

## DEVILS HAUNT SHIP, COOLIE CREW SAYS

### Seven Boarded Castle Wray in Chinese Waters.

New York.—A full share of the wonders of the deep which are seen by those who go down to the sea in ships was reported by the officers of the British cargo steamer Wray Castle, Staten Island, after half a year's voyage around the world.

They said that if the coolie members of the crew were to be believed, they were haunted by no fewer than seven malignant devils during nearly the whole of their sojourn in Chinese waters. It was only when they had reached the Indian ocean that the sailors, by setting off firecrackers, burning joss sticks and throwing overboard tempting meals of roast chicken, could persuade the evil spirits to leave.

The Wray Castle, a sturdy 6,000-ton freighter, left New York last January, but it was not until she reached the Philippines that the presence of the demons was suspected.

#### Things Happen.

While the vessel was at dock in Manila an apprentice lost his balance while painting part of the superstructure. He fell, breaking his collarbone. Shortly afterward, when the vessel had reached Shanghai, Second Officer William Spencer fell into Hatch No. 5. He was nearly killed. When, on the way south toward Singapore, several of the crew sustained minor injuries there was no longer any doubt as to what was the cause.

As a result Chief Steward Wong Jong King, who has been employed by the company twenty years, held a conference with "Number One," the head Chinese. As soon as they reached Singapore the two went to the Buddhist temple, where they asked the priest to send down a "kwong-lo-chuk-chuk man" or magician to drive away the spirits.

The priest told them that the magician would do no good owing to the noise of the harbor. He advised them to let him sell them \$30 worth of fireworks and to buy three fresh chickens. He said this would accomplish their purpose.

When the ship was in midocean the chickens were roasted and placed steaming hot on the hatch covers. They were then thrown overboard in the hope that the devils would follow them. After this for three hours the crew set off the fireworks and burned the joss sticks and false paper money.

Evidently the devils left, for from then on the weather was fair and no accidents took place until the Atlantic ocean was reached. Just past the Azores they ran into a heavy storm.

Wong Jong went to the cabin. "Ship's cats have two black kittens," he said. "Bad joss come engine room again. Make waves go up. Throw overboard quickly all go all right."

The captain allowed one kitten to be consigned to the deep, but insisted on saving the other. Apparently, according to Chief Officer Dwyer, this was not enough for the joss. The bad weather lasted until they reached New York.

## Professor Is Greatest

### Linguist in Europe

Posen, Poland.—Tassilo Schultheis, professor at the University of Posen, who is regarded as one of the greatest linguists in Europe today, knows 33 languages and 240 dialects.

Few people in Posen know him, for he leads the life of a recluse. Snow-white hair—he is only thirty-eight years old—heightens the unusual character of his appearance.

For a number of years he was merely a modest teacher at the "gymnasium," or high school. When his unusual gifts were discovered, however, he was called to the university.

From a remote province in China there recently arrived a letter for a Posen merchant, who took it to the department of oriental languages at the university. The professors in charge pondered over the document for a week, and were about to give up in despair, when one of them remembered Schultheis.

"Why, that's such-and-such dialect, spoken by only a few thousand people in China," he said, and locked himself up in his study for the next 36 hours. As he emerged, he was able to place a faultless translation into the hands of the Posen merchant.

## \$700,000 a Year Is

### Cost of Sunburn

Atlantic City, N. J.—Approximately \$700,000 can be saved to American employers if the practice of overexposure to the sun at beaches to gain a coat of tan is discouraged, says Dr. Charles F. Pabst, professor of skin diseases at the Greenpoint hospital, Brooklyn.

"Bathers should be warned that lying in the sun for hours at a time is a dangerous practice which often results in serious harm," said Doctor Pabst. "The skin cannot manufacture pigments quickly enough to protect one from injury unless the first exposures are of short duration and are lengthened only gradually. The sun emits more ultra-violet light during July and August than at any other time of the year. It may damage the skin cells and even produce death."

Doctor Pabst estimates that 10,000 working days are lost every week of summer annually as a result of intense sunburn. Putting the average working wage at \$7, he sees a loss to employers of \$70,000 a week, or \$700,000 for the ten weeks of summer.

## GAS WILL PROPEL LARGEST ZEPPELIN

### Germans Start Drive for Funds to Complete It.

Friedrichshafen, Germany.—Work is progressing favorably on the world's largest Zepplin-type dirigible, half again as large as the Los Angeles and designed to test the feasibility of trans-Atlantic passenger and packet service.

