

# Pago Pago Makes Ideal Naval Base

## Port in Heart of Extinct Volcano Crater.

Washington.—Pago Pago, visited by United States naval vessels, on their return from Australia and New Zealand, is the capital of American Samoa, which is the only bit of American soil that lies south of the equator, according to the bulletin from the Washington headquarters of the National Geographic society.

"Pago Pago practically fell into the lap of a none too willing America, while various powers were seeking island territory in the Pacific," continues the bulletin; "but if the entire South seas had been combed, with all the other nations standing deferentially by, a better location for a naval base hardly could have been chosen. Most South Sea harbors are little more than crescent bays, protected by coral reefs, their safety largely dependent on the direction of the wind. At Pago Pago ships sail into the heart of a huge extinct volcano crater, only a narrow entrance open to the sea. Furthermore, there is a sharp turn inside, the whole harbor being shaped much like the ankle and foot of a stocking.

**Beautiful as Well as Safe.**  
"The United States naval station is situated on the 'inset,' its back toward the sea, but with high mountains intervening, Pago Pago town lies at the 'toe.' Most of the anchorage is entirely out of sight of the sea, and the ships lie in deep placid water even when destructive gales are blowing outside.

"Giving Pago Pago the premier place among South Sea Havens does not do it justice. Many famous harbors are more commodious; but if it is hardly too much to say that Pago Pago is at once one of the safest and most beautiful harbors in the world. A narrow strip of level land rims the harbor. Immediately beyond this strip the sides rise up steeply to mountainous heights, the sloping walls covered with varying shades of green, tropical vegetation. In addition to the naval station and Pago Pago town, three or four villages nestle close to the water's edge around the harbor, their thatched huts half hidden by coconut palms.

"The harbor of Pago Pago almost cuts the island of Tutuila in two. This is the largest island of American Samoa, 17 miles long and about five wide. The other American islands lie about sixty miles to the east. Only one, Tau, about five miles in diameter, is of importance, though two smaller islands are inhabited. Altogether the population of American Samoa is about 8,000, some 6,000 residing on Tutuila.

"American Samoa has been little spoiled by the civilization of the mother country, or that of other whites. Few whites reside in the islands besides the small group of missionaries and the officers, men and nurses at the naval station. Only one plantation is owned by a white man and only three or four whites have leaseholds. Practically the entire surface of the islands is owned in small tracts by individual natives. The United States even bought from individual landlords the 40 acres needed for its naval establishment.

"In the past the lava-lava, a sort of short skirt or kilt, was the only garment worn by both men and women. Now slight concessions are made. In Pago Pago or in the presence of

whites the men add a sort of undershirt and the women a sort of jacket or smock. Among themselves, however, and in the outlying districts, the natives still let the lava-lava, tucked about the waist, serve in place of the white man's and white woman's more complex costume.

**Natives Largely Self-Governing.**  
"In governmental matters, too, the United States has practiced laissez faire to an extent highly appreciated by the natives. The system employed so successfully by the Dutch in the East Indies has been adopted. An American naval officer stationed at the Pago Pago depot is appointed governor, but all officials under him actually exercising supervision over the natives are native hereditary chiefs. The islands are divided into three districts (ancient native divisions) with a native governor for each. Under the governors are chiefs of 'counties' (also ancient districts) and under the county chiefs are the village chiefs. The village chiefs have councils composed of the heads of families.

"The United States practices a certain measure of paternalism over its South Sea island wards. Copra, the dried meat of coconuts, is practically the only article of export. The government handles this crop for the natives, so assuring them a fair price. Free medical attention is furnished through naval medical officers, dentists, nurses and hospital corps men. The health of the Samoans is excellent and their numbers are increasing. During the 21 years of American control the population has grown 41 per cent."

# Oligocene Fossils Are Found in Montana

## American Museum Men Get Choice Specimens.

New York.—Dr. Charles C. Mook and Coleman S. Williams of the American Museum of Natural History have just returned to New York with many choice fossil specimens gathered in a three months' investigating tour through western Montana and Idaho. Their particular object was to search for fossils of the Tertiary age and they were very successful.

"Our first camp," said Doctor Mook, "was near Pipestone Springs, where we collected quite a variety of the smaller mammals of the Oligocene age. Included in this list, are the Meschippus, a small three-toed horse; various artiodactyls, the primitive ancestors of the modern sheep and cattle, and numerous small rodents and insectivores. We also found some fragmentary remains of the giants of those days; the fleet-footed hyracodon, a cursorial rhinoceros, and the enormous Titanotheres, twice as large as an elephant, with a brain less than three inches in length.

