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"SNAKE KING" IS DEAD AT 71 YEARS

Natural Death Comes to Man Who Handled Thousands of Poisonous Reptiles.
RAN A WHOLESALE BUSINESS
Ballschelt Was Wont to Declare That the Rattlesnake Was Much Misunderstood—Unless Molested It Would Not Strike Ordinarily.
San Antonio, Tex.—Julius E. Ballschelt, seventy-one, known to the world of the circus and museum as "The Rattlesnake King," is dead at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Emma Braun, in San Antonio. Although he had handled literally hundreds of thousands of snakes in a long career, his death was a natural one.
Ballschelt was a native of Germany but came to Texas when a young man and at first engaged in farming. It was purely by accident that he started in the snake business, it is said. A medicine show was in Haines, a small settlement in Bexar county and offered \$2 for a rattlesnake. Ballschelt never had caught a rattler, but going out with a long stick at the end of which was a forked prong he soon found a large snake, pinned its head to the earth, then picked it up, threw it in a sack and carried it to the show man.
From that day forward Ballschelt caught rattlers for a living and literally has caught single-handed thousands of the reptiles. The rattlers are one of the great natural crops of south-west Texas.
Becomes Wholesale Dealer.
As the "Rattlesnake King" became better known and his snakes were more in demand among circuses, medicine shows and museums, he became a wholesale dealer, as well as a retailer, and Mexicans in the off season when farm work was slack frequently went snake catching. When they made a catch they were certain to find a market with "the Snake King."
Mr. Ballschelt was wont to declare that the rattlesnake was much misunderstood. Unless the reptile was molested it would not strike ordinarily, but would escape from the vicinity of threatened danger. If a rattler if startled it will strike and in the skinning season, when the reptile is blind, the snake lashes out at every noise.
Belonging to the viper family, the rattler's young are born, not hatched, as in the case of many other reptiles, and references are due to mistaking the eggs of some other snake for those of the deadly rattling viper or to nature faking. The female gives birth sometimes to litters of as many as a dozen vigorous little reptiles in the early spring, and they emerge into the world fully equipped with poison sacs and fangs, capable of slaying man or beast from the day of their birth on.
Warns Before Striking.
"The rattlesnake is a gentleman. He always gives due warning before he strikes," Mr. Ballschelt explained recently. "In shedding season when he cannot hunt because of blindness, his hunger and slightness makes the rattler a mean customer. Sometimes he will sound warning, but generally not, and he will strike at any noise during that period."
Mr. Ballschelt was not afraid of rattlers and the larger they were, and therefore the more dangerous, the better he liked them, for rattlers sell by the pound and not by length as the uninitiated might imagine.
When the demand for the live snakes proved slack, the witness still proved profitable to Mr. Ballschelt, who killed them and cured the hides for use in leather goods such as belts, handbags, bags and purses, the skins being soft and pliable when properly tanned. The carcasses are rendered for the fat, which is highly esteemed for lotions, ointments and for use as a treatment for rheumatic affections. The venom also is useful in science and in the manufacture of drugs.
While many of the snakes sold by "the Snake King" went to the purchasers with their poison fangs intact, the majority had their fangs extracted before they were shipped. The extraction of fangs is accomplished by getting the snake to strike at a heavy piece of silk. The fangs become entangled in the texture of the goods and a quick, strong pull accomplishes the dental work.

DR. F. G. BANTING



Dr. F. G. Banting of the University of Toronto, who discovered insulin, used in the treatment of diabetes.

RUHRITES BLOW UP DORTMUND CANAL

Essen.—The explosion of a time bomb destroyed the lock of the Dortmund-Ems canal near Herne. The canal was blocked, seriously interfering with the complicated inland waterway traffic in the Ruhr.
This is the most serious case of sabotage yet reported on the Ruhr waterways. The lock destroyed is near the junction of the Dortmund-Ems canal with the main canal that runs down to the Rhine at Duisburg and Ruhrort, where the world's largest inland port is located.
The intention of the dynamiters apparently was not to block the canal, but to drain the water from the main Rhine-Herne canal, which is the main waterway artery of the Ruhr. The French say this main canal has not been interfered with, as the locks on both sides of the one which was dynamited were closed immediately after the explosion to prevent the draining of the main canal.

