

ALASKAN TREK STARTED UPON WORD OF GOLD

Seattle (AP)—Optimistic prospectors are pushing their way over Alaska's frozen trails again.

Reports of a gold strike near Poorman, in central Alaska, and of quartz discoveries in the Taku river district to the southeast have sent hundreds scurrying to the scene in efforts to stake claims.

Many prospectors already have been reported at Juneau, determined to go into the Taku district despite adverse weather conditions. From western Alaska men have gone to Poorman, where some gold has been found, and to Ruby, not far away.

Warnings have been issued in Seattle against an influx of under-financed prospecting groups. It is planned to supply northwest sailing points with information concerning costs of quartz mining in the Taku area and of transportation between Juneau and that district.

At Poorman, 225 miles west of Fairbanks, there have been several reports of a gold strike. Much of the area near both Poorman and Ruby, dispatches from prospectors say, already has been staked.

The "pay streak" near Ruby was found to be worth \$30 a foot a short time ago, when bedrock was reached. Definite word of the strike had been withheld for some time previously.

One army sergeant, who received a leave of absence from Ruby to explore in the Poorman area, said he found men rushing to stake claims when the weather was 40 below zero.

RUINS LEFT BY FRENCH FLOODS



More than 300 deaths resulted from recent floods in southern France. Picture shows soldiers searching ruins of farmhouse near Montauban after the torrential waters receded.

MIDDLE WEST STATES PLAN AIR LAW CODE

Milwaukee (AP)—States of the Midwest will consider recommendations soon for uniformity in aviation legislation and means of promoting the industry as drafted at the Legislative Air Parley of Midwest States held here last month.

A permanent committee, the Midwest States Aeronautical council, to secure the realization of the aims considered at the parley was also recommended and will be accepted or rejected by the states whose representatives took part in the conference here.

Wisconsin, in sponsoring the air parley and largely directing its policies, has been acknowledged the leader in the movement and its was decided that the appointee of Governor Kohler to the permanent aeronautical council will act as chairman of that group. Each state will have one vote, but may have as many representatives as the governor shall designate for appointment.

The newest factor in aerial legislation proposed at the conference and due for consideration by the states is the suggestion that income derived from any aviation taxation should be expended solely for encouragement of aviation and its attendant recommendation that a tax on airplane gasoline would be the most equitable form of taxation.

A blanket resolution which sets forth clearly the aims of the conference at large will be considered as follows:

1. Each state should provide by law for the purchasing or leasing of ground for airports by municipalities.

2. Each state should provide regulations setting forth the minimum requirements to be met by all airports and landing fields, with suitable provisions covering fields for temporary or emergency use. These requirements should conform with the requirements and recommendations of the U. S. Department of Commerce.

3. Development of state systems of airways is recommended. Each one should connect with and conform to standards of the federal system, and each state should grant state aid in completing airports on both federal and state systems.

4. Each state should require by law the uniform air marking of airports according to department of commerce standards.

5. Each state should require by law the air marking of municipalities, with identification insignia, directional markers and the like.

6. A competent state official should be selected with authority to remove confusing air markings.

7. Each state should have legislation uniform with that of adjacent states and all being uniform to U. S. Department of Commerce standards which will require federal license for all aircraft and all aircraft in the state, regardless of whether planes and pilots are engaged in commercial, private, or pleasure flying.

8. All aircraft should be operated in accordance with the air traffic rules of the U. S. Department of Commerce.

FOUR PERFECT BRIDGE HANDS IN ONE DEAL

Peabody, Mass. (AP)—An affidavit was necessary to convince some friends of William H. Hill that in a bridge game he dealt the 13 cards of each suit to different player without trickery and after a proper cut and shuffle.

Herbert K. Reynolds signed and swore to the affidavit. There is said to be one chance in 3,000,000,000 deals that the cards will so arrange themselves without intended preparation.

Scio—Mylo Barta of Scio, was appointed captain of the drill team of Lima post, V. P. W., at a recent meeting in Albany. Mrs. E. H. Ernst and Mrs. Hobart Hoagland, both of Scio, were received in the auxiliary at the same meeting. Announcement has been made of the appointment of Mrs. Mylo Barta as conductress in the auxiliary for the remainder of the year.

PACIFIC COAST MAKES BIGGEST FLYING GAINS

San Francisco (AP)—The greatest development in aviation in the United States was made in 1929 on the Pacific coast, according to announcement made here by officials of the Boeing system.

More airports were put into use; more student flyers received their licenses, and a greater increase in flying miles per person was recorded here than in any other group of states.

Superior flying conditions, especially in California, have enabled pilots to take their planes into the air the whole year around. Fog, it

was said, has proven the greatest menace along the western front. Even this difficulty, however, has been removed by recent perfection of direct ground-to-plane communication.

It is now possible for a pilot, circling blindly over an airport, to receive exact location of the field by a telephonic arrangement. In this way he is enabled to land his ship almost with his eyes closed.

