

Novel Fire Corps of the Spreewald



In the Spreewald, the Venice-like suburb of Berlin, are located handsome dwellings and estates. To guard these properties from fire a special gondola corps has been formed by the Berlin fire department. The boats, with their crews and hand pumps patrol the zone constantly.

Rainbow Tints Reflected Light

Cornell Professor Explains What Causes Vivid Colors of Peacock Feathers.

SAME TINTS IN OIL PUDDLE

Colors Are Due to Interference of Light Reflected From Upper and Lower Surfaces of Film of Oil.

Pittsburgh.—A film of oil dropped on the pavement by an errant automobile contains the same color values as the highly decorative tail feathers of the peacock, said Dr. Wilder D. Bancroft of Cornell university, speaking at the general meeting of the American Chemical society.

"Everybody has noticed the brilliantly colored patches on the pavements where automobiles have spilled oil," said Doctor Bancroft. "The colors range from red to gold to blue and are very vivid or metallic. They change with the angle at which one sees them and they are not due to pigments, since we have a thin film of a nearly colorless oil.

"These colors are due to the interference of light reflected from the upper and lower surfaces of the film and they depend on the thickness of the film, which averages about one fifty-thousandth of an inch. They are more vivid when oil is spilled on an asphalt pavement than when on a dirt road because there is less disturbing light reflected from the black background.

Feathers Are Iridescent.

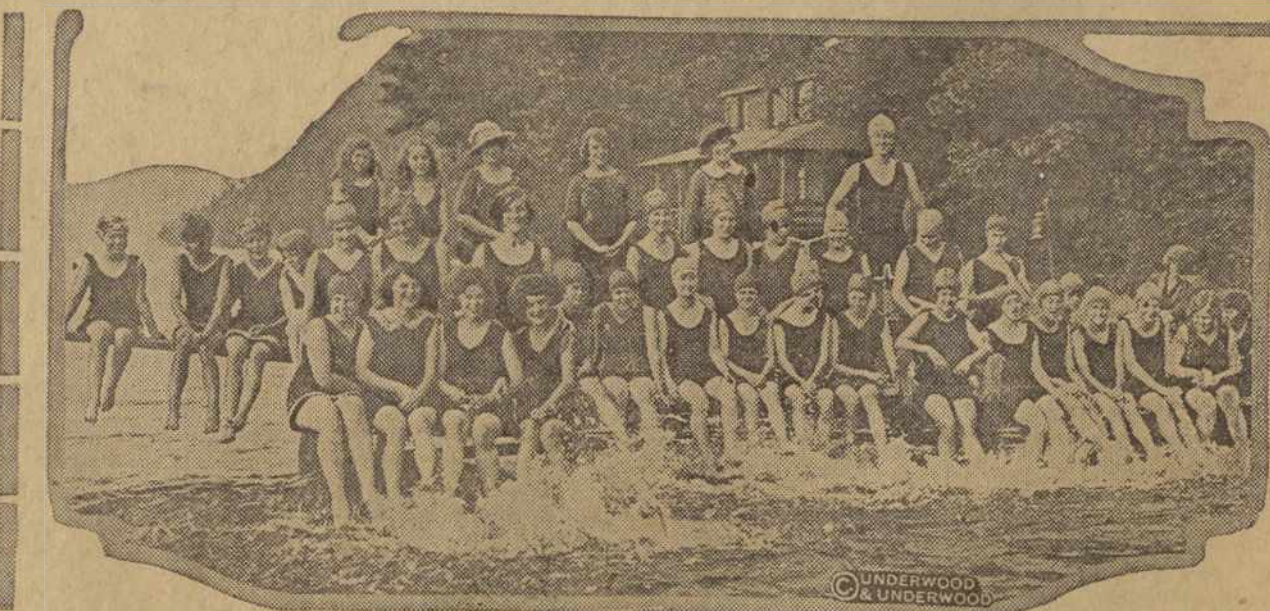
"The brilliant colors of the tail feathers of the peacock and the apparently self-luminous reds in the throat feathers of the humming bird are not due to pigments. When one looks through a peacock's feathers one sees only a brown due to the so-called melanin pigment which is equivalent to the asphalt pavement. In all the iridescent feathers the barbules are flattened plates of brown which therefore give the colors of thin films. The structure is so marked that an expert

"Dead" Opossum Revives and Car Runs Into Ditch

When a "dead" opossum came to life and peered over the shoulder of the man who was driving a car in which the animal was being given a ride, an automobile ran into a ditch near Vincennes, Ind., and was wrecked. The driver was not injured.

