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Purser Buys Books For His Crew On Long War Voyage

By EDITH NEWTON
PORTLAND, Ore., Aug. 18.—(U.P.)
— When Warrant Officer M. H.
Davies came out of the little second
hand book store on Fourth
avenue you might have suspected
that the merchant marine officer
was about to go in the book
store business for himself.

But that wasn't the story be-
hind the 39 books the purser of
the S. S. Margaret Fuller was
carrying down Fourth avenue.
These were 39 books he had picked
out for 39 men to read and
enjoy — entertainment for per-
haps as long as eight months.

Davies sailed soon on his Lib-
erty ship and he and Capt. George
T. Suasey of Raymond, Wash.,
know that men at sea like to read
so they decided to invest their
own money in books for their
crew of 37 men who may be gone
from the United States as long as
the Fuller was on her previous
trip—eight and a half months.
Warrant Officer Davies of Rich-
mond, Calif., was elected to make
the purchase.

His selection of books was wide
— everything from a collection of
Poe's poems to "The Corpse Hangs
High" and "A Year of Prophecy-
ing" by H. G. Wells.

"The men don't read trash and
they have plenty of time to read
on trips," Davies explained as he
picked through dusty volumes.
"They read economics, politics,
poetry, good fiction — best
sellers and comical stuff like Nash
and Benchley," he said.

As the officer picked over the
books the little lady who was
waiting on him and who is half
owner of the book store realized
that she had a real order to fill
in supplying the variety needed.

She also saw that it was a chance
to do a lot of good so she cut
prices, gave some books away and
finally tied up the stack of old and
new books and charged \$8 for the
lot of them.

No, a ship like this one doesn't
build up a library of books, Davies
said, because when the crew has
finished reading them they take
them on the beach and give them
to the soldiers who are overseas.
The merchant marine doesn't
get many of the books contrib-
uted to the services because most
of them go to the regular armed
forces. However, Davies said the
United Seaman's Service organiza-
tion did give him a big box of
games and a few books for his
ship last time he was in San
Francisco.

Davies tried to get most every-
thing the men would enjoy and
when he left he had among his
treasure of print one book on
marriage and motherhood and
another edition called "Great Eng-
lish Poets" in the selection that
would cover the likes of most any
crew.

Idaho Town Argues Over Sea Serpent

By CHARLES CUNNINGHAM
United Press Staff Correspondent
McCALL, Ida., Aug. 18.—(U.P.)
— Sea serpent, sturgeon or supersti-
tion, whatever it is that keeps
slithering to the surface of the
Big Payette lake has set tongues
wagging for certain in this tiny
central Idaho resort town.

Hotel lobbies, barrooms and
backfences resound with loud de-
bates, whispered theories, offi-
cial jokes, confirmations and de-
nials, advanced by native and
newcomer alike. Political party
lines have dissolved in favor of
militant "believers" and "disbe-
lievers" in the monster; lifelong
friends have parted in anger and
storekeepers are mighty careful
what they say to their regular
customers.

Open skepticism got one local
hardware dealer—Roy May—in
hot water immediately when he
displayed in his window as "the
perfect lure for the serpent," a
six-inch fishhook and three sau-
cer-size spinners.

"You don't believe in our mon-
ster, do you?" a long-time lake
resident indignantly inquired of
May. "Well, when we catch him
we're going to drag all 35 feet of
him across the entrance of your
store and let him rot there."

Upwards of 25 people claim
they've seen the monster this year,
in comparison to two or three ob-
servers a year for the last decade.
None of the descriptions are con-
tradictory, although some are
more elaborate than others. The
general consensus is that he's
about 35 feet long, peculiarly yel-
low, with humps like a camel, a
head like a submarine periscope
and a skin "more shell-like than
scaly."

"I ain't sayin' a word," Henry
"Skipper" Fink, pipesmoking el-
derly proprietor of a boat moor-
age told the United Press. "There's
something out there, all right, but
last year I got laughed at by
every feller came along—minute
you mention it somebody asks
what brand you been drinkin'."

Harold "Slim" Vasser, veteran
fire dispatcher for the Payette
national forest, recalled the first
time he heard of a "monster" in
the lake. "About 20 years ago,
an old man by the name of Page
stopped me on the dock to tell
about a big fish, as long as his
rowboat, he'd almost run into up
in the narrows. Said he had to
steer away to keep from hitting
it."

Vasser believes the "serpent"
is a giant sturgeon that came in-
to the lake long before dams were
built across the Snake and Co-
lumbia rivers. Other old-timers
recall an Indian legend about
"devil fish" in Payette lake, but
many of those who claim they've
seen the monster say it is defi-
nitely not a sturgeon.

Your reporter? Well... he
agrees perfectly with a wide-
eyed six-year-old he saw stand-
ing on the pier shortly after dark.
Pointing out over the water, the
boy grasped the hand of his lit-
tle sister and exclaimed convinc-
ingly: "There's a animal out in
that there ocean."

To make syrup for punch, boil
two cups of sugar and three cups
of water for five minutes. Cool,
chill and sweeten as desired.

