

# BIRDMAN HAS NARROW ESCAPE

SILAS CHRISTOFFERSON, WHO BRAVES THE ATMOSPHERE, NEARLY BORNE OUT TO SEA IN A SKIFF.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 15.—The Chronicle says: "Silas Christofferson, the aviator, and Ernest Hammer, his chief mechanic, faced death in a form peculiar to them last evening, when, clinging to a cap-sized skiff in which they had been rowing a mile off Harbor View, they found themselves being carried by a strong ebb tide out to sea.

Christofferson and Hammer had gone rowing, following an afternoon spent in the aviator's hangar near the point off which the accident occurred. Shortly before 7:30 o'clock they struck rough water and a strong current, which seized the frail craft, turned it end for end, then capsized it completely.

Christofferson and Hammer, who are both fairly good swimmers, dove from under the boat, then swam back and clambered aboard its upturned bottom. It was rapidly growing dark and the same current which had overturned their craft was carrying them toward the Heads when the crew of the schooner Roy Somers, anchored off Harbor View, noticed the men's plight. They put off in a boat to pick up the stranded men, and the latter were then taken to Meigs's wharf on the Quarantine tug Argonaut which had passed the Roy Somers soon afterward.

The aviator and his mechanic were soon over their scare and the effects of restoratives applied by Dr. Drew of the Argonaut sent the two men on their way home rejoicing over their narrow escape.

## CHRISTOFFERSON'S TRIPS.

Aviator Continues to be One of Big Attractions at San Francisco.

Lindsay Campbell in one of the San Francisco papers writes as follows concerning Silas Christofferson, the aviator, who made such a success on Coos Bay last fall:

Aviator Christofferson has been on hand in his hydroplane for the last few months to meet and escort to an anchorage off the barge office nearly every trans-Pacific liner that has come to port. He usually meets the steamer as it passes Fort Point, flies around it a few times ascends to a great height, and then if the sea is not too choppy, vol planes to the water, over which he skims at a high rate of speed.

After he has thoroughly impressed the new arrivals that the airship is part of San Francisco's regular transportation system, he either goes back to his hanger in the exposition grounds or takes a whirl around the crest of Tamalpais.

He was bound for Tamalpais the other day, when he met the ferry steamer Sausalito. He was flying straight for the steamer, but about 300 feet about it. The whirr of the engine fell on the ears of the ferry boat pilot who looked up and for the first time saw the airship. To that pilot all ships fool alike, Christofferson was coming on at terrific speed. The pilot reached for the lever above his head and blew—first two whistles, then the danger signal. Christofferson said later that he met the sound of the whistles as he was coming back from Tamalpais.

## GOOD ROADS CONFERENCE

Suggested That Coos and Douglas Get Together for Road Improvements.

The Coquille Sentinel says Mayor Morrison will go to Klamath Falls the latter part of May, there to attend a convention of the W. O. W. of the state. While absent he will stop at Roseburg and take up the matter of improving the highway between this section and the county seat of Douglas county. Mr. Schilling of Myrtle Point has suggested that a delegation from Coos county confer with the Douglas authorities at that time, and volunteered to represent his locality at such a meeting. Acting upon the suggestion Mr. Morrison has asked Mr. Green, president of the Marshfield Chamber of Commerce, to either send a representative or pass resolutions favoring such an improvement. Other towns in the county will be requested to do likewise. It is a good move, and one that should bring some good results.

Mayor Morrison informs The Sentinel that Judge Hall, County Clerk James Watson and assessor Thrift, all being delegates to the Oddfellows' gathering at Medford on May 21, will join in presenting the roads situation before the Douglas county people, as will also Commissioner Dement of Myrtle Point.

## FIRES AT "MOVIES" VILLAIN, THROWING CROWD IN PANIC.

LEAVENWORTH, Kan., May 15.—Patrons of a moving picture show here last night were momentarily panic stricken when a spectator, believing the villain was going to murder the hero of the picture, drew a pistol from his pocket and fired at the struggling figures on the canvass.

The shot rang out just as it appeared the hero would be thrown over a precipice.

The place was crowded and there was a wild rush for the doors, but order was soon restored. The man who fired the shot escaped in the excitement.

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# THE STORY OF AMERICA IN PICTURES THE DISCOVERERS

"LEARN ONE THING EVERY DAY"

No. 4. FERDINAND MAGELLAN.

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FOUR little ships—battered, storm driven, their rigging coated with ice—struggled along a narrow, tortuous strait fringed by snow-clad mountains. Up and down on the deck of the foremost vessel, the Trinidad, strode a thin, haggard man, peering ahead through the mist with anxious eyes. Beside him walked another man, bearded, talking in short sharp sentences. Louder and louder grew his words, fiercer and fiercer his gestures; but the haggard man said nothing, only shaking his head stubbornly.

