



Remains of Barnum's famous Fejee Mermaid.

P. T. Barnum's Mermaid: Was It Made in Japan?

St. Bonaventure, N. Y., Jan. 25 (AP)—The famous Fejee mermaid with which Phineas T. Barnum made a small fortune a century ago and which is credited with starting him on the road to fame as a showman has been brought to light again.

The preserved oddity, believed to be at least 127 years old, has the head, breast and arms of a female monkey and the tail of a fish.

It was acquired by a Franciscan friar, Fr. Irenaeus Herscher, OFM, librarian at St. Bonaventure college in New York state. Father Irenaeus received it as a gift from friends who bought it at an auction of the Stanford White collection in New York City.

The Fejee mermaid is now less than two feet long. Originally, its length was closer to three feet, but it has shrunk and has lost part of its tail.

Barnum acquired the mermaid in the 1840's from Moses Kimball of the Boston Museum, who in turn had bought it from a sailor. The sailor's father, a sea captain, purchased it in 1822 from a group of Japanese sailors. When it was exhibited in London in the same year, hundreds flocked to view the curio.

According to general belief, the mermaid was the handiwork of a tireless Japanese. Barnum himself was aware that certain Japanese artists manufactured a great variety of fabulous animals, and he later admitted his mermaid was "no doubt . . . a specimen of that curious manufacture." But he liked its realism. Its "mouth was open, its tail turned over, and its arms thrown up, giving it the appearance of having died in great agony."

To offset incredulity in mermaids, Barnum worked up a series of newspaper stories stating that a Prof. Griffin, "noted authority on anatomy," had found this particular specimen, believed it genuine, and was bringing it to New York for exhibition. Barnum then engaged a special hall, hired a bogus "Prof. Griffin."

Breeders Elect Robert Reed

Officers of the Marion-Polk County Guernsey Breeders' association were elected at the annual meeting in Rickreall Tuesday night with plans for a spring show discussed.

Robert Reed, Sheridan, was named president with Frank Poepping, Mt. Angel, vice president and T. R. Hobart, field representative of Ladd and Bush branch of the U. S. National bank, secretary-treasurer. Members of the board of directors are Mark O'Dell, Amity; William Firth, St. Paul and Ray Hobson, Amity, the latter retiring president. Ben A. Newell, Marion county agent, is the retiring secretary.

A meeting will be held at the O'Dell place February 21 with Charles A. Evans, Independence, and Howard Gilbert the committee in charge.

The U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization says Australia, New Zealand, Argentina, Denmark, Ireland and the U.S. are the six best fed nations, in that order.

Pastor Advises Wedded Couples Hug and Kiss First, Then Argue

By WILLIAM TUCKER

Atlanta, Jan. 25 (AP)—Dr. Robert W. Burns is one man who works at marriage. He has worked at every one of the thousands he has solemnized in the last 20 years as pastor of the Peachtree Christian church.

Many years ago as a 19-year-old student minister Burns was called upon to preach his first funeral sermon. The funeral was for a man who had committed suicide because of his wife's infidelity.

Then and there the young man of God decided that a minister's obligation to young couples extends far beyond conducting the marriage service for them.

And so it was that when the wedding march pealed out in Dr. Burns' church on a recent Sunday not one, but hundreds of couples came forward. They were all "veterans" of Dr. Burns' marriage ceremonies and not a few of them owed the salvation of their marriages to his counsel when domestic differences arose.

It was the 20th annual "wedding bells" service at the church. For the occasion, the couples repeated the passage which Dr.

Burns considers the most enduring of all vows of devotion. "Entreat me not to leave thee . . . whither thou goest I shall go . . . thy people shall be my people."

Dr. Burns believes that "establishing and maintaining homes is the most important work a minister does. Unless our homes are strong, nothing about a church is solid."

Dr. Burns, who performed more than 100 marriages last year, makes it a point to talk with each engaged couple informally before he marries them. And he urges them to come back to see him and tell him how they are getting along within 30 days after the ceremony — and more often if they are having trouble.

Two hours of each busy day he sets aside for those seeking counsel — most of it about marriage problems.