William W. Cassell was driving the car which hit the opossum. Thinking that the animal was playing dead, Cassell struck it several times with a wrench and threw it into the back of his car. The animal's head appearing later over his shoulder caused the man to lose control of the machine.

Woodcraft Girls Enjoying Their Camp Life



These are the girls of Pathfinder lodge in camp at Lake Otsego, near Cooperstown, N. Y.—the camp of the "Leatherstocking Tribe" of the Woodcraft League of America. Each of them has an Indian name as an award of merit.

not an albino in the sense of merely having no dark pigment. The whole structure of the feathers has changed. The barbules are not flat plates and consequently no brilliant colors can be developed by dyeing the feather brown or painting the back with India ink."

NO FLYING FISH AT MANDALAY

Sea Over 100 Miles Away and China Isn't Across the Bay—Kipling in Error

Mandalay, Burma.—With its thousand pagodas, its deserted palaces and its picturesque ruins, the city of Mandalay continues to be a place of chief attraction for the European or American visitor to Burma.

The palace grounds, surrounded by a wall and a moat, are about a mile and a half square. The buildings have a cheap gaudiness about them which compares in many ways to that of an American street carnival. Still preserved are the throne room and the apartments of the king and his senior queens. Mindon, the last king of Burma, married twelve wives—seeking, evidently, to disperse what the "37 varieties" are like.

From the palace grounds an American taxi takes the visitor to the foot of Mandalay hill, one of the holy places of Burma Buddhism. Here those who are adherents of the Buddhist religion and are willing to remove their footwear may obtain great merit by climbing the nearly 400 steps which lead to the summit.

Many Americans have been confused as to the exact location of Mandalay by a couple of geographical errors which occur in Kipling's well-known poem. It could hardly "where the flying fishes play," when the sea is over a hundred miles distant. And China isn't "just across the bay," but is just across the mountains instead. Just across the bay is India.

Raise Deer and Elk for Profit. Olympia, Wash.—Deer, elk and moose are so easily domesticated in the Far Northwest that a movement has been started by several owners of large logged-off areas to attempt raising them for profit.

Million Visit Three Shrines

Figure Yearly Total in Pilgrimages to Washington and Lincoln Memorials.

MANY CLIMB BIG MONUMENT

Big Share of Guests in National Capital Make Trip to Mount Vernon—Recently Completed Lincoln Memorial Popular.

Washington.—More than 1,000,000 persons make pilgrimages each year to Washington's home, Mount Vernon, the beautiful Lincoln memorial and the Washington monument, the latter being the most popular of the three shrines among visitors to the national capital.

Visitors numbering 34,113 went during July to the top of the Washington monument, located a few hundred yards south of the White House. More than one-fifth of them clambered up the 898 steps in order to see the memorial tablets on the various landings inside the shaft. The remainder rode to the top in the electric elevator which has a capacity of 35 persons. More than 5,250,000 people have visited the top of the monument since it was opened for observation purposes October 9, 1888. No entrance fee is charged.

Lincoln Memorial Popular.

The Lincoln memorial, recently completed and opened to the public, was visited by 31,383 persons during July. Located in Potomac park, directly west of the Washington monument, it is rather inaccessible for pedestrians; visitors usually go there by automobile. On a recent Sunday 2,000 persons were recorded as entering the great building. It is rapidly becoming

a shrine for tourists. No entrance is charged.

