



THE OLD FARMER'S ALMANAC

MAY 21-27, 1973

Apple blossom time now.

Hill your corn . . . Kit Carson died May 27, 1868 . . . Last quarter of the Moon May 25 . . . Average length of days for the week, 14 hours, 55 minutes . . . Two bridges opened this week, the Brooklyn on May 24, 1883 and the Golden Gate on May 27, 1937 . . . Trees finish annual growth now . . . Babe Ruth's 714th and last home run in Pittsburgh May 25, 1935 . . . Ben Franklin invented bifocals May 23, 1785 . . . A bright eye indicates curiosity; a black eye too much.
Old Farmer's Riddle: Why is a canal a good place to keep money? (Answer below.)



heirloom is still a mystery. Can you help? J.T.R., Falmouth, Mass.

Such things have been used for various purposes for generations. People used them to pick up things that fell in wells, such as pine cones. We have also seen a man reach down with such an implement and pour out a feed of shelled corn to his pig, which was in the barn-cellar, maybe six or eight feet below. It saved him steps. But we doubt if the thing had anything to do with the cellar of the house.

Home Hint: Put a hook near the sink and hang your rings on it when washing dishes . . . Fresh garlic juice rubbed on face will clear up pimples . . . **Riddle answer:** Because there are banks on both sides and locks every so often.

Ask the Old Farmer: A realtor was showing us the cellar of a lovely old cottage. He assured us it was the driest basement in town. But we observed an interesting piece of equipment, a 2-gallon bucket attached to an 8-foot pole. We bought the house, the basement is dry, but this

OLD FARMER'S WEATHER FORECASTS

- New England:** Intermittent rain all week; temperatures cool at first, then warmer latter part.
- Greater New York-New Jersey:** Rain to start, then partially clear and warm by midweek; end of week rainy and cool.
- Middle Atlantic Coastal:** Week begins clear and warm, then light rain and cool by midweek; rain latter part.
- Southeast Coastal-Piedmont:** Clear and hot at first, then rain by midweek; end of week cloudy.
- Florida:** Clear and warm to start, then increasing cloudiness; rain latter part.
- Upstate & Western N.Y.-Toronto & Montreal:** Rain through midweek, then clear and warm; rain and cool for weekend.
- Greater Ohio Valley:** Rain with warm temperatures most of week; partial clearing latter part.
- Deep South:** Cloudy and hot at first, then rain and cool; rain continues to end of week.
- Chicago and Southern Great Lakes:** Most of week rainy and warm; clear latter part but rain on weekend.
- Northern Great Plains-Great Lakes:** Clear and mild to start, then rain by midweek; latter part clear and mild, then rain on weekend.
- Central Great Plains:** Week begins clear and hot, then light rain and cooler; heavy rain end of week.
- Texas-Oklahoma:** Cloudy and hot through midweek, then heavy rain; cool latter part.
- Rocky Mountain Region:** Cloudy at first, then rain and cool; end of week clear and warm.
- Southwest Desert:** Clear all week; cool to start then hot by weekend.
- Pacific Northwest:** Week begins clear, then very warm temperatures by midweek; cloudy and cool with light rain latter part.
- California:** Most of week clear and hot; showers over weekend.

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Monk Parakeets Sought in State

Pennsylvania game protectors are canvassing the state in an effort to determine the extent of establishment of the monk parakeet in the commonwealth.

The handsome and charming monk parakeet, which is a pigeon-sized parrot, has escaped or been liberated from life as a pet and is beginning to establish itself in cities, suburbs and woods.

The monk parakeet, abundant in South America, is one of the most destructive birds in the Western Hemisphere. It has a much higher potential for nuisance and damage than such imported pests as the starling and English sparrow. And it is quite prolific; a single pair of monk parakeets can raise 40 young in a single season.

The birds have caused serious problems in England and Argentina. Flocks of these pests can destroy as much as 45 percent of crops of corn, sunflowers, millet or fruit.

They often are quite aggressive toward other birds and can even intimidate dogs and cats. They threaten, if they become established in Pennsylvania, to wipe out several desirable species of birds.