"A husband is no saint out of Heaven," Dr. Burns assures distressed young couples. "And neither is a wife. If you have a disagreement about anything, put your arms around each other and keep them there. First say how much you love each other and then . . . say anything else you want to get off your chest . . . Sandwich your fussing with affection, with hugs and kisses, and it will never get bitter or hateful."

Dr. Burns has been married himself 22 years and he and his wife have four children.

Curry, character captain; Ruth Wright, fraternal press; Grace Bradley, trustee for three years; Geanette Mann was appointed publicity chairman.

The convention of District No. 15 will be held Feb. 11 in Carlton at 10 a.m., with a pot-luck dinner at noon. Noble

Grand Margaret Neely announced plans were being made for a food sale February 21.

Few people know that the Statue of Liberty holds the Declaration of Independence in her left hand and that broken chains of tyranny lie at her feet.

Dear Mrs. Housewife.
What price pleasure? \$2.86?
That's downright cheap for buying groceries, preparing meals, setting tables, washing dishes for a family of four. But we do it at the New Buffet Dinner. How about you? We're trying to put you out of business, and into pleasure! Pleasure for \$2.86 (on that family of four)
The Wohlgraus

Spook That's Haunting House Gets Rites Supposed to Stop It

Bristol, Eng., Jan. 25 (AP)—If Mrs. Drury's ghost is still walking around the old Victorian house of William Baber today it won't be the fault of the vicar.

The ghost—or whatever has been upsetting the Baber family—has been exorcised.

The Rev. Francis J. Maddock went through all the rooms of the old house last night, performing an ancient rite that is supposed to exorcise ghosts — put them to rest, or at least make them stop walking around old haunts.

The Baber family was on the verge of moving out after it complained that a spooky little old lady in black, with a wierd glow around her head, followed it around the house, woke up the two children and generally upset earthly routines.

The Babers think it was the ghost of Mrs. Gladys Drury who used to live there and died 18 years ago.

Rev. Maddock got permission from the Church of England to perform the old special services. He studied up on ancient authorities of the subject. The main idea, he said, was that he had to assume the spirit was really there.

He wouldn't give any details of the special service, but he said he didn't use incense or sprinkle holy water, which he said is called for by the old teachings of the Roman Catholic church.

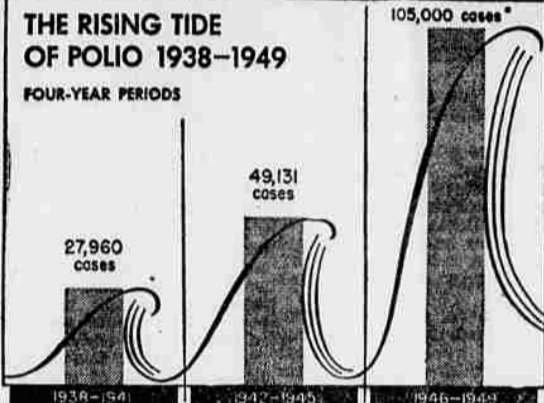
"I used such form of exorcism as is in conformity with the teachings of the Church of England," he explained.

The Babers started having trouble with the ghost six months ago after Mrs. Baber opened a closet door containing a lot of old trunks that once belonged to Mrs. Drury. It had been locked since the old lady's death.

After that the Babers said the spirit appeared every morning at about 6 o'clock and followed them around the house.

The special service last night brought most of the townfolk to the scene of the old house. Nothing unusual seemed to happen, but even the most skeptical were anxious to know if the ghost had been exorcised.

The Babers still aren't sure they want to move back into the house. They've been living with relatives lately to get away from the apparition. And they've also applied to the local housing authorities for fresh accommodations "on the ground of ghostly disturbances in the present home."



The chart above tells the graphic story of how infantile paralysis has surged upward—more than 182,000 cases in the past 12 years. With mounting polio incidence has come a sharp rise in the costs of providing medical care for the stricken. It is for this reason that the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis faces a crisis during its March of Dimes campaign this January. Help meet the rising tide of polio by contributing generously to the March of Dimes.

Sheridan Rebekahs See New Officers

Sheridan — At the local meeting of the Rebekah lodge, Leatha Phillips was installed as financial secretary and was appointed dues chairman. Adah Green was appointed good of the order chairman; Iola Meyers was elected drill captain; Bea

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