**Important Work Done.**  
The next stop was at Salmon, Idaho, where few fossils were found, though important work was done in determining the age of the rocks in that vicinity. In going to Salmon from Butte we took the Lemhi Pass, an old stage-

## Oldest Man in World Is Now 140

London.—A man who claims to be one hundred and forty years old and to be the only living person who saw Napoleon was described to the Royal Geographical society by H. St. J. B. Philby, former British representative in Transjordan.

His name is Hajj Tahir, and he states that he was born in Mecca, and went to Palestine at the age of twelve or thirteen, in 1790, when Napoleon was in Syria.

"He is sound enough in wind and limb," said Mr. Philby, "and has an enormous appetite, and, strangest of all, an indisputable power of mastication with the aid of what purports to be a newly sprouting, but still invisible, third set of teeth.

"The only serious weakness in his claim is that his offspring afford no relevant evidence of his age, as he declares that he committed matrimony for the first time at the age of seventy or thereabouts, and he has recently married again."

Mr. Philby added that, while Hajj Tahir claims to be one hundred and forty, he says that he was born in the year 1215 of the Mohammedan era or A. D. 1801, which would make his age one hundred and twenty-four.

## Heiress Elopes

Los Angeles, Cal.—Promptly upon turning eighteen years old, the legal marriage limit in California, Miss Olive Procter Van Heusen, heiress to part of a \$4,000,000 fortune, eloped to Riverside, Cal., and was married to Harold John Schlan, twenty-two, a broker's employee here. The bride is the daughter of Charles Van Heusen.

coach road formerly used to carry in gold-mining machinery and supplies, but long since abandoned. In the last two miles to the summit the road ascends 4,000 feet and was pronounced impassable, but we made it without incident in spite of a load of nearly 3,000 pounds.

"In the Madison River valley, near Three Forks, Mont., we secured a representative group of the Miocene mammals. Among these were camels and rhinoceroses, of various kinds; merycolus, a primitive antelope; more three-toed horses, somewhat larger than their Oligocene ancestors, and some of the smaller carnivores and marsupials. In this section we also got some good fossil fish and turtles of considerable size.

"Our last camp was near Fort Logan, in former days a famous outpost against the Indians. There we collected Miocene fossils, and dug out some of the best specimens of our collection. For the most part the animals here are the same as those in the Madison valley, though much better preserved.

**Use Touring Car.**  
"Mr. Williams then drove the car down through the Yellowstone National park, across Wyoming and to Agate, Neb., to have it stored with the Thomson expedition of the American museum. The trip from Cody to Casper, Wyo., was about 250 miles, and was accomplished in six hours."

"On their fossil hunting trip, the museum investigators drove a new touring car, which was taken at the Detroit factory.

"The performance of the car was excellent throughout," said Mr. Williams. "In all our travels over untracked wilderness, we did not have the slightest mechanical trouble. Two tanks having a capacity of 30 gallons of gasoline were fitted, but apart from these and magneto ignition, the car was mechanically the same as any standard car.

"We carried tools necessary for excavation, block and tackle, tents, bedding, cots, cooking utensils, provisions for two months in the field, as well as several bags of flour, and quantities of plaster, cheesecloth and burlap for preserving the fossils."

