

Gertrude Elsner Is Selected for Chorus at Bradley College

Miss Gertrude Elsner, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Elsner, 189 Garfield street, a junior at Bradley college in Peoria, has been honored by selection as a member of the Bradley chorus, which is under the direction of Cardon V. Burnham of the Bradley college of music.

Miss Elsner is a student in the Bradley home economics department. She is vice president of the home economics club, a member of the Y.W.C.A., and social chairman of Constance Hall, the new girls' dormitory. Miss Elsner's recognition by being selected for one of the principal musical organizations is considered a real distinction.

Delicate Hairs on Some Plants Capture Insects

The Venus Fly Trap is a trapper plant and murderer, notes a writer in the New York Telegram. It is found in swamps and moist places. The leaves are divided into two parts or halves, both edged with a row of teeth and nerve hairs. This plant is also provided with a honey nectar and is so sensitive that the slightest touch on one of these hairs causes the leaf to close immediately.

Thus the insect is caught tight in the trap and is absorbed and digested. Then the leaf opens again and waits for the next victim. The Sun Dew, Dew plant or Drosera, certainly looks delicate and harmless enough. Its leaves are arranged in rosettes and are covered with scarlet tentacles or hairs. At the tip of each is a drop of honey-like fluid which resembles a drop of dew shining and glistening in the sunlight. The insect-attracted by the scent—and also by the color—is soon hopelessly entangled in the sticky tentacles.

These dew drops grow in moist, muddy loam and full sunshine, at times almost floating on the water or attached to 12-13-logged stumps. They can also be grown in greenhouses, but must be kept constantly moist at the roots and exposed to bright light. They are exquisite under a magnifying glass, as are many tiny plants which are never seen to full advantage with the naked eye.

Thus in the plant world we can readily see the "survival of the fittest" being carried out by these carnivorous specimens in their daily struggle for existence.

Production of Plate Glass
Prior to 1850 almost no plate glass was produced in this country. Several factors at that time prevented development of such an industry. There were few skilled glass makers. The foreign producers were already firmly established in the market. Transportation of such a product was costly in America because of the lack of good roads.

Association Urges State Aid to Relieve Educational Problems

"Teachers should never again be forced to take payment in any tender that is not acceptable to those from whom they wish to buy."

Such is the conclusion reached by the public relations committee of the Lake Shore Division of the Illinois Education association after studying the financing of Cook county schools outside Chicago during the depression years.

"When a teacher is forced to give up 25 per cent of her salary through discounts because the orders with which she is paid are not properly secured she becomes discouraged and is worth scarcely more than the amount she receives," the committee claims.

"But what happens to the district which issues these orders?" the committee asks. "It has the services of a discouraged teacher but is forced to pay in full for those services plus an interest charge for the term of the teacher's order."

"And the investor? He makes an income ranging from 6 per cent to as high as 60 per cent on orders picked up from teachers who are compelled to sell."

The necessity for the issuance by the township treasurers of interest bearing teachers' orders, the committee states, was brought about by a pre-depression tax strike, issuance of tax anticipation warrants to the legal limit, 40 per cent to 60 per cent drops in local assessed valuations and high delinquency in tax payments.

"Most of these orders," the committee reports, "draw interest at the rate of 6 per cent from date to the time there was money on hand to retire them. In some districts where the assessed valuation per child was high there were orders called for payment at an early date; in the less able districts many orders issued as early as 1932 have not yet been called and there is no prospect of their being called in the near future."

"Naturally," the report points out, "the financial ability of a school district had a great deal of influence on the market value of these teachers' orders. Teachers in certain districts had no trouble in disposing of their orders at par, while others, teaching in the least able districts, were fortunate when they disposed of their orders at high discounts since the taxes had already been pledged to redeem tax anticipation warrants."

