

## DID YOU KNOW . . .



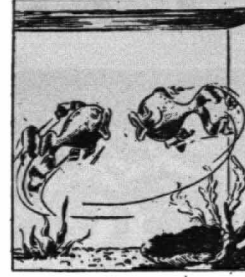
Some deep valleys in the Himalayas shelter tropical vegetation at the foot of snow-capped heights.



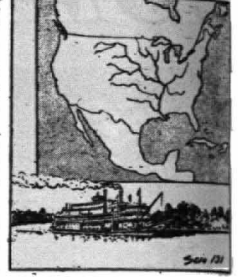
Cyclones twist in a counter-clockwise direction north of the Equator. South of the Equator they twist in a clockwise direction.



There are more than 750,000 known types of insects in the world today, and more are being recorded steadily.



Pedigreed Siamese fighting fish have been known to fight for as long as six hours.



The U.S. Mississippi River and its chief tributary, the Missouri, is its longest river system in the world—4,200 miles long.



With the granting of her independence by Great Britain, the Federation of Malaya became the 10th country to receive freedom from a world power since the end of World War II.



Surveys reveal that farms are the biggest users of energy in the United States. They use more than twice as much power as all the other American industries combined.



One of the world's strangest foods is silver. Throughout India small bits of pure silver are eaten with other food, and it's believed to be good for the heart and to make the body strong.



Each year 25,000,000 million more people learn to read. About half the world's population (1,300,000,000 persons) is now literate.



Few birds make sweeter music than the American snipe . . . yet he can not sing. He sounds his courtship serenade by vibrating wings and tail feathers as he plunges earthward.

# First Aborigine to Learn to Fly

## TRAINEE PILOT SELECTED

An aboriginal youth arrived in Sydney a few weeks ago to train as Australia's first aboriginal pilot.

He is Bill Bennell, 19, of Boddington, near Perth.

He had not been in a plane until a month ago.

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots' Association awarded Bennell their first Dr. Mervyn Hall Memorial Aboriginal Flying Scholarship.

The Association established the scholarship in memory of a founder officer.

Thirty aborigines from all over Australia applied for the scholarship.

Bennell will train for a commercial pilot's licence.

On arrival in Sydney Bennell said:

"When I read about the scholarship in the Perth papers I didn't even think of applying.

"I'd never even been in a plane.

"But I used to watch the planes fly over the factory where I worked as an apprentice cooper making barrels.

"My boss nagged me into applying.

"I did three aptitude tests in a Chipmunk last month and they almost had to drag me out of the cockpit.

"It was terrific.

"All the dark people in Perth came down to see me off.

### Their Hero

"They said I was their hero.

"I am determined to make a success of this for their sake.

"I want to prove that aborigines can tackle any job if they're given a chance.

"I was so excited on the flight to Sydney that I couldn't sleep at all.

"The pilot took me up to the cockpit to see how things worked.

"Now I can't wait to get at the controls of a plane myself."

Bennell will live with the secretary of the Association (Mr. Noel Fortune) while training for 12 months.

Bennell was met on his arrival in Sydney by the president and the secretary of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots' Association, Mr. B. Miles and Mr. N. Fortune.

If he gains a commercial pilot's licence, he will go to Queensland on air-taxi work.