

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe"
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Incredible Witness: "Doc" Cook

All the world became a jury when, late in 1909, first Dr. Frederick A. Cook and then a few days later Commander Robert E. Peary emerged from the northland to claim the honor of being first to reach the North Pole.

Not that it matters much now. That was 30 years ago. Commander Peary died in 1920, universally honored and respected. "Doc" Cook, as he was flippantly designated in the 'teens of this century, died the other day and his obituary notices were much less flattering. There was the stigma of a mail fraud conviction to be mentioned, on top of the suspicion of fakery in connection with his North Pole claims and his account of the ascent of Mt. McKinley. And in the meantime, men have flown across the North Pole and a party of Russians camped there for months, a few years ago.

Yet there remains an interesting question involving character and credibility in situations where important decisions rest upon such factors. Juries of "twelve good men and true" have legal instructions to guide them; a world-wide jury of public opinion is guided almost exclusively by its knowledge of human nature. And this is how it reached its verdict:

"Doc" Cook, at the outset, had the advantage. He put in the first bid. And he was a showman. He told how he had "climbed the ladder of latitude with lightning rapidity" dashing across "purple snows" to reach the magic point farthest north. He told of the miraculous escapes of his party on the return, when he averted starvation by killing birds and bears with a sling. But, Philip Gibbs of the New York Times said in reporting Cook's address before the king and a distinguished audience in Denmark, in spite of his "flashy phrases" he "stumbled over figures" and said practically nothing about what he actually found at the pole. Gibbs, after the manner of the discerning reporter who senses insincerity at a glance—through vast experience—branded it all a "fairy tale."

Commander Peary was not a showman, but an explorer and a man of science. He had made seven trips into the Arctic since 1886; had lost part of a foot when it was frozen. He had devoted his lifetime to arctic exploration. He had mapped the northern coast of Greenland. But on April 5, 1909, with the pole in sight, he wrote in his journal:

"The Pole at last! The prize of three centuries, my dream and goal for 20 years, mine at last! I cannot bring myself to realize it. It all seems so simple and commonplace."

Now that, obviously, is a bit of anti-climax. Nothing dramatic about it. But, when one stops to think about it, it has the ring of veracity. Peary reached the pole—and it was just arctic waste, no different from the icy wilderness he had been crossing for days.

Comparing the careers of the two men, the world decided this much: That Peary, who had made it his life work, honestly believed at least that he had reached the pole. Already established was his 30-year record of exploration and discovery, nearly all of it then or later substantiated. Peary was not the man to climax it all with a monstrous fake.

"Doc" Cook was the physician aboard Peary's vessel on an earlier trip. He was, the world decided, a man who craved honor and credit; he resented seeing all the credit go to Commander Peary when others in the expedition endured the same hardships.

So "Doc" Cook organized his own expedition. He disappeared into the north with a few Eskimos. Previously he had hired a qualified expert to prepare a set of astronomical observations such as might have been made from the Pole. Then he and the Eskimos proceeded to spend a reasonably comfortable winter at Jones Sound, and in due course he returned to civilization to claim its plaudits—and to sell copies of a book.

Eskimos were Cook's only corroborating witnesses. Eskimos and a negro named, oddly, Matt Henson, were Peary's only witnesses. It boiled down largely to a question of the credibility of the two men.

Peary was born in the small town of Cresson, Pa. Cook was born in the small community of Callicott Depot, N.Y. It's safe to say that the people in each of those villages knew, long before anyone else, whether their "home town boy" was sincere in his claim of notable exploration.

National Defense Progress

It is not many weeks since the president made his significant speech on national defense in which he obliquely informed the nation that most of its important military equipment was "on order." In those few weeks there has been a frenzied passage of appropriation bills by congress, in perfect accordance with the recent American theory that if something is wrong, spending will make it right. There has also been a certain amount of publicity given to orders actually placed for specific war materials; but of planes, tanks, guns, there have been only a scattering, augmented by vague promises that more will be forthcoming when defense bottlenecks are cracked.

The bottlenecks in national defense, as one might expect from the present administration, are in part personal, arising from the antagonism aroused between potentates high in the New Deal of former years and more recently arrived officials charged with the responsibility of making national defense more than a staple commodity in political debate.