The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, alarmed over the possibility of establishment of monk parakeets in this country, is recommending a ban on importation of the birds, and would like to eliminate them wherever they can be found.

Monk parakeets are about a foot long, similar to the mourning dove in size. They have a greenish-gray back, with a lemon yellow belly. The breast and

forethroat are quaker gray, with darker feather edges. Wings are blue gray and the tail is bluish green, long and pointed. The feet are dark colored, and both sexes are colored alike. More identifiable characteristics include a large hooked beak and strong resemblance to a parrot.

Grosbeaks, which have heavy beaks like a cardinal, are smaller, but are often misidentified as parakeets.

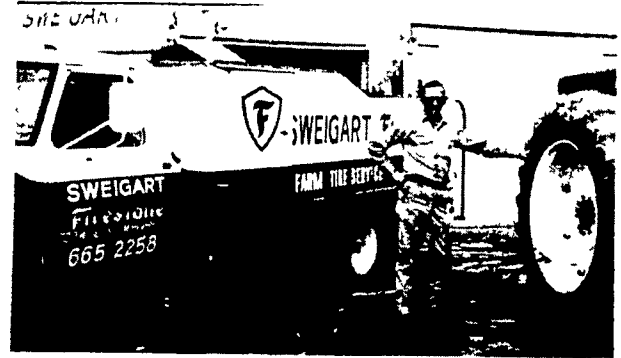
Large, permanent parakeet

nests, constructed of twigs and branches, are used as apartment houses. They contain many chambers used by many pairs of birds for rearing their young or for an overnight sleep. The nests are continually being enlarged, and sometimes get so heavy that they break the branches that hold them.

Monk parakeets are unwary and nonmigratory, though flocks move considerable distances to raid crops. They are gregarious throughout the year, flocks of 15 to 50 normally traveling in a loose aggregation. Their flight is swift—usually about 30 feet high—and wingbeats are rapid.

Anyone spotting a monk parakeet is requested to notify a Pennsylvania game protector immediately.

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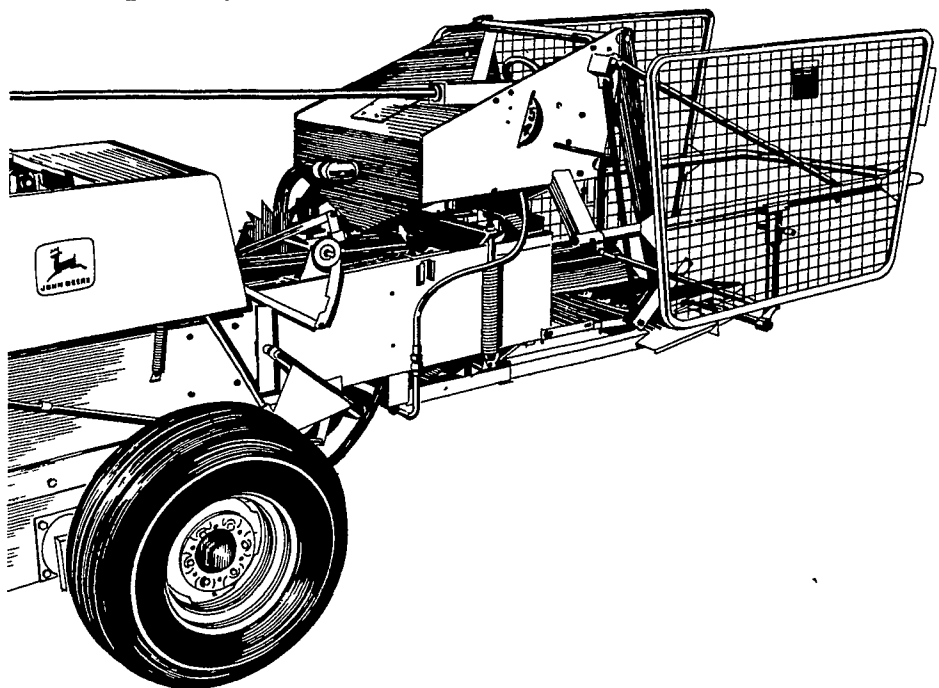
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