

23 Skidoo! Flatiron is 50 Years Old

By SAUL PETT
AP Newsfeatures Writer

New York—The once-famous Flatiron building is observing its 50th birthday like a lonely old freak—too short to show up on today's skyline, too far downtown to have any glamor, too durable to excite alarmists any more.

Today, only a handful of tourists visit the 21-story building and most of them want to go up in the Flatiron only to take pictures of other taller buildings.

Today, nobody is afraid to walk on the Flatiron's side of the street. Years ago, many pedestrians stayed on the other side. They feared that a strong wind would topple the thin structure which is shaped, as one critic said in 1902, like a "stingy piece of pie."

By now, the Flatiron has convinced the public it's here to stay.

"And it will be here another 150 years," says superintendent George Bonhag. "This was one of the first skyscrapers in New York built on a steel frame."

In 1902, when the Flatiron was completed, it became the number one tourist attraction of its day. Its picture was reproduced on postcards sent all over the world.

In 1904 William Ordway Partridge, an artist, called it "a monstrosity, a disgrace to our city, an outrage to our sense of the artistic and a menace to life."

It was built on a small triangular island on 23rd Street, where Fifth Ave. reluctantly crosses Broadway. It stands 280 feet high. It has frontages of 214.6 feet on Broadway, 85 feet on 22nd St., 197.6 feet on Fifth



Schoolbook Landmark—The famous Flatiron Building.

Ave. and only four or five feet on 23rd St.

Offices occupying the apex come to a point only three or four feet wide inside, only wide enough to get a chair in. Frank Munsey, the publisher, used to have an office on the 18th floor, in the corner. He had the floor raised so that he could get a better view of the two rivers bounding Manhattan and also a better view of employees working before the throne room.

When the Flatiron was built, some neighbors complained that

its strange design increased the wind. It's still one of the windiest corners in New York.

In the old days, local drug-store cowboys used to watch women's skirts blowing up. The cop on the 23rd street beat was forever chasing them. This, according to legend, gave birth to the expression, "twenty-three skidoo."

The Flatiron building is strange in various ways. Its top floor is above the attic. Originally, the building was built to a height of 20 stories, plus an attic. Later a 21st floor was added. The attic, used only for water tanks and equipment, still lies between the 20th and 21st floors.

The very top of the building's apex is adorned by statues of two cherubic boys holding scrolls around a big tablet bearing the initials of the builder, George A. Fuller.

Pari-Mutuel Head Named at Lebanon

Lebanon—Dr. J. G. Gill, Lebanon dentist, has been named to the newly organized taxpayer's committee to retain pari-mutuel revenues, according to an announcement by acting chairman, Henry W. Collins of Portland.

Gill, in accepting the position for Linn county said, "Should pari-mutuel revenues be lost it would cost Oregon a total of \$992,812 a year. Linn county alone would lose next year an estimated \$12,500 in fair money. Our organization feels we cannot afford to lose that revenue."

Polk County Trapper Appointed by Court

Dallas—Larry Bivan, 120 Dimmick St., has recently been appointed by the Polk county court as county trapper for the predatory animal control. Bivan is also serving in the same capacity in Linn county.

All requests for the assistance of the trapper will be handled through the county court. Phone requests can be placed through Dallas 2206.

In addition to the trapper, bounties are paid by the county on certain predatory animals. A list of the bounties is available in the county clerk's office at the courthouse in Dallas.

Radar For Philippines

Manila (AP)—Defense Secretary Ramon Magsaysay said Thursday a vast radar warning network, using equipment from the U.S., will be woven around the Philip-



Bench for Baruch—Bernard M. Baruch (right) sits with California's Governor Earl Warren on a bench hewn from redwood log and dedicated at Dyerville, Calif., by the governor in honor of Baruch. The event took place on Baruch's 80th birthday. The bench is located in a redwood grove at the foot of a 364-foot tree. (AP Wirephoto.)

Eagles Not So Powerful Carriers as Some Believe

Portland (AP)—A federal biologist said here Thursday that a lot of talk about eagles isn't so.

They aren't comparable to flying boxcars, for instance.

The biologist, Ralph H. Imler, who is regarded in the regional office of the U.S. fish and wildlife service here where he works, as a top-flight eagle man, said it's this way:

There is no evidence to show an eagle can fly off with anything that weighs more than it does. And most eagles weigh 9 to 10 pounds, with a few bald eagles getting up around 13 pounds.