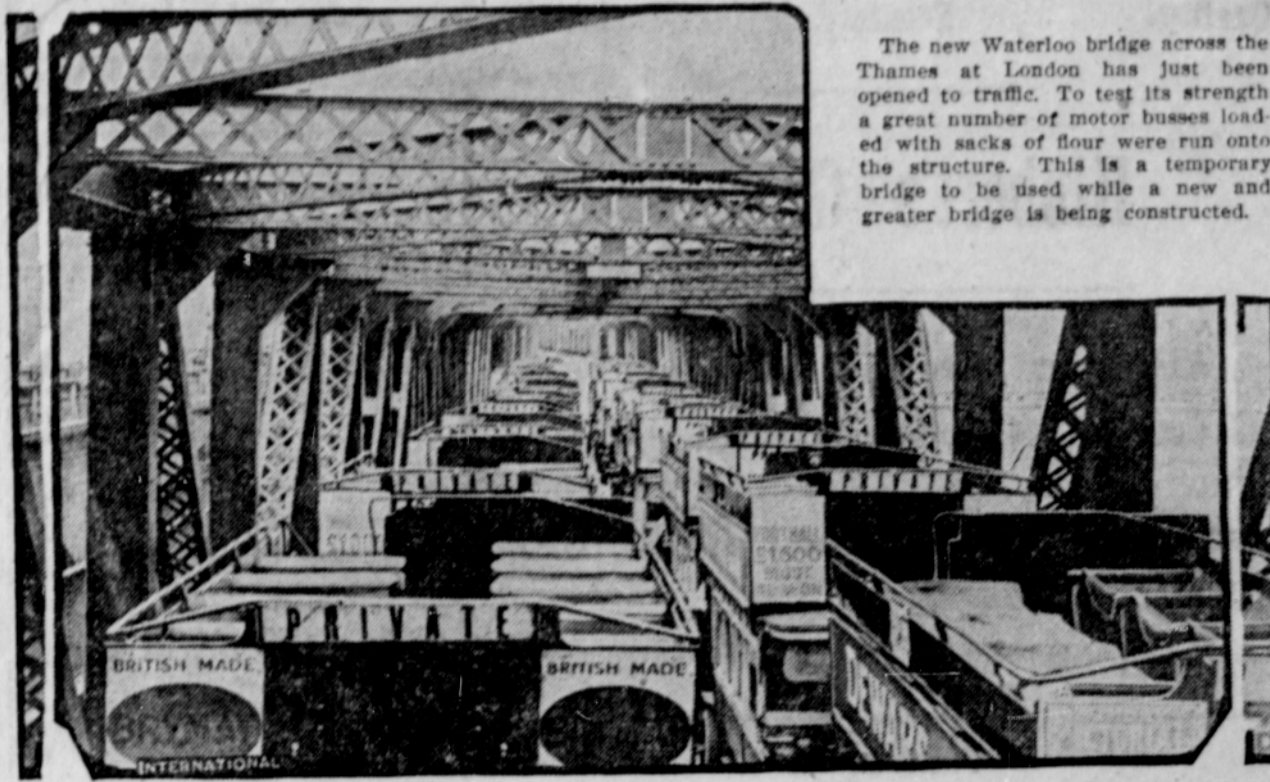
## Old "Washington Elm" Is Saved by Operation

Newark, N. J.—The old Washington elm tree at Ho-Ho-Kus is resting comfortably after an operation on its trunk, and, the tree surgeons predict, is good for at least twenty or twenty-five years more.

The tree, which was long past the sapling stage when Washington marched his troops under it bound from Fort Lee to the revolutionary post at Ramapough, was suffering from an old wound, and it was said the operation was performed just in time. The wound was made when road-builders cut away a portion of its roots to make room for a concrete base, and was never properly treated.

First one branch and then another fell away. Then the trunk became scaly, and it was feared the old tree was done for. Tree surgeons were called into consultation, and the operation was decided on. The dead parts were cut away and the exposed parts covered with a tar substance. Holes were filled with concrete and painted over.

## London's New Waterloo Bridge Gets Severe Test



The new Waterloo bridge across the Thames at London has just been opened to traffic. To test its strength a great number of motor buses loaded with sacks of flour were run onto the structure. This is a temporary bridge to be used while a new and greater bridge is being constructed.

# Cure of Sleeping Malady in Sight

## Missionary From Congo Holds Out Hope.

New York.—After 12 years abroad with but one interruption, Dr. Arthur L. Piper, a medical missionary of the Congo mission conference of the Methodist Episcopal church, has just returned for six months' furlough, accompanied by his wife and two daughters. Both daughters were born in the Congo. The family comes from the most remote mission station of the Methodist church at the village of Mwata-Yamvo of the Paramount chief of the Luunda tribe, at Masumba, near Kapanga, Belgian Congo. All are victims of malaria contracted in the tropics.

Doctor Piper corroborated reports of cruelty in the Portuguese possessions of Angola. He explained the difficulties he had experienced in fighting malaria, sleeping sickness and leprosy among the Bantu natives.

Mwata-Yamvo, where the Pipers have lived for 12 years, with but one brief furlough five years ago, is 1,200 miles from the coast. It is reached by a 2,000-mile rail journey from Cape Town to Elizabethville, the Congo capital, followed by another railway journey to the railroad of Bugama. From Bugama to Mwata-Yamvo is a 21-day journey by caravan.

**Are Only Whites.**  
It is 500 miles from the northern Rhodesian border, and 100 miles from the border of Angola, 9 degrees south of the equator, and has an altitude of 3,000 feet. With the exception of two officials at the government post at Kapanga, five miles away, the Pipers are the only whites in a native population of 45,000.

The entire family were yellowed and listless from the malaria which attacks all white men in the Congo jungles. Taking five grains of quinine a day has been their custom for years and the children were fed quinine from the age of two weeks. Drainage of compounds, and mosquito-proof houses are powerless to protect them from this scourge, they said. Of the children, Ruth, born in 1915, was the first white baby born in that section of the Congo. On her birth she received the name of Mutuba and the gift of a bull calf from the local chief. The baby, Margaret, born in 1920, is making her first trip to civilization.

