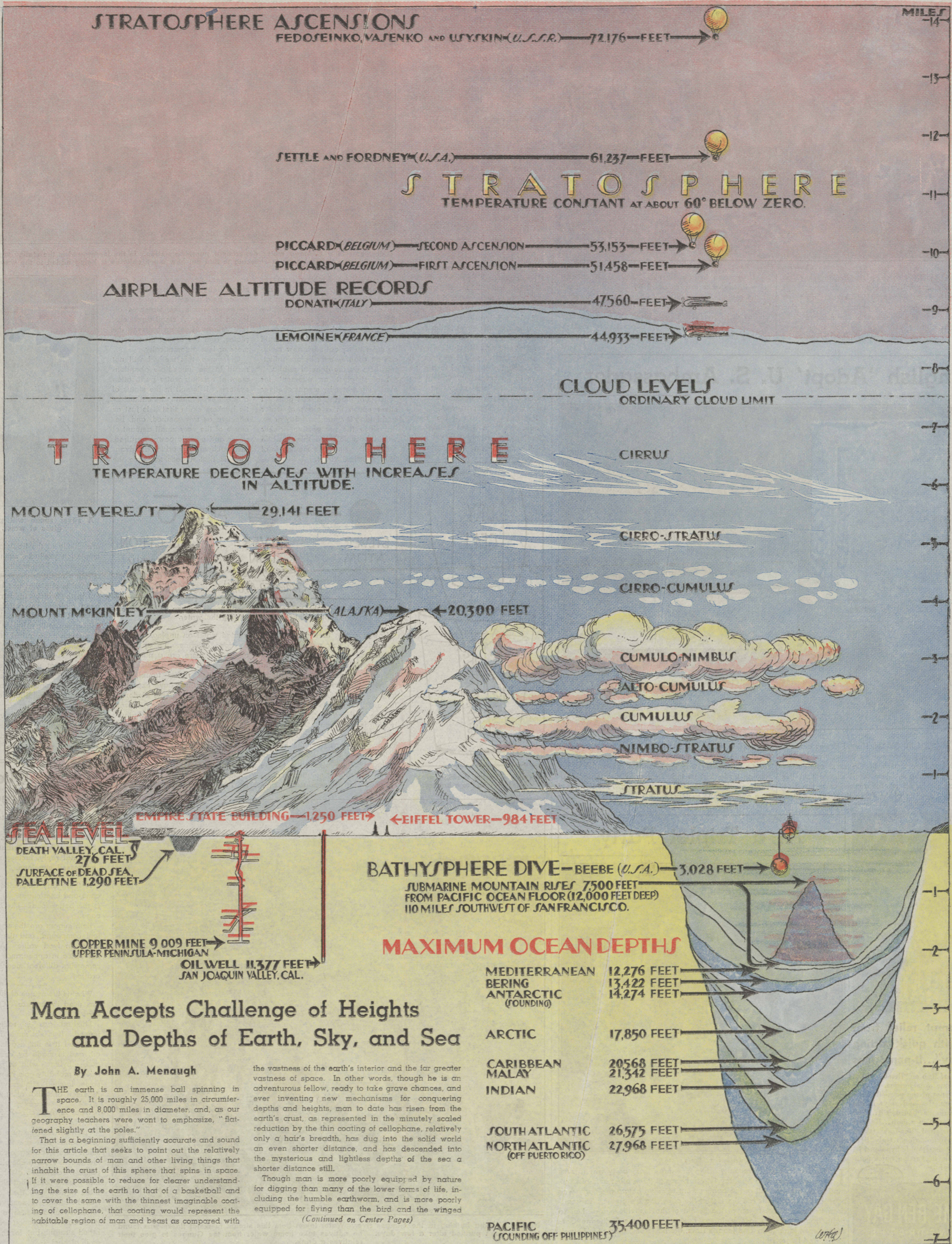


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## Man Accepts Challenge of Heights and Depths of Earth, Sky, and Sea

By John A. Menaugh

THE earth is an immense ball spinning in space. It is roughly 25,000 miles in circumference and 8,000 miles in diameter, and, as our geography teachers were wont to emphasize, "flattened slightly at the poles."

That is a beginning sufficiently accurate and sound for this article that seeks to point out the relatively narrow bounds of man and other living things that inhabit the crust of this sphere that spins in space. If it were possible to reduce for clearer understanding the size of the earth to that of a basketball and to cover the same with the thinnest imaginable coating of cellophane, that coating would represent the habitable region of man and beast as compared with

the vastness of the earth's interior and the far greater vastness of space. In other words, though he is an adventurous fellow, ready to take grave chances, and ever inventing new mechanisms for conquering depths and heights, man to date has risen from the earth's crust, as represented in the minutely scaled reduction by the thin coating of cellophane, relatively only a hair's breadth, has dug into the solid world an even shorter distance, and has descended into the mysterious and lightless depths of the sea a shorter distance still.

Though man is more poorly equipped by nature for digging than many of the lower forms of life, including the humble earthworm, and is more poorly equipped for flying than the bird and the winged

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