J. W. W. BARRED IN KANSAS

Supreme Court Upholds Injunction Against Organization.
Topeka, Kan.—J. W. W. as an organization and all of its members are barred from Kansas in a decision handed down by the supreme court affirming the granting of an injunction against the order to prevent "depositions against property by criminal syndicalism and sabotage in Kansas."
The court held that the literature and talk of members of the organization were of such a threatening nature that the state was justified in seeking an injunction to prevent carrying out of threats to destroy property in oil and wheat districts of the state.

\$395,353,655 Value of Great Northern.
Washington, D. C.—Upon the vast properties of the Great Northern railway system the interstate commerce commission tentatively fixed a valuation of \$395,353,655, which compares with the company's own book value estimate of its holdings at \$384,273,373. The Great Northern system is the largest for which the commission has yet found a value, under the 1907 values law which ordered a physical valuation of all railroad property in the United States.

German Marks Total 5,500,000,000,000.
Berlin.—The total German currency in circulation April 1 was 5,500,000,000,000 marks.

THE MARKETS

Portland.
Wheat—Hard white, \$1.35; soft white, \$1.25; western white, \$1.24; hard winter, northern spring and red western, \$1.18.
Hay—Alfalfa, \$23 per ton; valley timothy, \$25; eastern Oregon timothy, \$28.
Butter Fat—46c.
Eggs—Ranch, 21c@24c.
Cheese—Tillamook cream, 36c; Young American, 27c; block Swiss, 32c@34c; cream brick, 30c@32c.
Cattle—Choice steers, \$7.25@8; medium to good, \$6.75@7.25.
Sheep—East of mountain lambs and choice valley lambs, \$12.50@14.
Hogs—Prime light, \$8.75@9.25; smooth heavy, \$7.50@8.50.

Seattle.
Wheat—Hard white, \$1.25; soft white, \$1.25; western white, \$1.23; hard red winter, soft red winter, western red and northern spring, \$1.19.
Butter Fat—45c@47c.
Eggs—Ranch, 18c@20c.
Cattle—Prime steers, \$7.25@8.00; medium to choice, \$6.75@7.35.
Hogs—Prime light, \$8.00@9.50; smooth heavy, \$7.50@8.50.

SUPREME COURT HOLDS MINIMUM WAGE VOID

The Decision May Affect Validity of Statutes in Several States.
Washington, D. C.—The minimum wage law, by which congress sought to regulate the minimum wages to be paid women and minor girls in the District of Columbia, was declared unconstitutional by the supreme court.
While the validity of none of the state minimum wage laws was directly under attack in the case, the decision was regarded as of vital importance, counsel agreeing that if congress had no constitutional right to enact such a law in the District of Columbia, the right of state legislatures to act similarly was called into question.
The states of California, Kansas, Oregon, New York, Wisconsin and Washington obtained consent of the supreme court to intervene in the case as friends of the court. They all have wage fixing statutes of their own.
The decision was made by a divided bench, with Chief Justice Taft and Justices Sanford and Holmes dissenting and with Justice Brandeis taking no part in the proceedings.
The majority based its position broadly upon the right of contract, insisting that while laws could be enforced to regulate working conditions, the employer and the employee must be free of legal restraint in determining between themselves what wages are acceptable.

TEXAS OIL INVESTORS LOSE \$100,000,000

Washington, D. C.—Oil stock promoters operating in the state of Texas during the last five years have filched more than \$100,000,000 from the public. Postmaster General New was advised by John H. Edwards, solicitor of the postoffice department, and Chief Post-Inspector Simmons. They are in Fort Worth co-operating with the department of justice in the prosecution of mail fraud cases involving oil promoters.
In making public the report, the postmaster-general also declared the postoffice department intended to move in the most vigorous and persistent manner possible for the enforcement of both the criminal law and the fraud order statutes against the fraudulent use of the mails not only in the sale of fraudulent oil stocks but in all other cases involving fraud in the mails.