The dirigible will be the first to be propelled by gas instead of a liquid fuel, an epoch-making invention credited to the Zepplin works chemist, Doctor Lempertz.

It will be named the "L. Z. 127." Dr. Hugo Eckener, commander of the Los Angeles on the flight from Friedrichshafen to Lakehurst in October, 1924, is in charge of the construction. The air giant will cost approximately \$1,300,000, being raised by popular subscription.

Doctor Eckener said the hydrogen content of the gas bag will be 8,500,000 cubic feet, exceeding that of the Los Angeles by 1,400,000 cubic feet. It will be slightly longer than the Los Angeles and propelled by five 420-horse-power Maybach motors.

The gas fuel, the exact composition of which remains secret, Doctor Eckener said, is more efficient than gasoline or benzol and will simplify navigation by eliminating difficulties arising from carrying heavy loads of liquid fuel and from manipulating the gas-bag content or ballast to make up for fuel consumption.

The dirigible is expected to be completed about August, 1927, though less than half the cost has been raised. A renewed patriotic effort to raise the remainder of the money is to be made this summer.

## Boy Battles Seal to

### Save Life of Pet Dog

New York.—The almost boundless affection of a boy for his pet dog, coupled with a fight for life between the dog and a young seal that almost resulted in the drowning of both dog and master, furnished the material for a thrilling afternoon for Nelson Hoef, fourteen-year-old student, and his dog Dignity Kid.

Dignity Kid and his young master went for a romp along Baker's beach. Just off shore near some rocks a young seal was disputing itself, and Dignity Kid made for the seal. With a joyful yelp he swung onto the seal's starboard flipper.

There was a series of quick canine yelps of pain, then the seal and dog disappeared. In a moment the dog's head appeared above water and he started struggling toward the beach. The seal had fastened its teeth in his hind leg.

Nelson plunged in the surf, armed with a short stick. Unmindful of the facial scratches he received as Dignity Kid's paws struck him while struggling to shake the seal off, Nelson wrapped one arm around the dog and with the stick reached down and made a quick lunge that broke the seal's hold.

Nelson was sixty yards from shore and tiring rapidly. He was unable to make it, but he refused to let go his pet. He called for help.

Jack Bernstein and Louis Texter, both members of Company I, Thirtieth infantry, were swimming at the other end of Baker's beach. They heard the cries and in a moment had both boy and dog ashore.

## Sword That Opened Way

### Into Florida, 1565, Back

New York.—The sword that led the way of civilization into Florida came back to America recently, after an absence of more than three centuries.

The sword is that carried by Pedro Menendez de Aviles, Spanish mariner, who founded St. Augustine in 1565. It was carried down a gangplank from the liner Manuel Arnus by Cesar de Madariaga, royal commissioner general from Spain to the Sesquicentennial exhibition at Philadelphia. The weapon, with a blade 3 1/4 feet long, has been in the Naval museum at Madrid since its owner died.

With the sword came a collection of tapestries and Spanish art, valued at \$30,000,000, all to be exhibited in the Andalusian pavilion at the sesquicentennial.

## Plane's Right to Fly

### Over Farm Upheld

Lincoln, Neb.—A temporary injunction to prevent an aircraft corporation's planes from flying over the premises of Emil Glatt, whose farm adjoins the flying field, has been denied by District Judge Stewart.

In addition to the injunction Glatt asked \$10,000 damages. He complained that noise of the airplane motors frightened his chickens, disturbed his rest, produced nervousness and was detrimental to his general health.

## Bitten by a Rattler, Shoots Into Wound

Laramie, Wyo.—The rattlesnake bite antidote employed by William Ringelberg, sheep herder, is a little rough, but efficacious. When he was bitten, he had no knife with which to bleed the wound, so he sucked the wound and then fired a blank cartridge into it. A passing motorist brought him to a hospital, where he is recovering.

## GREAT READING DAM WILL FLOOD GRAVES

### Reservoir Will Cover Two Old Cemeteries.

Reading, Pa.—Construction of the huge Maiden creek dam by the city of Reading, the contract for which was awarded to the McLenn Construction company of Baltimore, at a bid of \$398,000, will wipe out two rural cemeteries. Actual work will be started shortly and the dam will back up the waters of the creek, covering parts of three townships, to serve as an impounding reservoir to take care of Reading's water needs for many years.