Doctor Piper said that sleeping sickness and leprosy were the scourge of the district, 4 per cent of the popula-

tion being lepers. No attempt was made to segregate the lepers, he declared, and only sporadic efforts were made to relieve them.

**Germ Now Known.**  
"Although the germ of sleeping sickness is known," he said, "hitherto no great progress has been made in fighting the disease. The government tries to see that the natives do not live in the sleeping sickness belt along streams and rivers where the carrier, the tsetse fly, breeds. For the same reason attempts are made to keep the villages clean.

"The two drugs we have used have not been successful. They don't cure, but merely delay death. They are atoxyl, injected inter-muscularly, and tartar emetic, which is given intravenously.

"Three cures are now in existence and give definite hope for the future. They are the German preparation known as Bayer 208, a Rockefeller institute preparation called trypanarsamide, and a French specific. These are not yet in general use, but I hope to adopt them when I get back.

"Last year I made my first attempt to treat the lepers in the district. They are not segregated, as the disease is of a comparatively mild variety, and they constitute 4 per cent of the population. I gave them chaulmoogra oil,

## Miles of Flying Ants Invade Adirondacks

Saranac Lake, N. Y.—A great column of flying ants recently passed down the Raquette River valley section of the Adirondacks. A cloud of insects estimated to be four miles long required an hour and a quarter to pass given points. Amazed residents at first believed the cloud was smoke from a forest fire. The ants flew in great sections, but the sections were never more than a few feet apart.

After the passing of the column, the river surface was covered with the bodies of thousands of insects that had flown too low. The ants were about a quarter of an inch long with the exception of the queens which measured a half inch. Flying ants are new to the Adirondacks.

by mouth and injection, and the results were not satisfactory.

"The taste of the oil is disgusting and lingers on the tongue for hours, while injections are so painful that a man is incapacitated for days. A new treatment with sodium morrhuate is reported more satisfactory and I hope to try it out."

## Bears Thirtieth Child

Madrid.—At the age of sixty-eight, Camille Lorenzo, a resident of the town of Valladolid, has just given birth to her thirtieth child.

# AURORA BOREALIS CAUSED BY BUGS, SAYS CHASE S. OSBORN

## Former Governor Explains Cause of Northern Lights.

Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.—Northern lights or aurora borealis are not, as has been represented by many authorities, manifestations of electrical activity, nor are they reflections of the sun shining on icebergs. They are, or at least may be, the incubation of millions and trillions of phosphorescent insectivores.

That is the theory advanced by Chase S. Osborn, former governor of Michigan, who for 50 years has observed and studied the phenomena.

The skies in this vicinity have been brilliantly illuminated several nights recently with the aurora borealis, flaming streamers sweeping the skies in spectacular displays. This "sky writing" caused many inquiries to be directed to Mr. Osborn.

Pointing to the fact that the aurora borealis is but one of the mysterious celestial illuminations in addition to the sun, moon, planets and stars—the others being the aurora australis and the zodiacal lights—Mr. Osborn said that the cause of these are not known. He was definite, however, in stating that the northern lights are not a reflection of the sun from icebergs.

"The most popular theory of the causation of these lights is that they are magnetic or electromagnetic," he said. "It would seem that this is illy based, for there is little heat accompanying them. They are light without heat, such as the fiery emits.

"There is a slight warmth accompanying them, but not as much as one would expect of electricity. Also they are silent, except for a low singing or swishing sound. Also they show some of the prismatic rays and electric light does not, so far as I am aware.

"The magnetic terrestrial disturbances do not always attend the aurora. Very often, too, there are severe magnetic disturbances when there is no aurora.

"A causation that appeals to me and which is original so far as I know is that they may be the incubation of millions and trillions of phosphorescent insectivores. This would account for the swishing, for the colors and for the wavy motion in the atmosphere and for the light without heat.

"It is notable that whenever the northern lights occur in good volume there is a warm spell following them within 48 hours; very often, in fact almost always, accompanied by precipitation.

"In this connection it may be recalled that in the Arctic and sub-Arctic regions there are vast incubations of aerial insects and that they often fall to the ground and cover it. Sometimes they are red and are called 'red snow.' These may be related to the colors as shown in the aurora."