DOPE RUNNERS DISCOVERED

International Fleet Dealing in Drugs Found Operating on Atlantic Border.
Geneva.—An international "dope" fleet is operating off the Canadian coast, landing drugs for shipment to the United States and other countries, the dominion government has notified the secretariat of the League of Nations.
This flotilla of drug runners operates similarly to the liquor fleet off the New York and New Jersey shores. The notification to the league states that the "dope" smugglers are engaged in transporting cocaine, morphine and other narcotics. A Canadian official, it is stated, discovered a regular route for smuggling drugs from Germany to Spain, thence to France, thence to St. Pierre Miquelon, off New Foundland, and finally into Canada and the United States.

U. S. Sends Note on Cuban Crisis.
Washington, D. C.—The United States has sent a note to Cuba on the present cabinet crisis in the island republic, it was reported. The present situation is brought about by the resignation of the cabinet at the request of President Zayas. The United States will not endanger the program of wants to be sure that this development in Cuba and has so stated in the note.

Steel Companies Increase Wages.
New York.—The United States Steel corporation announced a wage increase of 11 per cent effective April 16 for day laborers employed in the manufacturing plants of its subsidiary companies, with an equitable adjustment for other classes of labor in those plants. A number of so-called independent companies also announced a similar increase for day laborers.

Italian Princess Marries Commoner.
Rome.—Princess Yolanda, eldest daughter of King Victor Emmanuel and Queen Elena, was married to Count Calvi di Bergolo, an Italian commoner.
Stuyvesant Fish Dies Suddenly.
New York.—Stuyvesant Fish, banker and former president of the Illinois Central railroad, died suddenly here.

FARMERS' LOANS WILL SOON BE AVAILABLE

Board Announces Money Will Be Advanced Only on Staple Products.
Washington, D. C.—Indications were given by the federal farm loan board that an interest rate of 5 1/2 per cent would be charged on loans made by the new intermediate credit banks.
While the interest rate to be charged will be fixed by the credit banks, subject to approval of the farm loan board, farmers will be able, if the indicated interest rate is accepted, to borrow money at 7 per cent, or less. The law specifies that the rediscounting agency shall not charge in excess of 1 1/2 per cent for handling the obligations.
Commissioner Lobdell said he expected some of the banks would be ready to make actual loans by April 20.
The board has decided "for the present" to limit loans under the credits act to livestock, grain, wool, cotton, tobacco and peanuts as "staple agricultural products" within the meaning of the law. Loans on dairy products, eggs, fruits and vegetables are left to future determinations but the exclusion of those commodities, it appeared, is not intended to be permanent.
A limitation of loans to nine months' maturity also is prescribed in the regulations as the maximum, while the minimum life of security to be taken by the credit banks was fixed at not less than "six months from the date of the transaction." The credit banks will accept the receipt of any warehouse licensed and bonded under the federal warehouse act, but in all cases the warehousing laws and regulations of the state controlling them must have the approval of the farm loan board.
The regulations provide also that the paid-up capital of agricultural credit corporations must be \$10,000 or more before loans may be granted them on paper rediscounts for advances for agricultural purposes in the first instance.

SEVENTY-EIGHT CITIES HAVE 100,000 PEOPLE

Washington, D. C.—Seventy-eight cities of the country will have a population of 100,000 or more on July 1 this year, according to estimates of the census bureau.
There were 68 in 1920. Of the ten additional cities, Flint, Mich., made the most rapid growth, its estimate being 117,968, which ranks it as 71st city in population. Erie, Pa., is estimated at 112,571, placing it in 66th rank. Duluth takes rank as 70th city with 104,289.
Elizabeth, N. J., now ranks as 72d city with 103,947. Estimates for the other cities, which have advanced into the 100,000 class, follow:
Utica, N. Y., 73d, 103,457; Lynn, Mass., 74th, 102,683; Tulsa, Okla., 75th, 102,018; Tacoma, Wash., 76th, 101,781; Oklahoma City, 77th, 101,150, and Jacksonville, Fla., 78th, 100,946.
Estimates for the larger cities show probable totals as of July 1, 1923, as follows:
New York, 5,927,625; Chicago, 2,886,121; Philadelphia, 1,822,788; Detroit, 995,668; Cleveland 888,519; St. Louis, 803,853; Baltimore, 773,850; Boston, 770,400; Los Angeles, 666,863; Pittsburgh, 613,442; San Francisco, 539,068; Seattle, not estimated; Portland, Or., 278,621; Oakland, 240,086; Denver, 272,031; Salt Lake City, 126,241; Spokane, 104,573.

