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BULLETINS FROM BIRDLAND

BY WINIFRED E. WILSON

THE LURE OF LIGHT

How thankful we are to notice the days beginning to lengthen, even though the amount of light each morning and evening progresses by a mere minute or two! Birds respond to lengthening days in a more spectacular way than we do. Already some are stirring in their southern holiday resorts in preparation for the long trek home. Ornithologists have several theories as to the reason for this northern spring movement, but all are convinced that the lure of light is the predominant factor.

And so as the days grow longer and the light stronger multitudes of birds are making their way north. The sooner they arrive here, the sooner nesting can begin, and it is very desirable to have a young family at the time when daylight is at its best. Parents must gather enough food to supply their children as well as themselves, and nestlings eat a surprising amount, on an average of their own weight a day. As the youngsters grow, more and more foraging trips become necessary. Every minute of daylight is used for food hunting.

In the last few years scientists have been trying experiments with light, and the conclusion has been reached that the ultra-violet rays, found in our summer sunlight, enter the birds' eyes and help to produce lime for eggshells and larger broods. This would be one good reason for birds flying north in spring. But bird students are now pretty well agreed that "food" is the most important answer to the question "Why do birds migrate?" This belief is based on the fact that once the young are able to shift for themselves, the majority of couples immediately start back for the south, even though the days are still long.

The chief reason why most birds cannot remain indefinitely in the far north is not because of the cold itself so much as because their resistance to cold is reduced by their inability to find food in the dark. Also it must be remembered that as daylight is shortened, vegetation and insect life (the birds' food supply) both give out. Birds have been shut up in outdoor aviaries of sub-zero temperatures. When sufficient food of the right kind was provided the birds thrived. Chickadees, Crossbills, Owls and so on are able to remain with us even in the coldest of winters because their particular food is always available.

Thus are migration movements, light, and food vitally connected.

When do birds mate?

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1. Tatters
5. Reality
9. Send forth, as rays
10. Genus of the lily
11. Platforms
13. Biblical name
15. Measure (Chin.)
16. Observe
18. Resort
19. Fortify
21. Cooking direction
23. Skin
25. Cinemas
26. Larva of an African worm
28. Sailor
29. A woman's garment
32. Snares
35. Devices to determine direction (naut.)
37. Solar deity (Egypt.)
38. Cuckoo
39. Troubles
41. Music note
42. Prison (Eng.)
44. Sounds
46. Parson birds
48. Entreaty
49. Anglo-Saxon serf
50. Classify

DOWN
1. Go to bed
2. Wine receptacle
3. Light, two-wheeled vehicles
4. Guide
5. Music note
6. A wing
7. Plots
8. Wigwam (var.)
11. Strike with the hand
12. Appear
14. Bulk
17. Native of Scotland
20. Agreeable to the ear
22. Man's name
24. Noisy
27. On the ocean
29. Boast
30. Crescent-shaped
31. Ireland
33. A menace
34. Prosecutes judicially
36. Spills over
40. Fodder vat
43. Lineal (abbr.)
45. Varying weight (Ind.)
47. Southeast (abbr.)

P	A	P	A		S	C	U	D		
R	A	Z	O	R		H	O	R	A	L
A	N	T	E		B	U	N	G	L	E
W	E	E		P	U	T	T	E	E	S
		C	H	O	O	S	E			
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B	A	S	H		D	U	E		E	N
		A	M	E	N	D	S			
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L	O	C	A	L		F	L	U	R	E
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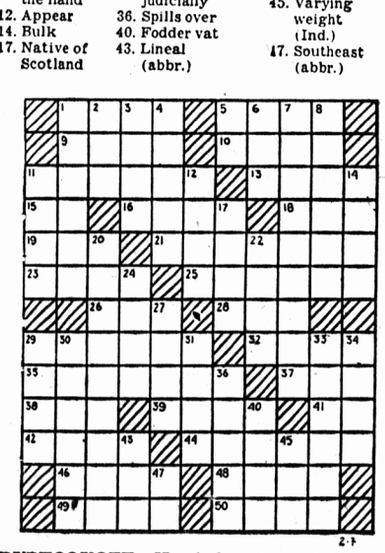
T	E	D	S		O	G	E	E		

Yesterday's Answer



The Birds' Nest

From my cottage window I can see
A little nest in a maple tree,
For the winds of autumn have borne away
The leaves that hid it many a day.

A little pair I oft have seen
Fly in and out of that leafy screen,
Bold little birdies you seemed to be
As you took full charge of my maple tree.

Dear little birds as afar you roam,
Now the winter winds and the snow have come,
May nothing ruder appeal to you
Than the summer breeze and the falling dew.

Sweet were the lessons you brought to me
As you plied your work in the maple tree
'Till your lovely structure, with leaf for dome,
Filled with happy inmates, became a home.

I thought how securely a fluttering soul
As round it the waves of earth's troubles roll,
May dwell in Him who to those oppressed
Says "Come ye weary, I'll give you rest."

How He longs to bless and restore again
All such as seek Him, even as I fain
Would shelter, protect, the birdies small,
That at my mercy had placed their all.

