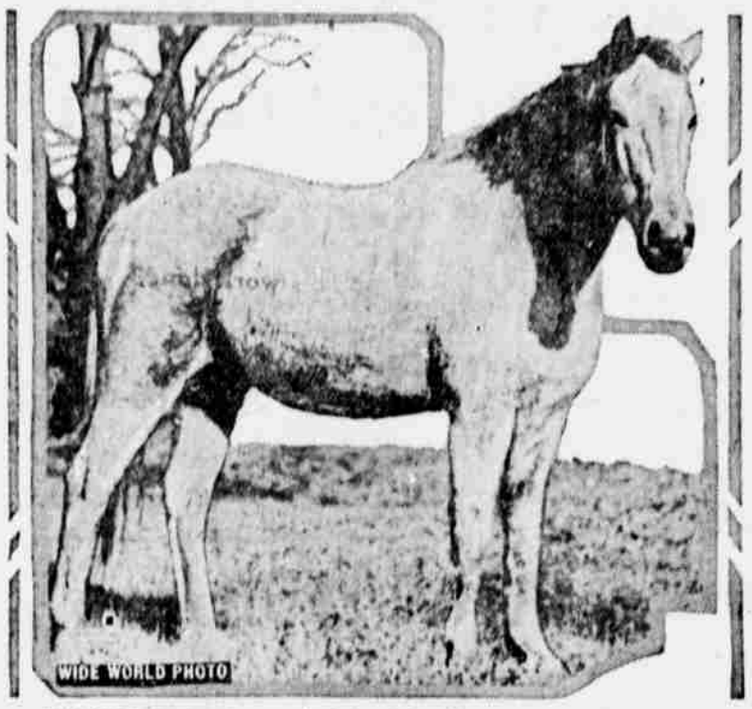
Old Bill Has a Rich Pasture



"Old Bill," who has been called the richest horse in the world, retired from an active life some time ago and now grazes on a five-acre pasture in Youngstown, O., that is worth $200,000, fronting on some of the most expensive business property. The owner, Miss Hannah Kyle, says that "Old Bill" has been faithful for twenty-six years and nobody can buy that property until he is finished with it.

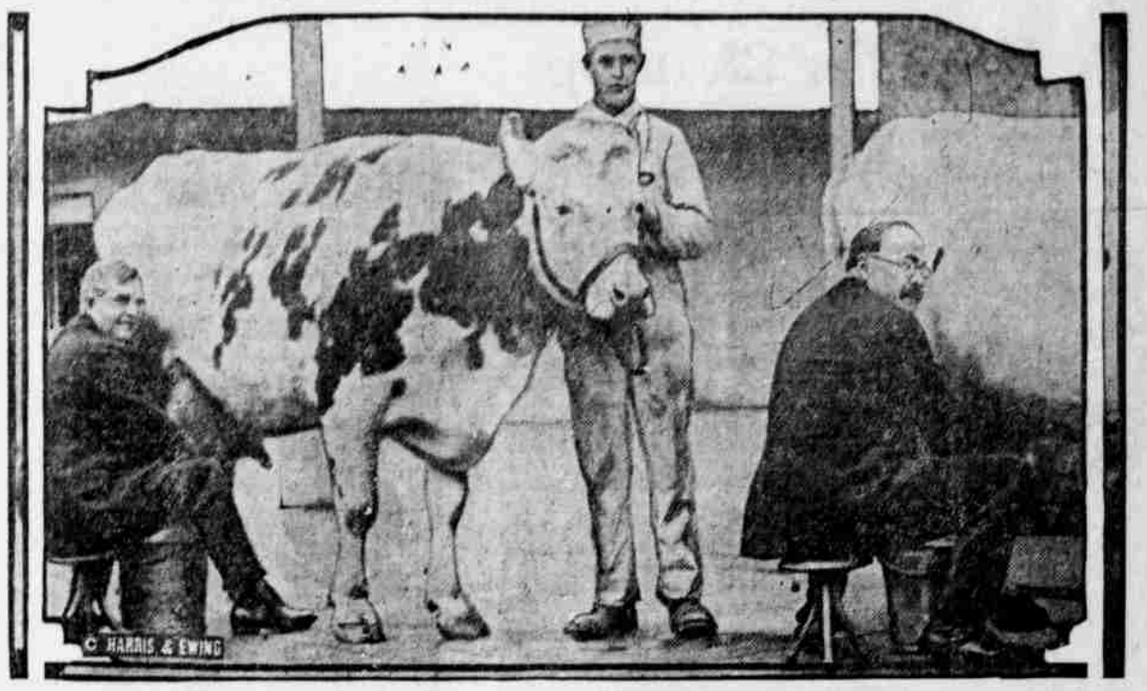
Unhappily Married Men's Club Formed

Paris.—The little town of Firminy, near St. Etienne, has the distinction of being the first community to organize an "Unhappy Married Men's club."

