

**How the Useful Plants Came to Mankind**  
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WNU Staff

**The Onion**

WHILE the onion has been known to man for centuries and was widely cultivated before the Christian era, it does not share the extreme antiquity of the bean, of wheat, and of flax. Its introduction into the family of human foods came at least after the Indo-European peoples had split up into various groups, for there is no connection between the names for onion in Chinese, Sanskrit, Hebrew, Greek and Latin. Most botanists assume that it was found ready to hand in various places by the different peoples.

That onions were known in the ancient world is proved by many literary references, including one showing that when the Egyptians departed one particularly stevedore variety of onion the Romans had a good hand at the expense of their neighbors. On the other side of the Mediterranean sea, or of old the wild onion probably occupied a vast area, stretching from Palestine into the Indian peninsula. The Hebrew and Sanskrit names for this vegetable are words of great antiquity, indicating that it is as old as they may have been of longer standing than in any other locality. Botanists have reported finding it wild more often in India and Asia, and some reports of it in a wild state have come from as far north as the southern boundaries of Siberia. As yet there are no authenticated discoveries of wild onions in Palestine.

The true onion, *Allium cepa*, is referred to in this article. Leeks, garlic, shallot and other members of the same family have different habitats and histories, and undoubtedly are referred to as wild onions in many parts of the world, but they are not the ancestors of the common vegetable of the modern garden and farm.

Garlic, like the onion, was anciently known and used, not only in Asia and by all nations around the shores of the Mediterranean, but also by the early people of western Europe and the British Isles. A variety of wild garlic is common in the northern parts of the United States and elsewhere in North America.

The true onion is believed not to have grown wild in America. Some early writers reported leeks, onions and garlic for sale in the markets of Mexico City and Peru, but there is no evidence that any of the plants so reported were *Allium cepa*, from which the true onion is derived. The likelihood is that the onion is Asiatic and was brought into the New world from Europe.

**Mystery in Diamonds**

The bulk of fine diamonds is obtained from the hard bluish-green serpentine rock known as "blue ground" which is found in tunnels or crevices deep within the earth. The actual origin of the precious stone is mysterious. Chemically, it is similar to charcoal, to which it can be reduced by combustion, but its physical properties are entirely different. Volcanic changes are presumed to be associated with its formation.

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**Centenarian a Singer**  
On his one hundredth birthday, South of Glasgow recently sang a song familiar to those who were in the army, and charge just after the battle of Waterloo, and eloped with the Yorkshire baronet. His ancestry traced to the sixteenth century. He lives with his grand daughter, is a member of the Glasgow club and takes an interest in activities of the day. He is in good health and has a host of friends.

**At 106 Makes \$12 Weekly. Saves \$2 Supports Son**

Kansas City, Mo.—Mrs. Emma McAlmon, Kansas City garment maker, has just celebrated her sixtieth birthday. She attributes her longevity to early rising, drinking lots of coffee, and hard work. She makes a salary of \$12 a week, sends \$5 weekly to a son living on \$3 and saves \$2. Mrs. McAlmon has supported herself for more than 29 years. Her husband died in 1901 at the age of ninety-one. Mrs. McAlmon recently declined an offer to appear on the stage and tell the story of her life. "I told them there was nothing doing," she said. "First thing I would have been wanting was to start in dancing and acting."

**The Native Doctor**  
The native doctor in medical work is becoming a main factor in bringing about the new day in Africa, states the Missionary Herald, an English Baptist monthly. It says further: "M. Louis Franck's humorous description of the native medical assistant confronting the white doctor could be echoed by every English doctor he eyes to that ancient parable—'You pre-empt, and then proceed to prove it.' Look! says he, through the lens of my microscope, the minute creature shown there, the entrance of an evil spirit. You show nothing at all about it. I am the one who knows. Hence the end of the witch doctor's influence."

**Primitive Counting**

While enjoying a holiday in Finland, writes an English traveler, I was very interested to see that in all shops they still use the ancient and primitive means, the frame with red balls, used in kindergartens, for purposes of adding. I went first to a bank to change some money. They accepted the coin with some suspicion and checked the notes they gave me on one of these ball frames. When I went to the post office to get a set of stamps, as a souvenir they counted the amount I had to pay by the same method. I am no mathematician, but I got my total first.

**Sherlock Carries Kit to British Crime Spots**

London.—Scotland Yard detectives setting out to solve a murder have taken on the appearance of physicians making professional calls. Sherlock Holmes has been equipped with a neat little leather valise, called "the murder bag," but instead of sugar-coated pills it contains scientific instruments for investigation of crime. Each murder tag holds apparatus for taking finger prints, two test tubes for such specimens as hair, bits of clothing or tokens of identification, two magnifying glasses, a rubber apron and scissors, forceps, disinfectant, towel and soap, a roll of tape and a tape measure, an electric lamp, two-foot rule, a compass for determining the exact position of the body and a pair of bandages.

**Study Your Ancestors**

Prof. Rudolph M. Binler, head of the department of sociology of New York university, states that a consideration which should be kept in mind in the search for the proper wife or husband is a study of ancestral traits. "Certain traits," says the professor, "known to the scientist as 'recessive traits,' often held in abeyance for several generations and entirely forgotten, will suddenly reappear in a child. The study of ancestry should cover at least five or six generations. Moral, mental or physical defects may assert themselves a hundred years after they have apparently disappeared."