There are others in the curious myopia of congress, which permits large appropriations to be passed, but declines to make essential concessions to industrialists without which they cannot afford to provide additional space and equipment imperative for the production required by government. That there should be profiteers in the greedy sense of the last war is unthinkable; but that there should be reasonable and decent provision for investors in airplane and equipment industries liable to find themselves saddled with vast facilities and no market after a short war period is by no means unfair. Economic failure just as it should not be an invitation to accept economic failure just as it should not be an invitation to join the ranks of the economic royalists.

Finally there is an apparent inability on the part of the two services to agree on standardized types of particular items, planes especially, as a means of avoiding time-consuming and expensive experimentation. The latter cannot be ignored; but it cannot be forgotten that production is momentarily more important than research.

The consequence of these delays and contradictions has been an absolute dearth of plane contracts despite great appropriations; aircraft and armor plate production is held back by tax barriers; tank orders are limited as are artillery orders, and gun production is low. It is time to ask whether we are actually preparing a national defense establishment, or whether the talk on the subject of two months ago was just that.

Democratic Chairman Leach

A newspaper's candidate, we take it, must be perfect with a platinum halo around his head; and the opposition candidate must be fixed with horns and a tail, or the genus homo can't make out where the newspaper stands—Modford Mail Tribune.

The point of The Mail Tribune's remark requiring no further elucidation, may we proceed to say a kindly word for the Oregon democratic state central committee, without committing ourselves to the endorsement of anything it or its new chairman may do in the coming campaign.

Coming directly to the point, as Joe Turp would say, it is our impression that the state democratic committee has made a much better choice for chairman than it did two years ago. Charles H. Leach has served creditably upon the game

Bits for Breakfast

By R. J. HENDRICKS

Suggestion that the descendants of the '43 immigrants have centennial celebration in three years

(Concluding from yesterday.) Still noting from the biographical sketch of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Holman:

"In 1843 he (Daniel Holman) crossed the plains to Oregon, settling in Washington county, where he took up a donation claim that he operated for three years, and subsequently traded for a section of land in the vicinity of McMinnville, in the cultivation of which he engaged until 1901, when he disposed of his property and retired to McMinnville, where he passed away on the 15th of March, 1910, at the age of 87 years."

"Mr. Holman was in every way a man well adapted to pioneering, having the fortitude, initiative and determination of purpose that enabled him to go ahead and carry to successful issue anything he undertook."

"He was public spirited and generously expended both his time and effort in promoting the interests of his community and in developing its various enterprises. His efforts were rewarded with more than an average degree of success and he not only acquired a valuable property but a comfortable competence."

"On the 31st of August, 1847, Mr. Holman was united in marriage to Miss Martha E. Burnett, who was born in Tennessee on the 11th of December, 1830, whence she was removed to Missouri by her parents when a child of six months."

"She continued to make her home in the latter state until she was 15 years of age, when the parents migrated to Oregon. She is a daughter of Glen O. and Sarah (Rodgers) Burnett, and the father, who was a minister of the Christian church, was one of the first to preach the gospel in the state."

"With his wife and family he crossed the plains in 1848, locating in Polk county, where he took up a donation claim of 640 acres, continuing to reside thereon for 20 years."

"At the expiration of that time he went to California, where he spent the remainder of his life. He was a brother of Peter H. Burnett, who came to Oregon in 1843, and who was born in 1818. In 1848 he went to California to prospect for gold and being one of the successful ones in this hazardous occupation he attained great wealth, and became one of the foremost citizens of the state, which he was the first governor."

"Unto Mr. and Mrs. Holman there were born 10 children, nine of whom are living: William Wright, who was born in 1848, now residing in Tillamook county; Woodford P., born in 1850, now a resident of Coos county; Glen O., whose birth occurred in 1852, living in Polk county; Lucetta M., who was born in 1854, the wife of Harry L. Watkins of Idaho; Mary E., whose birth occurred in 1856, the widow of W. C. Turner of Yamhill county; Charles W., who was born in 1859, now living in California; John E., who was born in 1861, also a resident of California; Rosella L., born in 1865, living in Clackamas county; and Walter B., who was born in 1867, living in Yamhill county."