The population of Firminy at the last census was 19,580, but when notices were posted in public places calling upon "every unhappily married man in town" to be present at a given place and a given date "in order to organize a club, nominate officers and arrange a banquet," nearly 200 men, ranging in age from twenty-five to seventy-five, responded.

The humorists of Paris aver that should a similar summons be made here the huge Velodrome would be too small to accommodate the crowd.

Secretary and Senator Tie in Milking Contest



Scene—Dairy barn of the United States Soldiers' home, Washington. Event—Milking match to a finish. Actors—Secretary of Agriculture Wallace left, and Senator Magnus Johnson of Minnesota, right. Time—9 minutes, 48 seconds. Result—Tie—Each man milked exactly 4½ inches of milk in his bucket. Referee—General Tasker Bliss, superintendent of the home.

Large Increase in Waterfowl in U. S.

Maps Show Breeding and Wintering Grounds.

Washington.—The United States bureau of biological survey has prepared a series of maps showing the breeding and wintering ranges of six species of waterfowl most popular with gunners. These maps also show certain areas which are classed as both breeding and wintering territory. The mallard perhaps exceeds all other birds in popularity with the bulk of the gunners of the country. It is the opinion of most duck shooters that in numbers the mallard exceeds all other species, and during heavy mallard migrations it would seem that there were more mallards than all the rest of the ducks put together. The American Game Protective association points out in a recent bulletin that this is not true, as anyone who has seen a heavy pintail or blue-bill flight will testify. The bulletin says:

"The wintering area of the Canada goose is even less in proportion to its breeding area than that of the mallard, but we doubt if the strain on the wintering grounds is nearly as severe, because in numbers this goose can in no way be compared with the mallard. It must also be borne in mind that the Canada goose will not rest where it is frequently disturbed by man. Since the passage of the law stopping spring shooting, mallards and other ducks have shown conclusively that if let alone they will again occupy much of the area which was their breeding grange in former days. The Gulf coast states, the coast sections of Georgia and the Carolinas and the Pacific coast country of California, Washington and Oregon compose the wintering section of the pintails of our country, many of these preferring to go into Mexico, Cuba and Central America.

Migration Puzzled Hunters.

"The migrations of these ducks have puzzled gunners since time immemorial. In the late winter and early spring literally millions of these birds go up the Mississippi and Missouri valleys from their winter home to their breeding ground.

"The only map of this series in which the wintering area equals that of the breeding territory is in the case of the blue-wing teal, which not only spreads out over Mexico and Central America but goes on into South America.

"Many men prefer the canvasback to any other duck as a shooting proposition, and perhaps it is the consensus of opinion that as a table bird he ranks at the head of the list. How many men who have enjoyed shooting these birds along the Virginia and Carolina coasts have realized that their favorite game bird comes from the Northwest and that their sport depends upon the care that is taken of this bird not only on its breeding grounds but during its migration across the country? The canvasback, instead of making a north and south migration, travels from the northwest to the southeast and back again.

"Some time ago we solicited the support of an influential man in the interests of the public shooting ground-game refuge bill, and were told by him that he was not interested in the conservation of wild fowl anywhere except on his Southern preserve. He stated that he shot principally canvasback and that he had good shooting, and that he enjoyed good sport because out of his own pocket he employed wardens to patrol his property and keep all gunners off; that he had spent enormous sums in providing food for the birds and that it was because of these facts and not through any conservation work which might be done anywhere that he had waterfowl to shoot on his Southern estate.

Federal Law Necessary.

"We would like this gentleman to study the canvasback map carefully. All he does at his Southern shooting reserve is to congregate the birds in that vicinity. Let unrestricted slaughter go on in the Northwest during the breeding season, and this man's shooting will suffer, no matter how many thousands of dollars he spends in supplying duck foods for the birds and guards to protect him against trespass.