**New Pontiac "Big Six" Goes On Display Here**

Fulfilling advance promises of big car performance, big car appearance and big car value, the Pontiac Big Six, essentially a brand new car from radiator to tail lamp, has been placed on display at the Oakland-Pontiac Sales, local Oakland and Pontiac dealers.

Chassis improvements that give the car flexible performance comparable with cars in a higher price range with bodies styled along entirely different lines, distinguish every model in this new General Motors line.

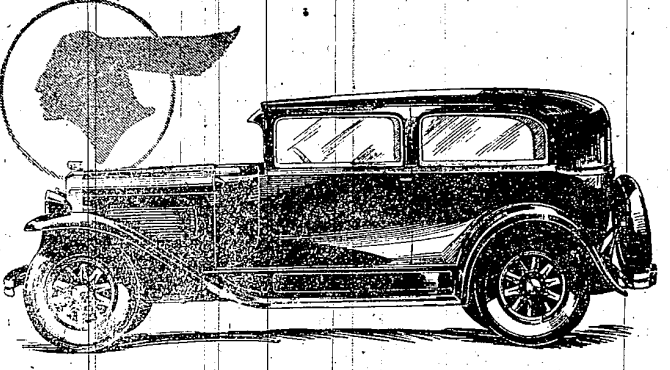
While rounding out its third anniversary, the Pontiac Six is upon its fourteenth, a delightfully established volume leader. All bodies are entirely new, the line including a 2-door sedan, 4-door sedan, coupe, sport roadster with folding rumble seat, sport phaeton, convertible cabriolet with folding rumble seat, and a landaulet sedan. The last two types are innovations in the Pontiac line, having the appearance of custom built bodies. Outstanding features contributing to the extraordinary performance of the new car are a larger and more powerful engine; new counter-weighted crankshaft; new harmonic balancer; new internal self-energizing brakes; new rear axle; new transmission; larger

carburetor, intake manifold and valves; wider springs with new shackles self-adjusting for wear; increased valve lift, and new Hotchkiss drive. Striking new body creations by Fisher impart to the entire line individuality and custom-like features entirely new in the Pontiac price class. From the gleaming high radiator shell to the gracefully molded rear panel, harmonious lines and brilliant chrome finished exterior hardware radiate smartness, distinction and individuality.

**ADVERTISING**

There are those who stick to the idea that advertising should perform miracles all of itself. That is an erroneous idea. Advertising of itself will not do so; it is only a vehicle in which to ride to greater sales. It may be compared to an automobile. An automobile of itself is as dead as a door nail, but fill it with gasoline and lubricating oils, put a driver at the controls, and you have a vehicle in which you may travel fast and far. So it is with advertising—when harnessed to energetic sales effort, backed with good merchandise, you have a vehicle which will carry you to commercial heights and place you in the realm of the elect.—Dumas, Texas Times.

Poor men and poor umbrellas generally get left.



announcing **The New PONTIAC BIG SIX**

**Introducing Big Car Standards of Luxury, Style and Performance at \$745**

**T**ODAY a new type of low cost motoring luxury is available. It embraces big car style. It provides big car riding comfort. It embodies big car quality in unseen parts. It includes big car performance even to the point of developing big car power and traveling at big car speed. It is offered by a brand new automobile—the New Pontiac Big Six.

Frankly, the New Pontiac Big Six was designed to appeal to a certain group. True, every motor car owner in America will find in it many things to admire. Two-car families will find it an ideal second car. But the group for which it is primarily intended is made up of people who are beginning to move up in the world. Many of them will soon make the first important step up in the quality of their cars. All are progressive. The New Pontiac Big Six was designed for them.

It comes to them entirely new in appearance. Stunning new bodies by Fisher contribute to the big car beauty and big car style presented by the car as a whole.

Progressive people are seeking greater luxury. The Pontiac Big Six offers them the luxury, the deep, richly upholstered cushions and the charming appointments for which bodies by Fisher are famous the world over. It provides the smooth-riding qualities of a car 167 inches in overall length, with accurately balanced rotating mechanical parts and such advance comfort features as adjustable drivers' seats.

It is a six, but more than just a six. It is a six with the added power of a larger L-head engine and the added smoothness imparted by a dynamically balanced counter-weighted crankshaft and the famous Harmonic Balancer. It is a six with the added efficiency and silence achieved by means of the G-M-R cylinder head. It is a six with the added cold-weather advantages provided by the cross-flow radiator thermostatically controlled.

From fan to rear axle, its "line of drive" is in accurate dynamic balance. Its new brakes are of the internal four-wheel type which neither mud nor rain nor ice can prevent from operating efficiently.

As for its performance, you can drive it at express train speed. You can watch it accelerate alongside the finest cars on the road. You can test its power under any conditions, confident of its ability to pull through. Meanwhile it continues to provide that unmatched dependability for which every Pontiac has been famed.

Only a few highlights in its construction have been mentioned. Just enough to prove that the Pontiac Big Six is entirely new and capable of meeting progressive Americans' demand. *But the amazing thing about it is that it gives so much big car luxury, style and performance at prices which come within practically everyone's reach!*

Price, \$745 and up, f. o. b. factory, plus delivery charges. Bumpers and rear fender guards regular equipment at slight extra cost. Check Oakland-Pontiac delivered prices—they include lowest handling charges. General Motors Time Payment Plan available at minimum rate.

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