

Camouflage of High Order Saved Convict

Extraordinary tales of adventure, death and escape from the French islands of exile off the Guiana coast are told by Blair Niles, the first woman to visit the prison islands.

"There was, for example," she writes, "the convict stationed on one of the Devil's island group, who, some months ago was missing at the five o'clock roll call. At that hour the keepers are busy rounding up the men and locking the correct number into each dormitory for the night. Number X was missing; he failed to answer to his name. Search was made of the three islands. It revealed nothing. The sun was sinking; in a few moments the tropical night would fall. The canoe men were commanded to launch the boats; far, far out a speck was seen on the deserted ocean. The prison authorities focused their glasses. But they saw only a dark mass on the surface and above it the great spreading horns of one of the water buffalo which the administration imports from French Indo-China. Only a dead water buffalo floating out to sea. They revoked the order to the canoe men. Anyway, darkness had suddenly shut down.

"But the prisoners knew that the dead water buffalo was one of their comrades, his body bound to a plank and covered with banana leaves, while with arms and legs he swam desperately. The buffalo horns—didn't a buffalo die on the islands only last week? The horns were the escaping convict's camouflage."—From the Forum.

Mail Service Older Than Christian Era

Communications were sent from town to town by more or less regular service in the reign of Cyrus, the great Persian conqueror, 600 years before the Christian era. Four centuries later Queen Jezebel wrote letters and sent them throughout the Jewish kingdom, to which she affixed the name of King Ahab, and sealed them with the king's seal. In the Book of Esther mention is made of sending letters by post throughout the royal provinces. About the beginning of the First century Augustus, the great Roman emperor, established a system of communication throughout the empire. Marco Polo, the Venetian traveler, reported that as long ago as 1280 China had no less than 10,000 post stations. The term post as applied to a system of mail transportation had its origin in France in the sixteenth century, where a general system of communication was set up by the government.—Detroit News.

Sowing Wild Oats

To "sow wild-oats" means to commit youthful excesses, to spend one's youth in dissipation. Subsequent reform is usually implied. The expression, it is supposed, originated among the country people of England. The wild oats—a tall grass resembling the cultivated oat and by some supposed to be its original progenitor—is a common weed in grain fields. It was natural that a weed so common and obnoxious should become the subject of comparison among the English farmers. At first "sowing wild oats" meant sowing worthless seed or seed which would produce a worthless crop. The transition to the figurative meaning was easy. He who wastes the precious days of his youthful prime in dissipation is sowing seeds which will grow up into obnoxious weeds.—Pathfinder Magazine.

Marvin Hughitt, Railroad Man Dies.
Chicago.—Marvin Hughitt Sr., whose span of service to railroading in the middle west stretched back 65 years, died here after a paralytic stroke. He was 90 years old. Until his death the veteran had a part in the direction of the Chicago & Northwestern railroad, with whose destinies he had been connected 56 years, 28 as president.

Arm Getting Well

Bryce Baker who accompanied Dr. Geyer to Portland over the week-end, is delighted with the progress his fractured arm is making at this time. Examination by the specialist who performed operations in the past when bone-grafting was resorted to, revealed that the fractures were knitting satisfactorily. The cast has been removed and a small metal splint substituted until such time as the arm recovers strength.

Mrs. Hansell Better

Mrs. M. W. Hansell sustained a major operation at St. Mary's hospital, Walla Walla, last Friday. Since the operation the patient has been in a serious condition, but a change for the better has taken place and decided improvement is noted. Mr. Hansell came home Wednesday, the first time he was able to leave the bedside of his wife.

Orphans Find Home

A home for little Francis and Agnes Stamper, orphan children of the late Ada Hopper Stamper, has been found with Mr. and Mrs. Delbert Barger, who reside near Walla Walla. The children were taken to their new home Sunday, after having been at the Bert Logsdon home for several weeks.

Mr. Woodward Improving

C. L. Woodward, who has been critically ill in a Walla Walla hospital has been slowly improving since surviving a serious surgical operation, several days ago, when it was found necessary to remove one of his kidneys. Mr. Woodward, previous to the operation, has been in declining health for sometime.

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22 Years Ago

February 9, 1906

D. E. Jarman returned home from the east Saturday evening.

Fred Koontz has returned from Walla Walla. He is somewhat better, but is still far from being a well man.

Ex State Senator Proebstel of Weston is mentioned as a candidate for the office again.

James Henderson returned Saturday from his homestead in Franklin county, where he spent several days.

Nanton News: Duncan McIntyre arrived from Athena, Oregon, last Saturday morning. Mr. McIntyre, like his six brothers, owns a chunk of Alberta earth.

Mr. and Mrs. John Foss and Mrs. James Mitchell returned to their home in Moro, Sherman county, Saturday after an extended visit with relatives in this city.

Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Barnett and son, Rex and I. M. Kemp came up this morning with the remains of Roy Barnett, for burial in the family lot in the Athena cemetery.

The Press is informed that Miss Dolly Bloch, of Spokane, is greatly improved in health. She is now able for the first time in two years to walk, with the assistance of a cane. Her many Athena friends earnestly hope for her complete and permanent recovery.

After inquiring into the facts regarding the death of T. Morrisette, the coroner decided no inquest was necessary. Saturday the pioneer Franchmen was buried in the Athena cemetery. The funeral was a large one the remains being followed to the grave by a large number of neighbors and friends.

Mrs. Chas. Norris and Mrs. T. J. Watts were in Walla Walla Wednesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Kilgore, who have been seriously ill at their home near Weston, are recovering.

George Foster has completed the construction of a dwelling house at Union, and returned home. He reports windy, disagreeable weather in the Grand Ronde.

Rev. G. W. Rigby officiated at the double wedding in Pendleton, Tuesday. The happy couples are John F. Bentley and Minnie L. Trimble, and Alva M. Moyer and Laura P. Baker, all of Adams.

Dr. Sharp reports A. J. Wagner to be improving. Mr. Wagner was seriously injured last Saturday evening by being kicked by a colt. Three ribs are fractured and had Mr. Wagner been struck a little higher up the result would undoubtedly have been fatal.

DR. W. G. COWAN
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Athena, Oregon

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