"The passage of a federal law to protect migratory game birds was necessary because no state could protect any species of bird that sojourned within its borders for only a short time. For obvious reasons the different states did not co-operate with each other, and it is believed that had not a federal law been enacted many species of migratory game birds would be extinct today.

"Since the federal government has been given jurisdiction over these birds they have increased wonderfully. But in order that seasons, bag limits and other regulations may be made judiciously and the birds given effective protection, the federal government must learn all possible as to their journeyings back and forth across the country. The banding of migratory waterfowl has already done much to trace the courses our ducks take when traveling in search of food or suitable climates. Each year that numbers of ducks are banded more will be added to the knowledge of man, and more adequate will be the protection he can offer his feathered friends.

"The work the United States bureau of biological survey is doing in investigating the habits of the migratory birds is of inestimable value to the gunners of the country; in order that the conservation work can be carried on in an intelligent manner."

Gamekeeper Kills Old Wolf Who Stole Lunch

Lenox, Mass.—Richard M. Davis, gamekeeper at the New Marlboro Game association preserves in southern Berkshire, recently shot a gray timber wolf which had killed his largest goose for a dinner. Two dead mallard ducks were close by.

Mr. Davis estimates that the wolf was forty years old, as its teeth were worn down smooth with the jaws. The fur is in good condition. The wolf put up a stiff fight before making a final leap to escape over a nine-foot fence.

This is the first wolf killed in the Berkshires since 1902. It is believed to be one of a pair that Cortlandt Field Bishop saw in Sheffield last February and which later was seen by Ike Beck on Mount Washington.

Increase Army Outlay

Berne.—In the Swiss budget for 1924, which shows 256,000,000 francs receipts against 294,000,000 francs expenditure, military appropriations amount to 81,000,000 francs, being 4,000,000 francs in excess of 1923. The greater part of this sum is for the instruction of a number of recruits greatly in excess of the quota of previous years.

City in Ecuador Razed by Quake

Was Accessible Only by Mule Trail.

Washington, D. C.—"Tulcan, Ecuadorean city reported wiped out by an earthquake, lies in a region where the only rift in nature's lute seems to be seismic disturbances," says a bulletin from the Washington, D. C., headquarters of the National Geographic society.

"Tulcan had about 5,000 people. It lay 100 miles northeast of Quito, near the Colombian border, and was accessible only by a mule trail.

"One writer says the climate is so healthful that 'hens lay so persistently that medicine has to be given them to save their lives.'

Water, Rail and Bridle-Path.

"The mule ride is the last stretch of a waterway, rail, and bridle-path route which takes the visitor up South America's principal Pacific river, the Guayas, to Guayaquil, Ecuador's principal port, and thence to the country's capital, Quito, after two days' railroad travel.

"Quito is only 286 miles from Guayaquil, but the trains do not travel by night. That is the visitor's good fortune, for the route discloses the rugged beauty of the Andes and traverses regions which produce staples of American retail trade—Panama hats, quinine and cocoa.

"Though hidden far from the busy world, Tulcan was a thriving community, to which American exporters' representatives in Guayaquil sent agents, and its own people frequently joined the colorful crowds on the streets of Quito, a capital above the clouds.

Quito Cultured Capital.

"Quito resembles our own capital in that it is more residential and governmental than a business city. Ladies in smart motor cars shop at stores displaying the latest importations from New York, London and Paris. American Indians frequently come to Washington; but the Eucadorean Indians are far more plentiful in Quito's streets. They stroll about in orange ponchos, sailor-like cotton trousers, and broad-brimmed hats. Their native villages usually can be distinguished by the shape of their ponchos, the cut of their hair, or a turn of their headdress.

"There is no daylight saving problem in Quito. Day and night are 12 hours the year round. The climate is just as equable—it is always early spring in Quito—but there is a 10-degree difference between the sunny places of the direct equatorial rays and the shade.

"Four hours toward the mountains will land one in a region of perpetual frost; in half a day one can descend to the deep and sultry valleys between the mighty chains of the Andes.

Where Chocolate Comes From.