The recent reduction of flying fares has made air transportation most popular. Flying from Seattle to Portland, or from San Francisco to Los Angeles can be done in a fraction of the time for no more money, when berth, meals and tips are considered, the Boeing report said.

Perhaps the newest innovation in the flying world of the Pacific coast is the Boeing Air School at Oakland.—Regular courses and competent instructors are furnished those who attend.

The modern aeronautics school is comparable to the present college, Hilton P. Lusk, dean of the Boeing school, said. The same principles of educational psychology must be used in both, he declared.

The idea that flying is dangerous is false and will be overcome in time, according to Theodore Lee, executive of the Boeing system. In 8,200,000 flying miles by Boeing planes, there have been only three accidents. When compared with the number of accidents in a similar number of ground traveled miles, Lee said, it is apparent that air transportation is the safer of the two.

STUDENTS ARE HOME
Scotts Mills—Helen Amundson, John Geren and Marion Thomas, students of O. A. C., are home spending their spring vacation.

GUEST OF SONS
Sublimity—Mrs. John Zuber has gone to Portland to spend a week visiting her two sons, Fred and Leo.

SULTAN'S SCEPTER CONCEALS DAGGER

Paris, (AP)—Recently a Parisian antiquarian was handling one of his most prized possessions, the gold and jade scepter of Abdul Hamid, the second, the "Red Sultan" of Turkey. He suddenly heard a click and to his great astonishment, drew forth from the scepter head a glittering dagger.

The discovery recalled many stories of the sultan who was called "Great Assassin" because of his frightful massacre of Balkan and Armenian subjects and yet who never dared sleep in a bed because he feared assassination for himself.

GRUESOME ROPE USED TO FRIGHTEN SPIRITS

Paris, (AP)—For years a small piece of hangman's rope has been the talisman with which Senora Mercedes has ward off sickness, bad luck and other ills. Now she has lost the bit of hemp which is regarded all over Europe as a very potent charm, and although she has offered a reward of 1,000 francs for another such piece she has been unable to find one.

DREAMS SHATTERED

London (AP)—While a violinist at the Palace theater was gently playing, "Ever I Am Fondly Dreaming of You," Miss Barbara Sweed, a pretty dancer in the "Dear Love" company, lost her balance and fell on the violinist's bald head.

QUACKS' TOLL HIGH

Memphis, Tenn. (AP)—America's doctor bill is \$2,500,000,000 annually, \$275,000,000 of which goes to "quacks", statistics quoted at a medical meeting here showed.

PARIS THEATER PASSES

Paris (AP)—The theater Femina, situated on the luxurious Champs Elysee, has closed its doors and in its place will be erected a sumptuous bookstore. The Femina first was opened in 1905, and was used last by the Paris-American players who produced several American plays in English.

ROAD BILL PASSES

Washington (AP)—A bill appropriating \$31,400,000 for federal road building during the rest of the present fiscal year has been passed by the house. This carries out the enlarged three year program approved by the house as a part of the administration's business stabilization campaign.

Snake Yarns Interesting But Are Merely Stories

Editor's Note: In this, the second of a series of articles on snakes, A. V. Napier, managing editor of the Journal-Miner of Prescott, Ariz., explodes the popular myths regarding hoopsnakes and joint snakes. Mr. Napier, an authority on reptiles, will contribute two more articles on this subject.

BY A. V. NAPIER
Written for the United Press
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Who has not heard of the deadly hoopsnake with the poisonous horn at the end of his tail? Hoopsnakes are supposed to take their tails in their mouths and roll. Everybody has heard about the hoopsnake rolling after a man who dodged behind a tree. The snake "speared" himself into the tree by mistake and was so wedged in that he was easily dispatched by his intended victim. But the tree died.

As a matter of fact the so-called hoopsnake is not a snake at all but is a lizard. It has eyelids and closes its eyes, as all animals do. It is perfectly harmless and does not under any circumstances "roll." It has a horny growth at the tip of its tail and if attacked with thresh about, striking with its tail. It has no teeth and its tail is not poisonous. The jointsnake is another popular myth. The jointsnake, so the story goes, has the power to throw itself apart like a jointed fishing pole.

This is done when attacked to convince the attacker that the snake is thoroughly dead. When the attacker leaves the joints wiggle back into their respective places and the snake crawls off as good as new. There is a certain grass snake whose tail, beyond the body, really comes apart if struck or pulled. Above the tail death would immediately result. When a part of the tail is broken off the end heals over and the lost part is never retrieved. Many lizards lose their tails in the same manner.

Many honest people will say that they have seen young snakes crawl into their mother's mouth for protection. However sure these observers may be, they are in error. No baby snake ever runs down its mother's throat. Snakes do not care for their young. With the exception of rattlesnakes, virtually all reptiles lay eggs and they do not see them again. Young snakes may be seen with adults, but they are more than likely not related. At the approach of a human the little snakes may appear to run into the larger snake's mouth, but a baby snake has a way of disappearing into the smallest of hiding places. If search is made under such circumstances the baby snakes will be found hiding under a leaf or other unsuspected object.

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