FINNEY OF THE FORCE

By F. O. Alexander
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He Has a Questionable Following

THE FEATHERHEADS

By Osborne
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Just Good, Clean Fun

Events in the Lives of Little Men

Our Pet Peeve

MICKIE, THE PRINTER'S DEVIL

By Charles Sughroe
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Pardon Us, Ladies

THE CLANCY KIDS

Heroes Preferred

Gloria—What did you tell Charles when he complained that you did not give any encouragement?

Phyllis—I told him I preferred a man who didn't need any.

Hardly

Parker—I thought young Smith was a college man.

Culver—Well, isn't he?

Parker—No, he hasn't anything written on his flivver.

ONLY A QUARTER

Nellie—"Yes, I'm out slumming—finding out how the other half lives."

Gertie—"Well, you can't find it out in this section," Nellie—"Why not? The other half lives here." Gertie—"No, it's only the Italian quarter."

Made It Worse

"You were at a terrible disadvantage when you met that bear without your gun," suggested the sweet young thing.

"Yes," conceded the famous hunter, "I was a stranger in the country and didn't have any road maps."—American Legion Weekly.

We've Had Proof

"Youth will be served."

"I suppose you are alluding to tennis," remarked an old codger on a cracker barrel. "Age seems to do very well in a ball game."

Qualified

"What's happened to the old grouch now?"

"He's drawn on a condemnation jury."

"That ought to suit him."

VAIN FISHING

Reggie—"That girl fished for compliments all the time I was with her." Miss Sharpe—"How could she have hoped to catch anything in so shallow a stream."

Life in Fort Mink

"Where can I find plum preserves, Toofus?" queried a visitor at the Fort Mink county fair.

"In the Fine Arts building," answered the Fort Mink philosopher and guide.

"Is making plum preserves a fine art?"

"Sure."

NEARBY AND YONDER

Off the Beaten Path to Unusual Places and Things

By T. T. MAXEY

WNU Service

Our Largest Telescope

ON THE summit of Mount Wilson, near Pasadena, Calif., at an elevation of 5,704 feet above sea level, where the percentage of clear sky is exceptionally high, the Mount Wilson observatory—one of the largest institutions for astronomical work in the world—was built. Its mission is "to study the structure of the universe and the evolution of celestial bodies, with primary reference to the sun."

Here the biggest-of-all telescopes is in use throughout every clear night. The refracting surface is a glass mirror 100 inches in diameter, almost 13 inches thick and weighing 9,000 pounds, which required years to grind, shape, test, polish and silver. It is held in a skeleton tube 11 feet in diameter and 40 feet long.

The movable parts of this telescope weigh nearly 100 tons, rest on a massive concrete pier, covered by a steel dome 100 feet high and 100 feet in diameter, the upper portion of which weighs about 700 tons and rotates so that the roof opening may face any section of the sky. About 40 electric motors and some 17 miles of wiring take care of the movements of the telescope.

The light-collecting power of this instrument is said to be 250,000 times greater than that of the human eye. This makes possible the photographing of the faintest stars and brings to the photographic plate no fewer than 100,000,000 stars which, it is claimed, no other telescope can reach.

The "Big Muddy"

THE Missouri river—discovered by French explorers 'way back yonder in 1673—is oft referred to as the "Big Muddy."

Formed by the junction of three rivers in southwestern Montana, it flows across that state, zig-zags through North and South Dakota, forms the eastern boundary of Nebraska and part of Kansas, bisects Missouri and some twenty miles north of St. Louis or 2,547 miles from Gallatin City, Mont., joins the Mississippi.

Some claim that the Jefferson fork, originating in Red Rock creek which rises west of Yellowstone park about 400 miles southwest of Gallatin City, is, in reality, the upper section of the "Big Muddy." If this be so and one also adds the Mississippi to the gulf, the result is a river channel more than 4,200 miles in length—the longest in the world.

Of all the unruly rivers in the universe the "Big Muddy" is perhaps the unruliest. Flowing for the most part through easily eroded lands, it carries unbelievable quantities of soil in solution. According to estimates it annually dumps into the Mississippi upwards of 500,000 tons of mud. This river appears to take a keen delight in scouring off the points of bends.

In high-water seasons the "Big Muddy" is a star performer, frequently overflowing and going on a rampage generally. On the other hand, during low-water seasons there are places where a man can ford it. Because of the uncertainty of its waters navigation is almost at a stand-still. The area drained approximates 580,000 square miles.

The Alamo

THE Alamo, a Franciscan mission—the most noted in all Texas, was originally established in the Rio Grande valley and moved to a point now within the limits of the city of San Antonio about 1720 because of annoying disturbances.

The church and its yard, covering some two and one-half acres, surrounded by a protecting wall eight feet high and almost three feet thick, was repeatedly the subject of disturbing outrages by the Mexicans who finally captured it.

In 1836, during the war for the independence of Texas, a small garrison of some 180 determined Texans and Americans held an overwhelming number of Mexicans at bay during a bombardment which lasted almost continuously for twelve bloody days. Although driven back repeatedly and with appalling losses, the Mexicans finally succeeded in making a breech in the wall, clambered over the parapet and by desperate hand-to-hand fighting gained possession only after all but five of the Texans were killed. These were taken prisoners and later executed.

Later on, the name Alamo was adopted. "Remember the Alamo" became a war cry. The determined Texans captured the Mexican general and won independence.

Today, this aged, battle-scarred mission which stands much as it appeared at the close of the final struggle, is used as a museum to house early-day relics and records of Texas and has been referred to as the Thermopolae of America and stands out as one of the monuments of American history.

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Usually a Vain Hope

"We often pray for celestial blessings," said Hi Ho, the sage of Chinatown, "in hope our conversational charm will persuade the gods to overlook our lack of industry."—Washington Star.

The Neediest Case

You may not have heard it before. It concerns a certain vaudeville executive, recognized for his philanthropy. It is no secret that many whom he has befriended have taken advantage of his generous nature. One actor, who had been the recipient of several favors, until he made himself a nuisance, was finally told not to send in any more appeals.

"This is not an appeal," his letter read. "It is a report. I have no pants!"—New York Graphic.