Silent now is the little nest—
No winter storms can its brood molest,
No joyous song from the maple tree
Through my cottage window floats to me.

You will come again with returning spring
With joyous twitter and glancing wing,
Bringing sweet promise again to me,
And life, new life to the maple tree.

—Samuel Hill.

Covehead Road.

DAILY CRYPTOQUOTE—Here's how to work it:

A X Y D L B A A X R
is L O N G F E L L O W

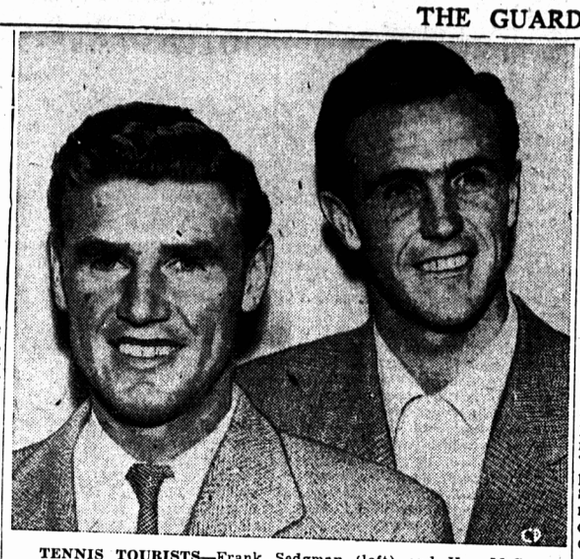
One letter simply stands for another. In this example A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophies, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

A Cryptogram Quotation

UQ! FRLR OQR KYCYMGT UO OQR
YO MUYL, ZL VGC UO IYTA UO OQR
YO ORRIYXJ OZ!—JLRRXR

Yesterday's Crytoquote: FAR FROM THE MADDING CROWD'S IGNOBLE STRIFE — GRAY.

OUT OUR WAY By J. R. Williams



TENNIS TOURISTS—Frank Sedgman (left) and Ken McGregor, the Australian professional tennis stars, played exhibition matches in Toronto against Jack Kramer and Pancho Segura. Sedgman and McGregor turned professional last December after leading Australia to the Davis Cup. Then they hit the road with the "tennis circus" headed by Kramer, one of the world's leading professionals.—(CP Photo).

Strange But True

By F. H. MacArthur

Believe it or not, but the death penalty was prescribed for 120 different crimes in Upper Canada during the early part of the 19th century, arson being one of the crimes in question.

"Lest we forget"—The Canadian Expeditionary Force totaled 619,636 during World War I, with 425,589 actually doing overseas duty. 60,661 of these met death!

Did you know that Canada boasts a votive lamp which has burned continuously for the past 235 years. The lamp hangs in the Ursuline Chapel of Quebec, and has never been extinguished since 1717!

That the U. S. Army's first chaplain officially appointed by Continental Congress was a French Canadian priest, Rev. Francois de Lotbinier; that ether was first used in Canada by Dr. Worthington in the performance of a major operation; that the term "blue nose" was derived from the name of a potato produced in Nova Scotia; that cosmetics were largely homemade in Prince Edward Island homes in pioneer times. Beetroot took the place of rouge, and flour served as powder in facial make-up; that Alex W. Ogilvie, Montreal miller and financier was the first Canadian to be cremated; that deportation to Bermuda, as late as 1840, was a common court sentence meted out to Canadians found guilty of treason?

In the Imperial Library at Pekin, may be seen a document dating back to 449, which reads that British Columbia was discovered at the above date by Buddhist monks from China. They called it Foussang, strange but true!

• • •

They still celebrate newlyweds in Canada's smallest Province by putting on a charivari, though the celebration has all but lost its original colorfulness. When this scribe was a young fellow we used to form a group headed by a captain, all wearing grotesque masks and costumes. Our march to the scene of the wedding was as orderly and well carried out as any military parade. When within about a hundred yards of the home, the captain gave the order: "Break ranks and Blow!" What a din followed. Cowbells tingling, horns blowing, drums beating (old tin cans) and seacocks bellowing. Indeed, there was such a commotion that at times the nervous bride must have forgotten all about it being her wedding night.

After a treat of cider, cakes, and candy, we all shook hands with the bride and groom, and told them we hoped all their future troubles would be little ones. Then, under the guiding hand of our capable captain, we marched away.

• • •

Horse-racing became such a racket at Halifax in 1771, that it was banned because it tended to make the citizens idle, immoral and godless.

The first St. Patrick's Day parade in this country was staged at Three Rivers, Quebec, when soldiers of the invading Continental Army from the American colonies marched through the streets wearing shamrocks—not a bit of it. They wore green twigs in their caps.

In pioneer days, residents of Charlottetown were required to carry lights, when abroad at night. Street lighting was not what it is today.