Cereal served with fresh fruit
and cold milk makes a satisfying
lunch, or even a nice cool dessert.

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OUT OF THE ARCTIC: Capt. R. C. Ashley, United Air Lines pilot, and that Samoyede dog he is holding have something in common. Both are accustomed to the Arctic—Capt. Ashley in his flights for the Air Transport Command over Alaskan territory and "Eslooto" is Eskimo for brave. (Wiltshire engraving)

Admiral Sees Long, Tough Pacific Fight

KEYPORT, Washington — (U.P.)
— Japanese forces still will be
offering stern and desperate re-
sistance six months from now,
no matter how soon the European
war ends, Rear Adm. George F.
Hussey Jr., chief of naval ord-
nance bureau, Washington, D. C.,
warned workers at the naval tor-
pedo station here.

In Keyport to award the station
an army-navy "E" pennant, Adm.
Hussey told workers that although
"both Germany and Japan have
been hurt and hurt badly, both
are sparing for time."

"Goebbels promises new re-
serves at the front, new and se-
cret weapons to hurl at Ger-
many's enemies, a vast total mo-
bilization of the reich. Japan, too,
would welcome a breather to get
new planes in the air, their new
government on its feet, to stiffen
their defenses so they can take an
even greater toll of our men
than at Tarawa and Saipan. But
both need time as represented by
a relaxing of our production."

Some war workers, Adm. Hus-
sey said, already have started to
relax. "But the war is not won
yet. I hesitate to say what will
be the status of the war in
Europe six months from now. But
the war in the Pacific will be
long and hard. And our enemy in
the Pacific still will be offering
stern and desperate resistance."

For beautiful colored and edible
garnishes use your sharp kitchen
knife to make carrot sticks, celery
curls, and radish roses.

Ring mold will make ordinary
noodles, rice and gelatin desserts
extra special.

Pruett Answers Questions

By J. HUGH PRUETT
Astronomer, General Extension
Division, University of Oregon
1 A reader of this column asks:
"If a straight hole could be made
entirely through the earth, and a
rock were dropped into it, would
the rock stop when it got to the
center of the earth where gravi-
tational pulls from all sides were
equal? Let us disregard air resis-
tance."

There are many things which
cannot actually be tested, but
from the well-known laws of
force and motion, the results can
be calculated by mathematics
with complete confidence. A
swinging clock pendulum does not
stop when it reaches the lowest
point in its path but climbs uphill
on the opposite side. A bicycle
running freely down into a de-
pression in a road will of its own
momentum run up a considerable
distance on the other side. A
weight suspended from the end of
a long coiled spring will, if pulled
down below its point of rest and
released, oscillate up and down
past the place where it will finally
come to rest.

For the same reason the rock in
question would oscillate back and
forth through the 8000-mile earth
tunnel. And as in the other ex-
amples given, it would be moving
with its greatest speed at the
mid-point, then gradually slow
down until it came to rest momen-
tarily at the openings on opposite
sides of the earth. Calculations
indicate that the rock would take
approximately 43 minutes to pass
entirely through the earth and
that its speed at the center would
be almost exactly five miles per
second.

2. Another asks, "Do your ob-
servations with telescopes indicate
that the comotions of the pres-
ent war have made any changes
in the stars and planets?"

Absolutely none. The grandeur
of the heavens is so far removed
from the turmoil of earth that
stars and planets seemingly are
undisturbed. Everything in the
universe theoretically acts on
everything else, yet cannonading
in France would have as little ef-
fect on a man on Mars as a mos-
quito rising from a swamp along
the Pacific coast would have on
an inhabitant of New York.

3. "What causes the blue-black
curtain which gradually comes up
in the eastern sky a little after
sunset?"

This is the twilight arch, or the
shadow of the earth on its own
atmosphere. The upper edge usu-
ally appears tinged with pink
when the air is quite clear. This
division between night sky and
twilight becomes more diffuse as
it rises higher.

4. "You say that some Perseid
meteors are destroyed in our at-
mosphere and others go on their
way never to encounter the earth

again. Do those we see escape
or are they destroyed?"
These meteors are not luminous
when outside the earth's atmo-
sphere. We see them when they
are burning due to the intense
heat from friction with the air.
These are the ones that are be-
ing destroyed. We never see the
others.

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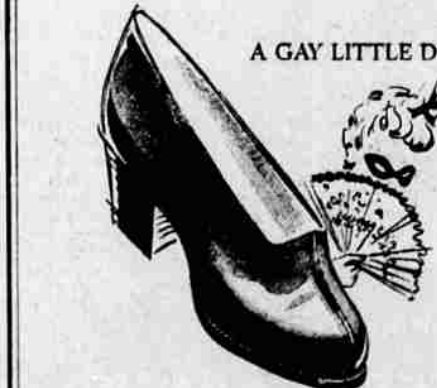
Softly shirred peplum-pocket on a rapier-slim sheath in rayon
crepe... huge jewelled buttons that seem to flash in lightning
contrast to their gold-embroidered frames. Another Fred A. Block
triumph of originality.

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