"One Ecuadorean chocolate plantation produces 25,000 pounds of cocoa yearly for American and European confection makers. The cocoa beans are spread, for drying, over acres of bamboo mattings. Workmen scuffle through them with bare feet occasionally to make sure they dry. When the pods are first opened the beans and pulp are creamy white; they grow brown after exposure to air.

"Quito, from the slopes of the hills which surround it, presents a picture of dazzling white, relieved by the red roofs of its wooden houses.

"Although wood is its only available building material, Guayaquil's public buildings, churches and theater are noted for their architectural beauty. And because its buildings are wood it maintains what is reputed to be the largest fire department of any city of its size in the world. In times past it suffered from disastrous fires.

Make "Panama Hats."

"Sixty miles up-river, Guayaquil is the country's great distributing center. It has one manufacturing industry of great importance to the United States—that of Panama hat making. It exports more than a million dollars' worth of headgear annually. The raw material comes from smaller inland cities; the finished product gets its name from the canal through which it shipped to this country.

"One other prospect of northern Ecuador which is not so pleasing is the snow-clad, ever active, volcanic Cotopaxi, with its ill-omened smoke halo. The crater is near Latacunga, where the legend survives that the great earthquake of 1698 was foretold by a priest. The Carmelite nuns of Latacunga, so the story goes, held to their faith in the prophecy for seven years during which they slept in tents in their gardens. Their faith was rewarded when the quake finally came, for their convent fell, but the tent-dwellers escaped."

Will Use Rocket to Explore Air

Professor, Who Proposed Trip to Moon, Now Will Test Atmosphere.

Cincinnati.—Prof. R. H. Goddard of Clark university, whose attempt to build a rocket that would make a trip to the moon attracted wide attention several years ago, is still working on plans for a high altitude rocket for the purpose of making scientific records of air conditions 50 miles above the earth, he told physicists attending the science convention here.

Both the weather bureau and the Smithsonian institution at Washington are said to be interested in Professor Goddard's plan, which is now nearing completion. He said he had only one more step to make before he could prepare a model for flight.

Professor Goddard proposed to shoot a rocket into the air at least fifty miles—perhaps more. It will be equipped with very delicate apparatus, which will open and close automatically when the rocket reaches a certain altitude. The closing of the apparatus will lock into a chamber a quantity of the air at that height, and the rocket, in falling to earth, will carry with it the first sample of air man has ever brought down from such a great height in space.

May Find Frozen Nitrogen.

Professor Goddard will examine this specimen in his laboratory and expects to be enabled to supply an answer for the first time in history as to the constitution of the air at such a distance.

According to Professor Goddard's theory, frozen nitrogen may be found at a height of 50 miles from the earth. That there is something there which is not common at points close to the earth is believed to be evidenced by the fact that the aurora borealis and meteorites appear at this height.

In addition to the air trap, Professor Goddard's rocket will carry instruments for measuring pressure, electrical effects and the radiation which occurs at such altitudes, and which is said to be much more powerful even than X-rays. The rocket will also carry a machine for taking the temperature at certain altitudes and keeping a record of the changes.

The rocket will be fired from the earth at a speed of six miles a second or more. This speed, which is six times faster than the best speed ever attained by a cannon ball, it is estimated would enable the rocket to free itself from the attraction of the earth and keep on traveling for the desired distance.

Professor Goddard intends to propel the rocket with liquid oxygen, which gets energy from evaporation. The rocket will be highly polished and marked so that the experimenters can keep it under observation long enough to calculate its range and course, and to estimate its landing place.

What science is doing to minimize loss from earthquakes was told by Dr. T. A. Jagger, Jr., who lived on the crater of a volcano at Hawaii for eight years and recently was sent to Tokyo by the Department of Agriculture to study the causes and effects of the Japanese earthquake.

According to Doctor Jagger, much of the terrible loss of life in Japan could have been avoided had the proper precautions against earthquakes been taken. He showed photographic slides of the damage done in Japanese cities, illustrating that most of the properly built houses withstood the shock.

The care with which a building had been put up, and not the material with which it was constructed, was chiefly responsible for its ability to remain standing during the disaster, said Doctor Jagger.

Congested population is one of the big factors in causing heavy loss of life in earthquakes, he said. The 11 great disasters of this sort in the last 21 years have been progressively more serious because of greater population in the affected areas.