PRESIDENT HARDING ENDS HIS VACATION

Washington, D. C.—Back at his desk in the White House after five weeks of strenuous vacationing in the South, President Harding rolled up his sleeves and plunged headlong into a series of tasks, which will keep him busily engaged until he is ready to leave Washington again for his trip to the Pacific coast.
The amount of administrative work that awaited his consideration was monumental in its proportions, but the president, bronzed by hot Florida suns and refreshed by hundreds of rounds of golf, waded into it with a determination to speed things up to the limit, until he sees his way clear once more.
There was a grand rush to the White House from all parts of the capital and cabinet officials vied with one another in being the first to get various problems formally before the president.

CAR PROBE ORDERED

Roads Failure to Move Apples to Be Investigated.
Washington, D. C.—An order was issued by the interstate commerce commission for an investigation of the extent to which railroads serving the Pacific northwest failed during the last crop season to supply adequate facilities for the transportation to market of apples and other perishable products.
The order was prompted by a resolution adopted by the senate January 20. John P. Hartman of Seattle, who has orchard interests in Washington east of the Cascades, made the complaint that the railroads failed to supply sufficient refrigerator cars to move the apple crop. This complaint resulted in the resolution.

Naturalization Head Indicted 5 Times.
San Francisco.—Five indictments were returned against A. Frederick N. Littleton, naturalization examiner, by the federal grand jury. Three of the indictments charge violation of the naturalization laws and two of bribery with ten separate counts.

Helicopter Attains 20-Foot Altitude.
Dayton, O.—New helicopter records were made at McCook field, when Thurman H. Bane, ex-commandant at McCook field, rose vertically more than 20 feet in several tests of the De Botheast helicopter.

Kelso Bridge Suits Filed.
Kelso, Wash.—Suits aggregating \$219,000 were filed against Cowitts county and the city of Kelso on behalf of nine claimants for damages on account of the Kelso bridge collapse.

RICHARD M. TOBIN



Richard M. Tobin of San Francisco, who has been appointed American minister to the Netherlands.

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BRIEF GENERAL NEWS

President Harding's western trip will begin about June 15, according to reports.
Automobiles ran down 1489 persons in New York city in March, of whom 58 died.
The death of Senator Nicholson of Colorado reduced the republican majority in the senate to eight.
Fifty-two bootleggers were tried in the federal court term just ended at Pocatello, Idaho. Fifty-one of them were convicted. One jumped his bond.
Captain Richard Derby, 25, of Tacoma, Wash., flyer at McCook field, Dayton, Ohio, was instantly killed when his plane fell fifteen hundred feet near the field.
The department of interior shortly will begin development of large and valuable oil shale deposits in western Colorado situated on public lands, secretary Work announced.
Horace Boles, twice democratic governor of Iowa and strong contender for the presidential nomination at the democratic national convention in 1896, died at his home in Long Beach, Cal., aged 95.

Wool Rates Probe Dates Set.
Washington, D. C.—All railroad practices and rates in the west with reference to transportation of wool were ordered under investigation by the interstate commerce commission. Examiners were ordered to open hearings at Billings, Mont., April 26; Salt Lake City, April 30; Boise, May 4; Portland, Or., May 7; and Phoenix, May 14.

Gun Shoots 120 a Minute.
Ogden, Utah.—John M. Browning, noted Ogden firearms inventor, has completed a new weapon, capable of shooting 120 rounds a minute with a range of six miles and large enough to penetrate airplane armor, it was announced here.

