitarium, died today. She was the widow of Dr. Wiley who with her founded one of the largest private institutions in this area in 1906. She was born in Halifax.

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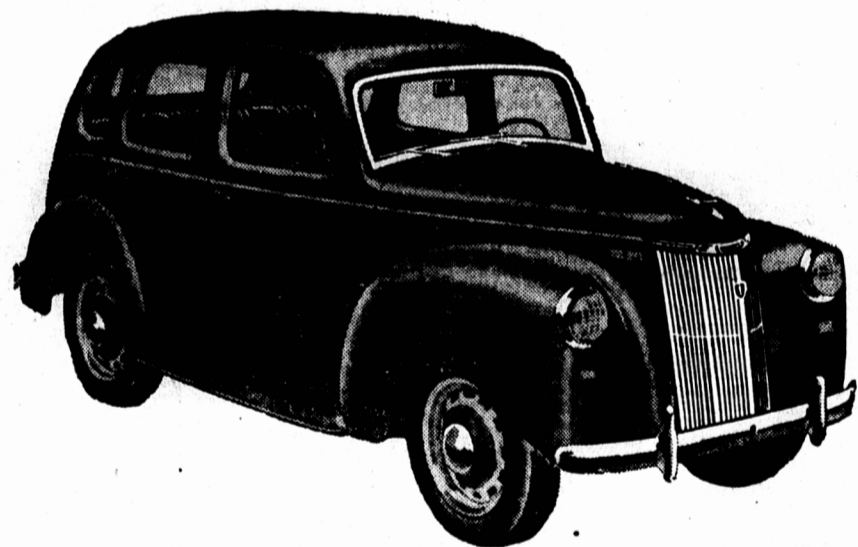
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