Doctor Jagger, who is in the government service, urged that more geological observatories be established in various parts of the United States to prepare for earthquake disasters. He said that New York, Philadelphia, Washington and other cities on the Atlantic seaboard were not immune from earthquakes by any means. He pointed out that New York had had earthquakes in the Eighteenth century, and it and other Eastern cities should be warned by the precedent of Charleston. He said earthquakes might return to the Pacific coast, and might even shake cities in the Mississippi valley.

Warns of Dense Population.

According to Doctor Jagger, conditions in America are especially bad in case earthquakes should come, because of the density of population in certain big cities, and because we have more volcanoes than any other country.

Organized city planning was urged by Doctor Jagger as the best means of preparing for the danger. He said all our cities should provide emergency means for turning off electricity and gas without delay, and for getting immediate police and fire aid, so that 100 fires could be fought at once. The streets should be wide, he said, and parks numerous, so they could be used as places of refuge.

He advocated the continuance of experiments to perfect earthquake-proof buildings with special braces and special foundations. He also suggested compulsory earthquake insurance and other measures.

Experiments with the mercury vapor boiler recently tried out at Hartford, Conn., have been very successful, according to Ernest L. Robinson of the turbine department of the General Electric company. He said this experimental unit "appears to have borne out all the things expected of the invention, both as to increased efficiency and as to cheaper power." There was no question, he said, but that "theoretically the mercury engine is the thing."

Mr. Robinson said he was not prepared to insist on the present utility of the new engine until the experimental one had been operated long enough to test out the theories on which it was built.

Ante-Columbian Chorus Girls.

Dr. J. Walter Fewkes of the bureau of American ethnology at Washington, in an illustrated lecture on pottery found in the Mimbres valley in New Mexico, declared that this region had been inhabited by a highly civilized race of Indians long before Columbus discovered America. According to Doctor Fewkes' interpretation of the designs on this pottery, pictures of which he threw on a screen, various American institutions of the present day—such as poker, dice and chorus girls—originated with the Indians of the Mimbres valley, or at least were known to them before Columbus imported European customs into America.

Doctor Fewkes said the Indians whose pottery he had found had lived in complete isolation in their part of New Mexico, and that their mastery of artistic design was remarkable in an untutored race. Paintings on some of the pottery showed figures of three men, with bows stacked up like poker chips, and with black and white squares like dice in front of them. According to Doctor Fewkes, the Indians were gambling.

Other pieces of pottery showed what looked like figures of chorus girls, birds, grasshoppers, turkeys, dancing figures, animals and fish and several others had geometrical designs.

The prediction that designs like those on the Indian pottery might soon be seen in the Fifth avenue shop windows was made by Doctor Fewkes. It was thought the Indian designs might rival those of Tut-Ankh-Amen.

"As soon as designers saw these remarkable patterns," Doctor Fewkes said, "they became eager to reproduce them for the decoration of fabrics, and I believe that before long we will see them in shop windows."

Has New Theory.

According to Doctor Fewkes, the pottery showed that the Indians had a theology as well as an art that anticipated modern life. Several of the paintings on the pottery showed that they believed in a Virgin birth, and that this belief included a Virgin who had born twins, which had become the gods of war of this Indian tribe.

A new theory of the ultimate unit of electricity has been put forward by Prof. A. P. Mathews of the University of Cincinnati. Scientists generally believe that protons and electrons are the primordial elements of the universe, and that they are the positive and negative charges of electricity, but Professor Mathews says the etherion is the ultimate unit of both electricity and light.

Professor Mathews pictures the etherion as a particle of matter before it becomes an electron, rejecting the prevailing theory that light consists of ether waves. He says that the ether consists of etherions, minute spheres that revolve at tremendous speed with a velocity of 186,000 miles a second, and that when an etherion gains energy of rotation it becomes a proton, or positive electrical charge, and that a neighboring etherion, losing the same energy, becomes an electron, or negative charge. According to Professor Mathews, light is the basis of all matter, as the etherions are nothing but waves of light too small for transmission, and moving around and around in one place.

Winnipeg Labor Temple Denounced

This is the Ukrainian Labor temple at Winnipeg, Manitoba, in which it is claimed a Communist school is conducted and more than 250 pupils instructed daily in the principles advocated by Lenin and Trotzky. A judge of the supreme court of Ontario recently charged that the building is a menace to freedom on the continent of North America and that from it bolshevistic doctrine is spread all over the United States and Canada.