"Mrs. Holman, who the 11th of December, 1911, celebrated the 81st anniversary of her birth, still makes her home in McMinnville."

"Mr. Holman was an active member of the Christian church, with which his wife is still affiliated. Although he was a Republican, he always took an active and helpful interest in promoting the development of the community in every possible way, he never prominently participated in political activities."

"He was one of the highly esteemed and widely known citizens of the county among whose residents he numbered many warm friends, by reason of his high standards of citizenship and unquestionable integrity. During the long period of his residence in the state he took a deep interest in observing its development along both agricultural and industrial lines, its phenomenal progress but being a fulfillment of his early expectations and prophecy."

So ends the Holman sketch in the Gaston Centennial History. The lady writing the letter which is the basis of this two issue series "has something there" when she suggests a centennial celebration three years hence, by and for descendants of the famous 1843 immigration, which was the Applegate train, the first one to come clear through to the Willamette Valley the same year with covered wagons.

They would make up a large and fine cross section of our population. The same thing could be said of the 1844 covered wagon immigration, and that of 1845, and 1846, and, still more conspicuously, that of 1847—the "big" immigration with its 4500 to 5000 people, whose coming doubled the population of Oregon.

And of the 1848, 1850 and 1851 immigrations, up to that of 1862, when 50,000 came, half of them to California and half to Oregon. And of those of 1863 and 1864, after which the Indian wars stopped the great historic trek, until 1869, and even with and after that year no such crowds as

came in 1853 again made the epoch making journey.

The centennial celebration of Willamette University has the right of way for 1943, for the institution out of which by change of name in 1853 emerged that institution, was founded Feb. 1, 1842, at the original Lee mission.

Might not a great deal of the work done on and for the Salem Centennial be preserved for '43, and for '43, and for the after years, and the 125th birthday of Oregon? And that will be virtually the birthday of the state of Oregon, to say nothing of all territory west of the Rockies draining into the Pacific.

commission and in the legislature. He is a man of considerable poise and common sense.

We realize, of course, that in saying the committee did better in its 1940 choice than it did in 1938, we are not actually waxing enthusiastic in our praise. It could scarcely have done worse.

Another "Powder Keg of Europe"



"Flying Blind"

by VERA BROWN

SYNOPSIS

Tex Aimes, happy-go-lucky, daredevil pilot, wins the main event of the national air races in which his friend, Marvin Stone, is killed. Judith, who was born in 1843, stands by to lend all possible aid. Judith wishes Tex were on hand to help, but he is celebrating with his buddies. Judith, who is Michael Dudley, young airline general manager, who is the friend in need. He arranges for Judith to stay at the home of his friends, the Duttons, where she will have every comfort. Judith goes with her. As Michael leaves for the fliers' banquet, Judith asks him to let Tex know where she is; but, after it is over, it is Michael who returns to ascertain how they are faring—not Tex. The latter sends a message to his wife that he will see her in the morning as they are giving him a big party that night. When Judith leaves it is Sonia Winthrop, wealthy young aristocrat, who is feeling Tex, she is disturbed because of recent rumors linking "Sonny" with Tex. Later, when meeting Judith, Mrs. Lydia Dutton decided that "Sonny" would meet her match in trying to win Tex.

CHAPTER 7

Judith's shining black hair fanned out on her white cheeks charmingly. She had on no make-up, but her straight black brows made her deep blue eyes startling.

All in all, Lydia Dutton decided she liked this "wife" very much indeed; she didn't like many wives, she admitted freely. Especially her own's!

All this scrutiny was missed by Judith. She was too intent on what the day before he would bring.

"Mrs. Stone is suffering badly from shock. I must make some plans for her. She's totally incapable of doing it herself. I just got this," Judith handed Mrs. Dutton the wire which she had in her pocket.

"Bring her here by all means. Of course, you'll go to meet her?" "I suppose I should."

"You probably don't like to leave Mrs. Stone. I'd stay with her gladly, but a stranger would not be much help to her, I'm afraid."

Judith nodded. "That is what has been so difficult. I hadn't met Marvin's wife myself until we arrived Wednesday. She's so alone!"

"Yes, my car will be ready for you at 11:00. You ought to leave by then to meet the train."