Superintendents of 26 school districts told the committee that their teachers had accepted discounts ranging from 2 per cent to 18 per cent, and the committee computed that if all who were furnishing goods or services to these districts were forced to discount

their tax anticipation warrants and teachers' orders, their loss would have totaled \$1,534,184 or about 15 per cent of the same district's total educational tax levy of \$10,184,518.

"Of course," the committee cautions, "such an assumption is not being made. In the first place, schools generally did not issue teachers' orders until they had marketed tax anticipation warrants up to the legal limit of the tax levy. Furthermore, these warrants were usually sold by the board of education for cash and at par since the law will not permit the board to sell paper of any kind at less than par. However, when credit was exhausted through the issuance of such tax warrants and the money derived from the sale of these warrants was exhausted, the board was forced to sell at less than par. One of two things to do: (1) close the schools and wait for a new tax year, or (2) pay the teachers in teachers' orders."

Some school terms were shortened, the committee learned, but the general policy was to pay teachers, whose salaries had in many cases already been reduced from 10 per cent to 50 per cent with some cash and the balance in orders over whose selling price there was no regulation. Thus, where outright sales were made, teachers' orders were discounted from 2 per cent to 58 per cent. Fortunately for the teachers, however, some businessmen exchanged the orders at par for coupon books which could be converted into cash by those willing to earn their salaries twice, once in the classroom and once as a salesman.

"There is no doubt but that the credit of the least able districts will continue to decline," the committee feels. "But properly financed by state aid grants, these districts can continue to run at least a minimum educational program without obligating assessed property beyond its ability to pay."

"Those states which have established substantial state aid programs came through the depression with curtailed school budgets but their paper, drawn as it was against anticipated state revenue, passed readily at par."

Life During Hibernation
During hibernation, says the American Wildlife institute, body functions are reduced to a minimum. Breathing and circulation are at a low ebb and heart beats are slowed up considerably. This "reduced animation," which borders on suspended animation, lessens the amount of fuel needed to run the body. The fuel needed to keep life in the body is drawn from stores of fat on the animal.

Want Ads Bring Results

Anthracite, Bituminous

Popular Kinds of Coal
Coal generally is divided into two classes—anthracite, or hard, and bituminous, or soft. The main difference, as a writer in the Chicago Tribune, are in the amount of carbon and volatile matter each contains. The greater the amount of carbon, the slower the coal burns; the greater the amount of volatile matter the faster it burns.

Anthracite coal was produced by nature in the eastern part of this country under greater pressure and heat than the bituminous coals found farther west. Pocahontas coal, one of the most widely used, is rated as a semi-bituminous coal.

The following analysis of representative grades of the various types are given by an authority:

Anthracite: moisture, 1.50 per cent; ash, 10.46 per cent; volatile matter, 3.62 per cent; carbon, 84.41 per cent; British thermal units (b. t. u.'s), 13,201 per pound. In addition, there is 0.56 per cent sulphur among the constituents.

Pocahontas: moisture, 1.25 per cent; ash, 8.51 per cent; volatile matter, 10.25 per cent; carbon, 74.25 per cent; (b. t. u.'s), 15,140 per pound; sulphur, 0.75 per cent. High grade southern Illinois soft coal: moisture, 7.14 per cent; ash, 7.63 per cent; volatile matter, 22.85 per cent; carbon, 52.28 per cent; (b. t. u.'s), 13,271 per pound; sulphur, 0.95 per cent.

Rhea, of Ostrich Family,

Can Run 47 Miles an Hour
The rhea, a South American ostrich, which attains a weight of 50 pounds and can run up to 47 miles an hour, leads a polygamous life on the plains, according to a Field Museum authority.

Frequently there will be one male and several females in a colony. They will have a common nest in which the hens lay from 20 to 45 eggs.

Then these big matrons take turns sitting on the eggs, giving each other a chance to range for food and exercise themselves. While the birds are not exceedingly rare, very few complete collections are to be found in museums of the world. The eggs average 1 1/4 pounds each. The birds and eggs are unfit for human consumption.