Washington's old home at Mount Vernon on the Potomac river, 16 miles from Washington, has been the Mecca of pilgrims from every part of the world, who, by steamboat, electric train and automobile. Kept as nearly in its original state as possible by the Ladies' Mount Vernon association, it is a delight to all Americans. During July approximately 29,000 persons visited Mount Vernon and during the year admissions numbered 230,000. The proceeds of a 25-cent entrance fee help keep the estate in first-class condition.

The house where Abraham Lincoln died, located opposite Ford's theater at 516 Tenth street, Northwest, this city, is another shrine visited by many tourists. It was bought by the United States in 1896 for \$30,000.

DIG UP PREHISTORIC BONE

Echinodermate Probably Roamed in Region Thousands of Years Ago, When It Was Marsh.

Boonville, Mo.—Workmen excavating for pier No. 2 for the new highway bridge across the Missouri river at Boonville ran across what has been declared to be part of the vertebra of the echinodermate, an animal that was in existence thousands of years ago.

This echinodermate, no doubt, roamed the fields about what is now Boonville at a time when it was a marsh. His genus is now extinct and it took a long time to find someone who could give the prehistoric bone its proper classification.

W. R. Criswell, carpenter foreman on the bridge, has had the bone polished and varnished and will keep it as a souvenir.

Old Lady of Threadneedle Street to Be Remodeled



The "Old Lady of Threadneedle Street," otherwise the Bank of England, will undergo many changes, and "has definitely made up her mind to go in for a new outfit." The stodgy building in the heart of the city of London is to be rebuilt according to plans of the architect, Herbert Baker. To provide the accommodation which has become necessary, an entire reconstruction of the interior of the building will have to be carried out.

King Lops Off \$50,000 Yearly

George of Great Britain Forced to Effect Economies in Expense of Household.

CUTS DOWN HIS RACING STUD

In Spite of Rise in Cost of Living, the King Has Resolutely Declined to Ask Nation for Any Increase in Grant.

London.—King George has set yet another example which may advantageously be followed by thousands of his subjects. As a result of recent economies in the king's household an annual saving of something like \$50,000 is being made. This is the result of the special investigation the king ordered some months ago, when, in order to achieve economies in accordance with the spirit of the time, he directed that the whole organization of the royal household should be overhauled. The work of reorganization at Buckingham palace, Windsor castle and other royal residences has been in progress ever since. Its completion, with the savings mentioned, is naturally a matter of satisfaction to the king, whose financial resources are probably much overestimated in the public mind. Moreover, the economy has been secured without the efficient and effective administration of the royal household being impaired in the slightest. It has to be borne in mind that the amount of money granted by the house of commons annually for the maintenance of the crown and the royal household remains at the same figure as in 1914.

Refuses to Ask Increase.

In spite of the general rise in the cost of living and of all commodities, the king has resolutely declined to apply to the nation for any increase. This has meant, inevitably, that he has had to draw heavily upon his private resources during the past eight years—to an extent that would cause considerable surprise could the figures be published. In his task of reducing expenses the king has been fortunate in having the assistance of so experienced and astute a financier as the veteran Viscount Parquhar, lord steward of the household. This is not the first instance in which Lord Parquhar has been called upon to act in this capacity. He served King Edward in similar fashion after he came to the throne, when it was found that the entire royal household required to be remodeled, and the many sinecures that had grown up during the later years of the reign of Queen Victoria rigorously abolished.

Early in the present year Lord Parquhar was able to submit a balance sheet showing how the money was being expended in the royal household and where reductions might profitably be made without any loss of efficiency. This the king considered for some days with very particular care, and in the end gave it his hearty approval, and this work of reorganization at his various residences went forward. In the meantime his majesty decided it was necessary for him to retrench his personal expenses in every manner possible. Therefore he gave directions that his racing stud be cut down to a minimum and that no unnecessary expense was to be incurred in connection with his stables. He decided, as a farther economy, that his famous old racing cutter Britannia should not be put into commission this year. This, however, had an effect upon which the king had not calculated.

Britannia to Race Again.

