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CUSTOMS OF GUAM

Island's Inhabitants Retain Primitive Manners.

Happy and Careless, Yet With a Sense of Industry and Thrift—Farms, as a Rule, Cultivated by the Family.

The increasing commercial importance of Guam is illustrated in a recent visit of the postmaster of Guam, principal city of our smallest possession, to the United States in behalf of better postal service for the island.

Curious customs and natural resources of Guam are described in a National Geographic society bulletin as follows:

"The fruit of the common tree (*Barringtonia speciosa*) the natives use to stupefy fish.

"The fruit is pounded into a paste, inclosed in a bag, and kept over night. The time of an especially low tide is selected, and bags of the pounded fruit are taken out on the reef next morning and sunk in certain deep holes in the reef. The fish soon appear on the surface, some of them lifeless, others attempting to swim, or faintly struggling with their ventral side uppermost. The natives scoop them in their hands, sometimes even diving for them.

"In the mangrove swamps when the tide is low, hundreds of little fishes with protruding eyes may be seen hopping about in the mud and climbing among the roots of the *Rhizophora* and *Bruguiera*. These belong to a group of fishes interesting from the fact that their air bladder has assumed in a measure the function of lungs, enabling the animal to breathe atmospheric air.

"Men, women and children of Guam are expert swimmers, and are as much at ease in the water as on land. As they throw themselves into the sea and come bounding from wave to wave they remind one of dolphins.

"According to the testimony of early writers, their houses were high and neatly made and better constructed than those of any aboriginal race hitherto discovered in the Indies.

"They are a happy, careless people, fond of festivities, dancing, singing, story-telling and contests of strength and skill, yet sufficiently industrious to cultivate their fields and garden patches, build excellent houses for their families, braid mats of fine texture and construct canoes which were the admiration of all the early navigators. They were much given to buffoonery, mockery, playing tricks, jesting, mimicry and ridicule, offering in this respect a striking contrast to the undemonstrative Malaysians.

"The natives of Guam are, as a rule, of good physique and pleasing appearance. Owing to their mixed blood, their complexion varies from the white of a Caucasian to the brown of a Malay. Most of them have glossy black hair, which is either straight or slightly curly. It is worn short by the men and long by the women, either braided, coiled, or dressed after the styles prevailing in Manila.

"The people are especially agricultural. There are few masters and few servants on the island. As a rule the farms are not too extensive to be cultivated by the family; all the members, even the little children, lend a hand."

Knew That Much.

The owner of a house on the South side had a tinner to figure on putting on a new gutter, rebates the Indianapolis News. When the tinner gave him the price on the job the owner exclaimed, "Why man, I would never pay that price. I'll put it on myself, first."

"But now stop and think; you would have to buy a level just to put on that little piece of gutter," said the tinner. "I don't see where you would save any money."

This made the owner think. But the next minute he replied, "Say! Don't you think that I have enough brains to know that all I've got to do is pour a bucket of water in that gutter. If the water runs out I guess the job will do."

Beverages With Meals.

Drs. R. J. Miller, O. Bergoin, M. E. Bellfuss and P. B. Hawk of Philadelphia, have been testing the effect of water, tea, coffee and coco on the digestion of meals of mixed foods. They report to the American Journal of Physiology (Baltimore) that one liter of cold water, tea, either hot or cold, or hot coffee drunk with a meal does not delay the passage of the food from the stomach, but the addition of sugar to the coffee does slightly delay the process. Coco markedly delays it. Coffee, tea and water seem also to stimulate gastric secretion, but coco delays it, and coffee with sugar and cream has less effect.

Fund to Accumulate for Century.

"A professor and his wife" have placed \$50,000 in the hands of the authorities of Cornell university, to accumulate until the funds "amount to about \$6,500,000, when they will be used for the founding of an institute of pure and applied mathematics." It is estimated that the institute will be in operation at the end of 100 years.

Another Way.

"She's decided not to marry again." "That so?" "Yep. Says she's married three men for their money and failed every time. Now she's going to stay single and try to sell all assets to them."

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A Newspaper Relic

F. E. Rummell hands us a copy of the Boston Gazette bearing the date of February 4, 1813, which is something of a newspaper curiosity in this day and age. The paper is a 5-column, 4-page sheet and set in minion type. It contains congressional news, Massachusetts legislative news, several communications relative to the then recent defeat of Napoleon in Russia, and many advertisements. Paper was probably expensive in those days as at present, for no display advertising appears in the Gazette. Cold weather is reported—16 below at Portland, Maine, and at Washington, Pennsylvania, on January 11, 14 below. Only one joke appears and it is a quip at the doctors credited to Polyanthus and speaking of prayers offered in Paris for the restoration of the King's health. "The merchant quits his business to throw himself at the foot of the altar, the artisan his work and the physician his patients, and the patient is so much better for it." The paper has been handed down in Mr. Rummell's family, and was given him by his mother. It bears the address of J. Brooks, written with a quill pen, and the ink still shows up rather distinctly.

Mules Cheaper Than Tractors

Mules are cheaper than tractors at present prices of tractor fuel, a communication from members of the county farm bureau to the association said. The farm bureau asked that the association get together with that body in a move to protest against the present high price of gasoline, which was brought about, the letter said, by a shortage which existed six months ago, and which now is no longer extant. If necessary, the bureau can go into the gasoline business and obtain fuel here more cheaply than the Standard Oil Co. sells it, the letter said. The bureau expressed no desire to compete with an established company providing just rates can be obtained. The letter was referred to the association's automobile committee.

Black Sage Berries Kill Sheep

Sheep have suffered very little this last fall from poisonous plant troubles. One shipment unloading at Juntura were apparently poisoned through eating berries that grew on



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black sage, or else they gorged themselves with this coarse, indigestible plant and died from overloading. Owners moving sheep had best arrange to fill them up in the railroad stock yards on hay before turning them out. Investigations are being made to determine the true cause of this loss at Juntura, which numbered some 1200 head.