The hoatzin is a marsh bird with habits similar to the English ringneck pheasant, except that it nests in trees.

The young of this bird, known locally as the "tinkling Haman," have two-jointed fingers or claws formed on their wing tips. These fall off after maturity. But when the young, still unable to fly, are frightened they will dive 20 feet out of their nests, swim about for a few minutes, then climb a tree, with the aid of their fingers, and resume their places in the nest.

The Northern Lights
The Northern Lights or Aurora Borealis is an atmospheric phenomenon seen in the northern hemisphere.

There it appears in the form of arcs, rays, bands, patches, etc., in various colors, across the northern sky. Its cause is not known for certain but is believed to be some kind of electrical charge or magnetic disturbance. One theory is that electrons from the sun encounter such gases as krypton and nitrogen in the upper rarified atmosphere. There is some connection between brilliant auroras and magnetic storms, also with the number of sun-spots. The theory of Arrhenius is that the sun emits a flood of corpuscles of a nature similar to rays, cathode rays, electrons, etc., and that these corpuscles on approaching the earth are acted on in the direction of the lines of its magnetic force, around which they describe helices.

Perfumed Rainbows

An idea which exists in some country districts is that there is an odor attached to a rainbow. The belief is really very ancient and is mentioned by Pliny and Aristotle. Of course there is no smell about a rainbow, and the origin of the belief is probably to be explained in the following way. Everyone is familiar with the increase of scent given off by plants, shrubs, and trees on a warm day after the rain has been newly washed by heavy rain. This state of smelling would often naturally coincide with the appearance of the rainbow. Hence people jumped to the conclusion that the odor which is sometimes caused by the rainbow, when, as a matter of fact, says the Montreal Herald, it had nothing to do with the wonderful arch in the sky.

Paramecia

People sometimes have the feeling of having been in the same situation before. This is known as paramecia. It is a common experience, and, briefly explained, the reaction depends upon a little trick of the mind manifested by a momentary loss of a sense of time and space. The individual enters into an experience or a situation, obtains a feeling impression of this situation, then the attention is momentarily attracted to something else. The period of time may be almost infinitesimal. Then upon the return of the attention to the original situation, this lapse of time is lost to the individual and the period between the two experiences seems occasionally to expand into a long period, even into the remote past.

Ramsgate's Coat of Arms
Ramsgate, England, has a coat of arms showing a shield between a life boatman and a coastguard, while above the shield is a crown and a lighthouse.

Use of Roman Numerals
The Roman symbols chiefly used are I for 1, V for 5, X for 10, L for 50, C for 100, D for 500, and M for 1,000. Thousands are sometimes indicated by drawing a line over a numeral; V with a dash above it is 5,000. In combining the symbols a letter placed after one of greater value adds to it; thus XI is 11. A letter placed before one of greater value subtracts from it, so that IV is 4. When a symbol stands between two of greater value it is subtracted from the second and the remainder is added to the first; XIV is 14. Of two equivalent ways of representing a number, that in which the symbol of larger denomination precedes is preferred. For 48, XLV is preferable to VL. Modern usage tends to favor the shorter form, however, if the alternative is very long; it prefers IX to VIII for 9, and MCM rather than MDCCC for 1900.

Does Not Protect Invention
The phrases "patent applied for" and "patent pending" stamped on manufactured articles "do not protect an inventor. The phrases are intended merely as notices to the public that application for a patent has been filed. The law makes no provision for the use of these terms. In the eyes of the law they afford no protection to the inventor, except so far as they may be a means of establishing a claim of priority in case of litigation in respect to the patent. The right to exclude others from making, using and selling a device does not exist until a patent has been granted."

Meaning of Name Vernon
The name Vernon is of Latin origin and means "fourishing." It may also be a residence name from the town of Vernon in Normandy. Verne and Verner are other forms.



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