The withdrawal of the yacht from the races in which it was customary for it to take part in the past led to other owners of big yachts deciding to lay their boats up. An unfortunate blow was thus hit at the sport, and not a little unemployment was caused among those who had been accustomed to man these large racing craft. This aspect of the matter was brought to the notice of the king when he was staying at Cowes re-

cently. Any development causing unemployment at once receives the sympathetic attention of the king, who decided to inspect the Britannia, now laid up in the Medina river in the Isle of Wight, in order to see what repairs and renovations would be required to render it seaworthy for the opening of the yachting season next year. As a result the Britannia will hoist her pennant again next year. This is a fact which will cause the greatest satisfaction in yachting circles throughout the kingdom. It is also now probable that when the autumn sales of bloodstock open at Doncaster, Newmarket and elsewhere, the king will order new horses to be obtained with a view to bringing his racing stud into line with what it used to be in the days of King Edward.

GREEN APPLES RUN TRACTOR

Chemist-Farmer in Washington Makes Alcohol From Waste Crop From Orchard.

Monitor, Wash.—Driving his tractor with alcohol distilled from a mash of green apples picked at thinning time, a local orchardist claims he is in a way to utilize many other waste products in manufacturing this material.

Tons of green apples fall annually during the regular June drop, while as many more are removed to leave room for the growing of the first-grade fruit, and as a rule these are wasted because of immaturity.

A graduate of an eastern college and a student of experiments made by the government in distilling alcohol from by-products, this owner has been conducting a chemical laboratory of his own. He will soon explain his method before the fall session of the state grange.

At Age of Nine Months Boy Whistles Fluently

Youngstown, O.—Claim is made that Mervin, nine-months-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Max Heyman of this city, "can whistle like a canary." "He's been whistling since he was six months old," declared the proud father. "I'm sure he is the champion baby whistler of the world. Why, when that boy grows up he ought to be in great demand. Think what Mr. Sousa would give to have such a whistler in his band!"

Awaits Wife's Return 37 Years; Then Dies

Honolulu, T. H.—Colburn H. Maemae, Hawaiian, waited 37 years for his wife, Emily, to return to him before he brought suit for divorce on the ground of desertion, he testified at the hearing of his case.

Maemae and his wife were married in Ewa, Aahu, in 1884, the year following the coronation of King Kalakaua. She left him four months after the marriage. Since then he has waited for her return, but finally decided she "meant to stay away," he said.

Mrs. Maemae now is a "fisher-lady" and resides on one of the small islands in Kallih harbor, adjoining Honolulu bay.

WAR OFFICER WEARS \$9 SUIT

John Martyn Sets Example for Rigid Economy With Clothes Made From Flour Sacks.

Washington.—An example of economy in line with that now exercised throughout the army has been set the civilian employees of the War department by John Martyn, private secretary to the secretary of war. He is boasting the cheapest suit of clothes ever worn by a department officer, proudly admitting that it was fashioned from three flour sacks, purchased in Panama at a cost of \$1 each. The tailor's fee brings the total cost of an outfit to \$9, Mr. Martyn said.

TREE SET BY KING IS DEAD

Sold in Front of Pennsylvania Capitol Is Too Rich for Tree Planted by Belgian Monarch.

Harrisburg, Pa.—The larch tree planted by the king of the Belgians at the time of his visit to Harrisburg in 1920 and the companion tree planted in honor of Queen Elizabeth in front of the state capitol have died because the ground was too rich. The trees were planted in the midst of flower beds where the soil has been fertilized for more than a century for gardening purposes.

The Foch tree planted by the French marshal is thriving.

Yank Relief Cuts Russ Cholera.

Petrograd.—Cholera has been reduced to an almost negligible number of cases this summer in Petrograd as a result of sanitary measures invoked by the medical forces of the American relief administration through purification of the city's water supply and the inoculation of 75,000 persons.

To Become Wife of Former Kaiser



According to a recent announcement, Wilhelm Hohenzollern, former Kaiser of Germany, is planning to marry the Princess Hermine of Prussia. The photograph shows the princess with two of her five children.