

# OUR COMIC SECTION

## Events in the Lives of Little Men



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## THE FEATHERHEADS



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## It "Pays" to Be Wise

## LANGUAGE CLEW TO ALL PAST HISTORY

### Why Archeological Work Is Important.

To some it may seem foolish for a man to spend weeks and months recording the peculiarities of speech of an aged Indian who recalls a language which will vanish completely with that person's death. That language is completely outworn. The descendants of those who used it are now speaking English or Spanish. To the uninitiated, it is the mere recording of useless gibberish.

Yet the American Council of Learned Societies reports with pride that one research worker has nearly completed records of the Southern Caddoan language, that another is piecing together a record of the nearly vanished Mohican dialect of the Eastern Algonquins and that still another has found that a handful of Indians in Oregon still speak the Cayuse language, which it was thought vanished 50 years ago.

Such work is more than a pastime or a hobby. To archeologists and others interested in America's past it is of vital importance. Native languages form one of the most reliable means of tracing movements in prehistoric America. Pottery, weapons, jewelry, basketry, design and architecture all are clues to events in that forgotten past. But language is a thread running through them all.

Ancient America, the two continents, had no fewer than 150 languages, each fundamentally different from the others in grammar, vocabulary and phonetics. Most of them had dialects. Some even had separate forms for the use of men and women. How complex this was and how great an aid it can be to the delver in pre-history may be realized by remembering that Europe and Asia combined have only about 25 language stocks.

In tracing the movements of ancient Americans, scientists can make uncannily accurate guesses from evidence they dig from ruined villages. But there are many open links. Occasionally the student of native languages can close those links. Whether the pottery shards show it or not, if one-time inhabitants of Idaho moved to Pennsylvania, the languages will show it, if the languages can be studied. If the language of the Mound Builders of Ohio were available for study, for instance, it might reveal similarities to the language of the Mayans and the Aztecs to prove a relationship which many archeologists have suspected but have never been able to prove.

This interest in Indian languages is not new. The Spanish priests gathered Indian words in Mexico as early as 1571. Roger Williams studied Indian languages in New England in the 1630's. John Eliot prepared his famous "Indian Grammar Begun" in 1636. Thomas Jefferson in 1791 made an effort to rescue vanishing Indian tongues and when he sent Lewis and Clark to the Pacific he told them to study Indian languages. But only in recent years have scientists taken up the task in earnest as a phase of archeology.

### "Company From America" Appreciated in Orient

Anybody might claim to be widely known and appreciated for whom a native of Shanghai would build an addition to his home, hopeful of a visit some time. That's just the position in which Dr. Samuel J. Brandenburg of Clark university and Mrs. Brandenburg find themselves.

When Dr. George H. Blakeslee reached Shanghai recently on his mission for Uncle Sam, he hunted up Lee Su, who formerly was a student at Clark. The young man showed Doctor Blakeslee a wing he had just added to his already luxurious home and said Doctor and Mrs. Brandenburg had promised to visit him some day, and he had the rooms prepared, ready for their coming. "Company from America" for whom the best is none too good in the Orient.—Worcester Telegram.

**Spotting the Likeness**  
She—My mother was very beautiful.  
He—I see. Then you take after your father?

## HIS AMBITION



"So you're saving up to buy an airship? You're quite an ambitious little boy."  
"Yes'm. I wants ter fly over Jimmie Mack's yard an' drop bricks on to him."

## The Custom

Author's Friend—Is it going to be a serious operation?  
Author—Oh, no. I've just gone stale and need something to write about.

fashioned novel I vaguely remember entitled, 'Put Yourself in His Place.'—Washington Star.

## Giving Him Rank

Sue and Jackie were playing in the sandpile when Jackie said proudly: "My daddy is a major. He drills the boys at high school."  
Sue was not ready with an answer at once, but finally said:  
"Well, my daddy's an officer, too. He goes to his office every day!"

## Perverse Old Morpheus

Wife (from twin bed)—I wish, Henry, you didn't read so much in bed.  
Henry—Well, dash it, what is a fellow to do? I always go to sleep reading in the library.—London Humorist.

## Could Testify

Tamale—Oh, well, they say that love makes the world go round!  
Carne—Yeah, and everything in it, I suppose—my old lady's sure kept me on the jump!

## Back it Up

A little city boy was visiting his country cousin.  
"What do you know about cows?" quizzed the country lad. "You don't

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**Takes the Ticket**  
Askum—As a theatrical man, Dorsey sure takes the ticket.  
Bascum—He's successful, is he?  
Askum—Yes, no one ever gets by his door without a ticket.—Pathfinder Magazine.

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W. N. U., Portland, No. 30-1932.

## BEAUTY SCREAM



Ethel—"My dear, she's a scream!"  
Eve—"Yes; almost homely enough to win in a beauty show."

## Forgotten

"Do you always leave cards when you call?"  
"No; sometimes I leave a pair of overshoes or an umbrella."—Pathfinder Magazine.

## An Influence

"What book do you think has exerted most influence on that aggressive politician?"  
"I don't know," replied Senator Sorghum, "but I think it must be an old-