"I can't let you do that, Mrs. Dutton."

"Of course, you can. Your husband is a great hero to my children. I met him last night, by the way, and he's charming."

Judith's heart contracted. At Sonia's praise, she knew!

"He promised to autograph their model airplanes. Mr. Aimes said he'd be over this morning."

Then as an afterthought: "There are two friends of Mr. Stone downstairs. Davis and Holt."

Of course, Lee Holt would come. And it must be Lem Davis, Tex's mechanic. He'd worked with Marvin Stone in the old St. Louis days.

"It might do her good to see them," Judith hesitated.

Elate tried to smile when she heard Lem and Lee were there. The maid was just leaving with Judith's dress when the two boys came into the sitting room. Both of them were ill at ease, afraid they'd done the wrong thing.

"If we'd known you were in such a swell place, we wouldn't have come."

"You were darlings to come."

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News Behind Today's News

By PAUL MALLOTT

WASHINGTON, Aug. 6.—(AP)—A typically newsy headline with a twist: "Refugees to get what is available." Armies of occupation are reported subsisting on supplies in the occupied areas which further intensifies conditions.

The Safety Valve

Letters from Statesman Readers

HARD FACTS

To the Editor: A careful study of the New Deal's social security law reveals that the aged pension it will pay at the retirement age of 65: Fifteen per cent of the workers that pay into it will receive nothing at all when they become 65 years of age. Fifteen per cent will receive \$4 per month. Fifteen per cent will receive \$10 per month. Fifteen per cent will receive \$20 per month. Fifteen per cent will receive \$35 per month. Fifteen per cent will receive \$75 or \$85 per month.

They will receive aged pension payments at age 65 according to the amount of time they actually work, and the higher the wages the larger the pension.

What this country should have is a federal old age pension law that will pay the same amount to all citizens by reason of age only, and the age should be 60, and the pension should be sufficient for a decent living for all.

The unemployment law is very unpopular because citizens prefer plenty of jobs and work and no unemployment law at all. This condition could be brought into being by an adequate federal aged pension law. But our congressmen still turn a deaf ear to it, while it is the only way to stop our mounting national deficit and restore prosperity and recovery to our country.

This country needs a program creating employment for all, not a robbing Peter to pay Paul makeshift program like the New Deal has been devising. While one third of our workers are unemployed, and half our farmers have lost their farms via foreclosure, the New Deal has expended money in the billions and only scratched the surface toward providing employment for all.

It is high time to discard the New Deal and call for a Square Deal, one with a constructive program that will provide work for all full time ahead. It can be done within 90 days, but we have to put the cards under the New Deal or witness the fall of this the richest country on the globe.

R. D. TURPIN.

RESPECT FOR THE FLAG
To the Editor: Maybe the wastepaper basket—maybe not—but I have something I must say: While standing at the street enjoying one of Salem's Centennial parades I was thrilled with

(Continued on Page 5)

communications are so disorganized that it is difficult for the refugees to get what is available.

Armies of occupation are reported subsisting on supplies in the occupied areas which further intensifies conditions.

It was Mr. Roosevelt in person who stood invisible but unshakable behind the treasury in insisting on an excess profits tax in the same bill as an amortization amendment. The congressional leader was eager to inspire speed in the national defense program by granting reasonable depreciation allowances at once. The president refused to agree unless an excess profits tax were enacted at the same time.

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Starvation is riding the winds behind the Nazi army in Europe. Advances that circumvent the new restrictions have informed officials here that Belgium has been hardest hit. And large cities in the other invasion areas are suffering.

European production of bread grain, wheat and rye, will be 15 per cent below normal. Both Germany and Italy stored heavily in these products before the war. Considerable portions are reported to have been damaged, however, by improper storage during unexpected rains last week. Even though these stored supplies are calculated 10 per cent below normal. If these stocks could be adequately distributed there would be little suffering, but

Hitler apparently has been paying his soldiers in these marks and they have been "buying up everything in France." Some of their purchases are being shipped back to Germany to their families and friends, where the competition is reported to have inspired the anxiety of German merchants.

So far the purchases have been restricted largely to consumers goods. No buying of real estate has been reported. But the open market of the situation would permit Germans to buy their way into French businesses at greatly reduced rates.

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