This was Magellan, the first man with the courage to attempt to sail entirely round the world, pushing on, as he said, "even if we had to eat the leather of the rigging." That was the brave commander's last day of doubt, however, for on the next day, the 28th of November, 1520, his little fleet rounded the Cape Desgado, the "desired" western end of the Strait of Magellan and sailed into the peaceful ocean named "Pacific" by Magellan himself.

Ferdinand Magellan had an exciting life. He was born in Portugal about 1480. He was only 24 when he made his first voyage to India, where he was wounded in battle. A few years later he fought bravely against the Malays at Malacca, and received as a reward for his many services the rank of captain. He continued to distinguish himself on many subsequent voyages and campaigns.

But he was not content with the honors he had won. Like Columbus and most of the adventures of that time, Magellan dreamed always of sailing westward. His idea was that at the extreme south of South America there was a strait.

About this time he got into trouble with Manuel, king of Portugal, and renounced his nationality, going to Spain, there to offer his services to Charles V., finally with

the aid of several powerful friends at court he managed to persuade the Spanish king that his plan was possible. On August 10, 1519, the little fleet of five ships started on their hazardous voyage, which only one of them ever completed. To equip this expedition cost over \$250,000.

After many months of struggles and disappointments a western passage was at last discovered—now called the Strait of Magellan. But even when the little fleet had managed to get through this into the calm waters of the Pacific, their troubles were only beginning. For 98 days they crossed the sea, only twice sighting land—two bare little islands, sterile and uninhabited. Sawdust and rats became coveted food. But at last, in March, 1521, the Ladronees were discovered, and a little while afterward the Philippines.

From these islands Magellan never came away. Fighting on the side of one of the native chiefs against a hostile tribe, he was killed on April 27, 1521.

The Victoria managed to round the Cape of Good Hope and reach Spain once more. But only 31 men returned to Seville in the first vessel that ever made the tour of the earth.

Every day a different human interest story will appear in The Times. You can get a beautiful intaglio reproduction of this picture, with five others, equally attractive, 7 by 9 1/2 inches in size, with this week's "Mentor." In "The Mentor" a well known authority covers the subject of the pictures and stories of the week. Readers of The Times and "The Mentor" will know Art, Literature, History, Science, and Travel, and own exquisite pictures. On sale at The Times office. Price ten cents. Write today to The Times for booklet explaining The Associated Newspaper School plan.

## GARDENING HINTS

### How to Make an Attractive and Healthful Lawn.

There is surely nothing more beautiful than a fine green lawn and really not so difficult a thing to obtain if gone about in the right way. The proper way to start is after the lawn has been graded to put in it a top soil of at least six inches and have a gradual sloping grade for drainage, or if the ground is low and damp it will be best to lay drainpipes from two or three feet beneath the surface.

Soil that is rich is very often acid, which can be corrected by applying air slaked lime in sufficient quantity to correct the acidity. With sandy soil the question of fertility is of prime importance after the grading. The entire area should be covered with well rotted manure. Where this is not possible a chemical fertilizer should be used. After this fertilizer has thoroughly

mellowed the soil and a smooth surface has been secured it is then time to sow.

A day should be selected when the wind will not blow the seed. In an ordinary open lawn a good mixture is *Pod pratensis* mixed with *Agrostis acanua*. For under the trees where it is difficult to secure any kind of lawn the ground should be covered with myrtle or hederia ivy. After the seed has been sown the ground should be raked and gone over with a heavy roller until perfectly level.

When the grass is three to four inches high it should be cut with a scythe until strong enough to bear the mower. Should any bare spots appear these must be made mellow and again soded down. The best season for making a lawn is immediately after the spring rains and before the heat of the summer tends to dry out the ground.

### DR. COOK INSANE.

Report That North Pole Fakir Is in Panama Asylum.

The Eugene Guard says: "A copy of the Frankfurt (Germany) Gazette received yesterday by E. Schwarzschild, of this city, contains an interview relative to Dr. F. A. Cook, of North Pole notoriety, by his sister, who lives in Stuttgart, Germany, in which she says that Dr. Cook has become hopelessly insane and that he is now confined in a private asylum in Panama."

### STORY OF THE DAY.

The philanthropic lady was visiting a lower East Side school. To test the brightness of some of the poorer pupils she asked them: "Children, what is the greatest of all virtues?" No one answered. "Think a little," she said. "What is it I am doing when I give up time and pleasure to come and talk with you for your good?" "Well, what am I doing, little boy?" "Buttin' in!"

Somebody wants to know if they call the sweet young things "chickens" because they always look so chic.

### NOT AT ALL LIKE IT.

"Did you marry your ideal?" asked a new acquaintance of a bright matron. "Mercy, no! I married my husband."

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