Yet there are recurrent stories of eagles flying off with a lamb weighing anywhere from 30 to 40 pounds.

"Wholly impossible," said Imler, who has studied that particular subject all the way from Colorado to Alaska. "Eagles have been observed

carrying a full-grown jackrabbit weighing six to seven pounds. The flight was labored because the load was heavy," he said.

"There is no actual record of an eagle carrying as much as 15 pounds. Ten pounds is near the absolute limit."

Imler said he was moved to comment because of a recent Associated Press story from Chehalis telling of golden eagles killing lambs and flying off with those weighing 35 to 40 pounds.

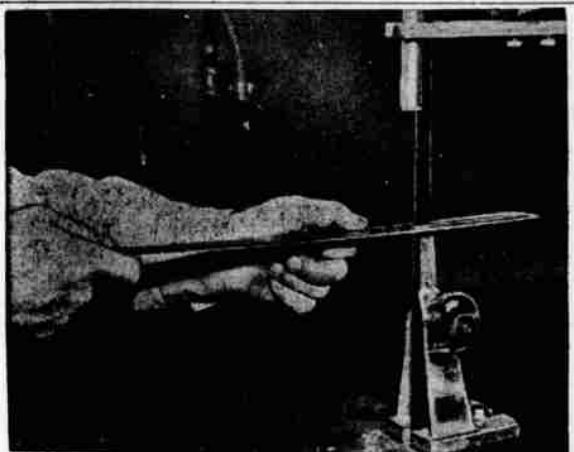
Imler said that in the first place he would be more inclined to believe the eagles at Chehalis are bald eagles—the national bird—rather than Golden. There are some golden eagles around, but not as many as there are bald eagles, he said.

It takes an expert to tell the difference between a golden eagle and a young bald eagle, he said. Until about three years of age, the bald eagle lacks the distinctive white head and tail and looks very much like the golden eagle.

Neither is normally very important as a predator, Imler said.

If farmers find a bird or a pair, to be inflicting losses, they can get relief by calling the fish and wildlife service, which will institute any needed controls.

The bald eagle is protected. There are no federal laws protecting the golden eagle.



Burning Through Steel—A saw without teeth.

New Saw Without Teeth Cuts Steel With Ease

By NORMAN BELL
AP Newsfeatures

San Diego, Calif. — A saw without teeth that cuts costs as well as hard metal is being hailed here as revolutionary.

It slides through stainless steel like a hot blade through butter, a literal comparison, engineers at Solar Aircraft Co. say.

The saw—so simple that one observer suggested it be called the "pahaw saw"—is nothing but a smooth-edged band of steel.

Solar officials said they found that box strapping, used for securing shipping crates, served excellently as a blade. They put it in the high-speed band saw at a cost of 10 cents a band, and cut away at stainless steel parts for as long as 29 hours without changing the band.

By substituting spring steel for the box strapping, at 50 cents a band, they got a 70-hour performance.

Regular band saw blades, the officials reported, cost \$3 each and last on the average less than two hours.

Jack Prince, a Solar methods

analyst, discovered the teethless saw. He noticed that regular blades cut as well with the smooth back of the blade as they did with the toothed edge.

Band saws, Prince explained, actually burn through stainless steel and harder metals, but the teethless blades do not work on soft metals, such as aluminum or copper, or on wood, where actual cutting, rather than melting, is necessary.

Injured Man Has Slight Polio Case

Canyon City, Ore. (AP)—A man hospitalized for several weeks with automobile accident hurts, now has a mild case of polio.

John David Laurance, 20, who suffered back and other injuries some weeks ago and has been in the hospital since, complained of new pains in his arm. A check revealed polio in a mild form.

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Pigs That Smell Like Wisteria

Secaucus, N. J. (AP)—Secaucus pigs may not be social outcasts from now on.

A New York firm is spraying a deodorant on the hog habitats of Charles Schoch's farm as an experiment.

If the secret scents wafted over his wallows stifle odors, says Sochs, all of the township's 55,000 hogs probably will get the perfume treatment.

Schoch, president of the Stock Farmers Association of Secaucus, is confident of success.

"Doris Duke has pigs that don't smell," he said. "After today we will have pigs that smell—like wisteria."

Miss Duke, heiress to a tobacco fortune, raises pigs on a model farm in Somerville, complete with an atomizer in every pen.

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