## More Oranges, Fewer Grapefruit, Tangerines

Washington.—A preliminary estimate of the orange crop in Florida by the United States Department of Agriculture indicates 10,900,000 boxes, excluding tangerines, for 1925-26, or about 600,000 boxes more than the revised estimate of the crop last year. Tangerine production is placed at 600,000 boxes, or 100,000 less than last year, and grapefruit, 7,500,000 boxes, or 700,000 less than last year.

The total preliminary estimate for citrus fruits is 19,000,000 boxes, compared with a revised estimate of 19,200,000 boxes last year. These estimates are of the commercial car lot and express movement, and exclude the usual loss from drops.

Decreased production of grapefruit is attributed to light and spotted setting of fruit, and to the fact that there will be more over-sized fruit than usual. Unless market conditions are such that the large sizes can be shipped and sold, they will either move by truck or be lost from dropping, the department says.

## Flyer Is Attacked in Air by Eagle

New York.—Lieut. James M. Bovard, who completed his annual 15-day training period as a reserve aviator at Mitchel field recently, told a story of an aerial encounter with an eagle, in which he emerged the victor with one of the eagle's tail feathers as a trophy. While 3,000 feet over Long Island, he said, a great bald eagle swooped down and fastened its claws in his leather helmet. The propeller blast carried the bird away.

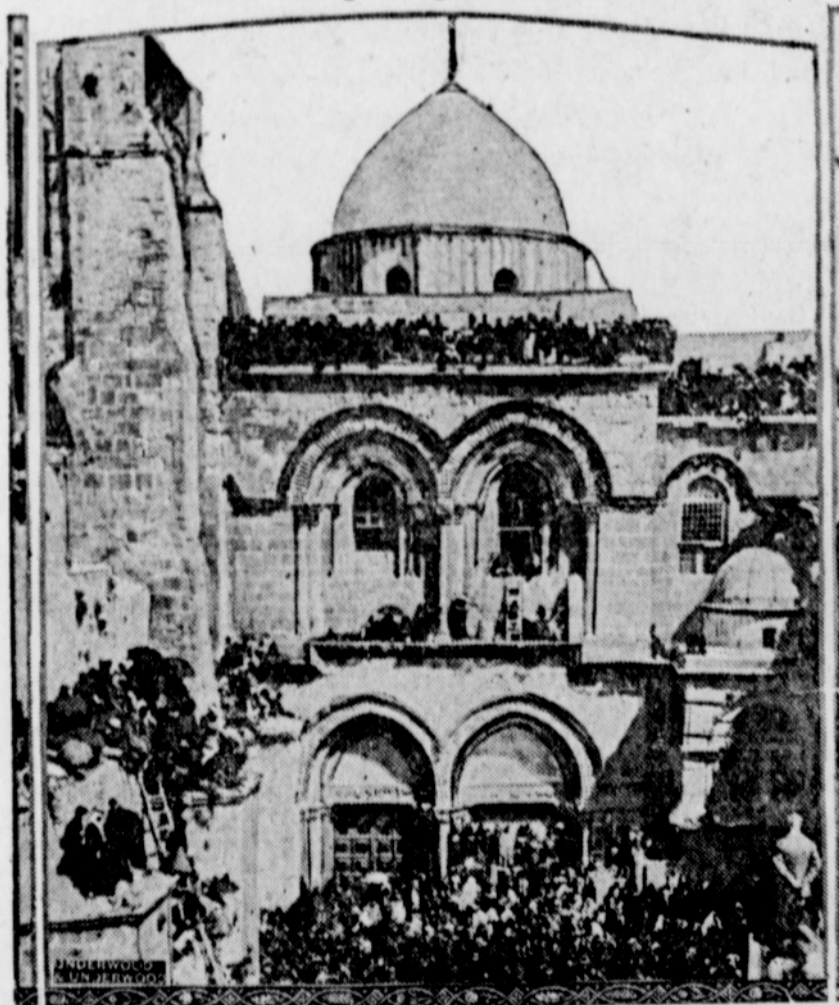
Bovard exhibited a characteristic barred eagle feather and scratches on his helmet to the doubting ones.

## BEING INITIATED



At the opening of the academic year of Columbia university the freshmen were given the usual fantastic initiation by upper class men. One of them is here seen perched on a huge marble sphere on the campus, reading aloud from a book.

## Fall of Holy Sepulchre Feared



British officials in Palestine express apprehensions lest the Holy sepulchre, shown above, cave in from the gradual weakening of the walls due to age and to the innumerable offerings of pilgrims. The church is legally possessed by the local authorities of almost all of the branches of the Christian church—Abyssinians, Armenians, Copts, Greeks, Latins, etc. This multiple control makes it extremely difficult for the British authorities to persuade the owners to undertake and carry through any effective repair.