Foster Case Jury Disagrees.
St. Joseph, Mich.—Hopelessly deadlocked after 3 1/2 hours the jury trying William E. Foster of Chicago for alleged violation of the Michigan law against criminal syndicalism was discharged. The jurors stood 6 to 6 during 35 ballots.

BRAVES BLIZZARD TO DOCTOR CHILD

Automobile Blocked by Snow Drifts, Physician Makes Perilous Trip to Save Child.

SAYS ALL IN DAY'S PRACTICE

Unusually Heavy Snows This Winter in New England Impose Severe Hardships on Country Doctor—Use of Snowshoes Common.
Did you ever think of the country doctor as a hero? Don't you think this one a real one?
North Adams, Mass.—In this winter of heavy snows in New England, the country doctor has been subjected to unusual hardships. With hill roads blocked by drifts for days, and sometimes weeks at a time, he has had to resort to many expedients to reach patients in isolated farmhouses. The use of snowshoes has been common and one physician had built a special ski-runner equipment for his motorcar.
One of the outstanding feats of perseverance in the face of difficulty and danger was that of Dr. John H. Riley, the oldest physician in this city. The January snowfall in North Adams was 30 inches, and in the outlying towns among the Berkshire mountains the wind swept the snow into huge drifts. Early one evening, when a blizzard was raging Doctor Riley was notified that a little girl was apparently dying from pneumonia in a farmhouse on the side of Florida mountain. A boy who had managed to work his way down over the half-frozen road in an automobile brought the word.
Starts Up on Foot.
Doctor Riley immediately started out with the boy in the car. A high wind was blowing and when they reached an exposed point on the main highway, the snow had drifted so badly that the car stalled. The physician, wearing a heavy fur overcoat and carrying his medicine case, started on foot up the mountain toward the farmhouse, several miles distant. On his way he met two men walking down. They urged him to turn back, declaring that he could not get through the storm alive. He refused.

After he had gone some distance the boy, who had succeeded in starting the car, overtook him. They were able to drive to a schoolhouse, a mile and a half from the farm where the girl was lying ill. There they ran into the snow that stopped all further progress. The highway was hidden under snow many feet deep and Doctor Riley, familiar with the region, struck into a wood road where the forest provided some protection from the gale.
Misses the Trail.
Plodding along slowly he suddenly found he had missed the trail, and brought up against a barbed wire fence. He followed the line of the fence for some distance but could not locate the wood road. He was almost exhausted and was on the point of discarding his overcoat to lighten his burden when he saw the light of a swinging lantern. He shouted, but the sound of his voice was drowned by the wind. He stumbled toward the light and finally came up with the bearer of the lantern, a young woman from the sick child's family. She had ventured out in the hope of meeting him.

After Doctor Riley had done all he could for the sick girl he borrowed dry clothing, walked down the trail to the schoolhouse and came back to North Adams with the boy in the automobile. He had been at home but a few minutes when another call came for him. A woman was dying in Clarkburg, several miles distant. He started out without hesitation and was able to make this trip in his car. When he got back, long after midnight, he was nearly worn out from his experiences, but the next day he was attending to his calls as usual.

Eats Four Pounds of Meat Daily.
Washington.—More meat was consumed in the United States last year than in any previous year, the Department of Agriculture announced.
The total consumption was estimated at 16,338,000,000 pounds, which amounts to 140.7 pounds per person, or approximately four pounds daily. The per capita consumption showed an increase of six pounds over 1921 and six and one-half pounds over 1920.

Complete Jungle Lives in Big Volcano's Crater

A complete jungle in the crater of an extinct volcano in Africa was described by T. A. Barnes, an English scientist, upon his arrival in New York city from an exploration trip to the center of Mount Kilimanjaro, in the Tanganyika district of Africa.
The scientist said that at least 75,000 animals are living in the crater—elephants, tigers, leopards and rhinos. The crater is 2,000 feet deep, he said, and a vertebrae Garden of Eden, with a lake three miles long.