That great gathering news agency, the Associated Press, had a humble beginning. It was started by six New York newspapers, which was originally a pony express, operating between Halifax and Digby, N. S., from the 21st of January 1849, until the completion of telegraph service 6 months later. Dispatches came from Digby via steamer to Saint John, N. B., where they were telegraphed to their destination. These dispatches came by vessels, docking at Halifax which represented several days' sailing in transportation if going directly to New York.

• • •

Many of us now living have trod the planked sidewalks of Canada's cities, towns and villages, but few living can recall the planked road stretching 17 miles between Chamby and Longacuil of Upper and Lower Canada. The first in Lower Canada was built 116 years ago.

Did you know that mail coaches once carried the mails between Montreal and Boston? The route covered 312 miles and took four and a half days. There were first, 2nd and 3rd class passengers. The 2nd class passengers had to walk where the roads were bad, while the 3rd class traveler was expected to put his shoulder to the wheel when the vehicle got bogged down in the mud.

Numerous Innovations Feature 1953 Buicks

Incorporating the largest number of important styling and engineering changes of any new-model year in the past quarter-century, Buick for 1953 makes its bow today to the Canadian motoring public with a Golden Anniversary line of cars.

Three series are offered — the Custom, Super and Roadmaster, all with stepped-up horsepower and compression ratio. The Custom offers the Fireball straight-eight engine, producing 130 horsepower with Dynaflow transmission and 125 Synchro-mesh. The Super — like the Roadmaster — Series, features a new valve-in-head V-8 engine, rated at 170 horsepower with Dynaflow and 165 with Synchro-mesh, while in the Roadmaster, with Buick's airpower carburetor, the new motor produces 188 horsepower.

The highest compression ratio in the North American automotive industry — 8.5 to one — is offered by the new V-8 engine with Dynaflow.

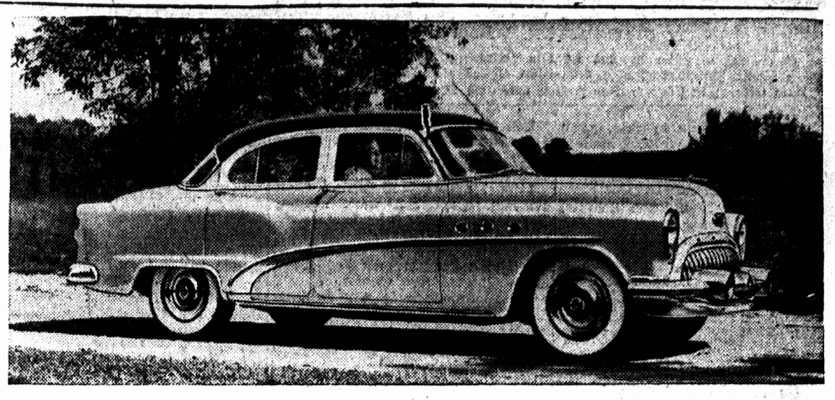
Performance and fuel economy are markedly improved by a new Twin Turbine Dynaflow, which is standard equipment on the Roadmaster and optional at extra cost on the other two series. For example, on the Custom Series the new Dynaflow combines with the improved straight-eight engine to give faster accleration from a standing start to 30 miles per hour than was possible on the 1952 Roadmaster with its 170 horsepower engine, according to Buick engineers.

The new Twin Turbine Dynaflow is described as taking hold with a more solid feel than its predecessor, and in tests between cars with the new and old transmissions, those with the 1953 Dynaflow reached 50 miles per hour, 83 feet ahead.

Buick's power steering, a popular option last year, becomes standard equipment on the 1953 Roadmaster, and continues to be available on the Super and Custom.

A major innovation is power brakes, optional on the Roadmaster at extra cost, which are said to take 75 per cent of the foot effort out of braking. Air conditioning is optional at extra cost on the two-door and four-door Rivieras of the Roadmaster and Super Series.

New styling features include a new front end, new headlights modelled after those on the Buick's famed XP-300, new rear fenders and interior trim combinations of striking beauty and luxury. A new and wider grille provides better cooling for the engine and gives the car a lower look. The top line of the hood has been extended forward to give a bolder appearance to the front profile and the hood ornament has been partially recessed.



BUICK FOR 1953 features increased power and fresh new styling on all its Golden Anniversary lines. Custom Series offers the Fireball straight-eight engine, producing 130 horsepower; while the Super and Roadmaster Series introduce a new valve-in-head V-8 engine, producing 170 horsepower in the Super, and the Roadmaster with its Airpower carburetor, produces 188 horsepower. The new V-8 has a compression ratio of 8.5 to 1. The new Twin Turbine Dynaflow Drive for faster acceleration, and Power Steering are standard equipment on the Roadmaster and optional extras on the Super and Custom Series. The front end of the 1953 Buick has been completely redesigned with a new hood line, new grille, and an ultra-modern headlight arrangement. The exterior styling features flowing body lines that blend into a new rear fender. Other features include wider front seats, new instrument panel, new steering wheel, and a wide variety of bright new color and trim combinations. Shown here is the Custom Series four-door sedan.

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In 1952, engaged in training cruises along the Pacific West Coast, Pearl Harbour and South America.

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