The descendants of the Maiden creek pioneers feel keenly the desecration of their cemeteries. Many of the residents of Maiden Creek, Ontonagon and Richmond townships have relatives buried in the plot at the Friends' meeting house or in Forney's cemetery, both of which are included in the area proposed to be flooded. **Goose Back to 1730.**

The burial plot of the Friends' meeting house dates back to 1730, with interments as recently as two years ago. The first burials were made in unmarked graves. The faith of those worshipping there forbids any showing whatsoever, with the result that no tombstones were erected to mark the last resting place of the pioneer settlers of the section. Since the cemetery is to be relocated it will mean that the entire plot to a depth of at least six or seven feet will have to be gone over, as it is impossible to locate all the graves. Only the more recent are marked. It is this that disturbs those who have relatives interred there.

The parents of State Secretary of Agriculture Frank P. Willis and William Willis, an implement dealer, at Calicum, are buried in the old graveyard. Both men made a plea before the state water power and resources board to save the cemetery, but the board granted the permit to the city to proceed with the work of erecting the dam. Many other descendants of the pioneers of the Maiden creek region had representatives at the hearing before the state board, some of the oldest families in that section being represented. The board, however, refused to delay the matter of water supply.

Forney's graveyard is a family plot and is located on the farm of Jacob Forney. The entire farm will be taken by the city and the burial plot will have to be relocated. This has been the burial place for the family for a number of generations and always has been maintained in first-class condition.

#### Historic Landmark.

The destruction of the Friends' meeting house will remove an historic landmark. It was erected in 1730 by the Society of Friends and has weathered the storms of almost two centuries. In late years it has been used as a place of worship, but hardly a day passes that one or more descendants of those responsible for its creation do not visit the hallowed spot.

Down through the ages the old meeting house has stood as a monument to the efforts of the Lightfoots, Starrs, Parvins, Wylers, Penroses, Lees, Houltons and others, who were among the first settlers. They blazed the trail in an uncharted land and, after many years, were successful in giving Berks one of the most productive agricultural sections, only to have their descendants viewing the disturbance of the remains resting for more than a century in the burial plot.

The erection of the impounding dam is a big undertaking and has been under consideration for some time by the city council. It will solve Reading's water-supply problem for many years to come.

## Anonymous Rector Gives

### Phone Advice to Troubled

London.—Anybody with troubles other than financial, may, by calling East 0548, London, talk them over with a sympathetic rector. This is the telephone of an anonymous rector who, he has considerable leisure and has consented to give advice on religious and social problems to persons who feel the need of talking over their affairs with some experienced and disinterested person.

"If I can give a word of encouragement and advice to persons in trouble, it will afford me much pleasure," says the rector. "I prefer to remain anonymous, and I believe most persons in trouble also want to talk without making their identity known. But if there are troubled persons who want personal interviews with me, I shall be glad to make appointments at my home."

## Intermarriage Blots

### Out Hawaiian Races

Honolulu.—If interracial marriages in Hawaii continue at the present rate, it will be a wise child, after a few generations, who even knows to what race his ancestors belonged, in the belief of Dr. Romano Adams, head of the department of sociology at the University of Hawaii.

Thirty-five per cent of the marriages of white men in the islands are with women of other races, Doctor Adams said. More white men than women contract interracial marriage, because there are more white men here, owing to the presence of large numbers of soldiers.

The pure-blooded Hawaiians and Portuguese are disappearing, he said, while the part-Hawaiian and the part-Portuguese groups are growing.

## GOOD ROADS

### MORE AND BETTER ROADS EXPECTED

Highway construction for 1928 will result not only in better and smoother roads, but new records are expected to be made in roadway building, according to a survey just completed by C. R. Stokes, manager of the highway construction department of the National Line association.

A series of tests made in various sections of the country show that by adding hydrated lime to the mix, a material saving in time is secured, particularly on grades and curves, according to leading engineers and contractors who took part in the tests. Experiments in building a road in Marathon county, Wisconsin, showed that an average of 77 more lineal feet of 18-foot road was laid a day when lime was used.

"All of the reports showed that lime added to the concrete mix allows it to be placed easier, and permits a quicker finish," Mr. Stokes said. "The contractor's report that there is no excess of water to be removed from the pavement surface, and that maximum consistency can be maintained through better control of the water content." The contractors reported that the use of lime not only conserved time, with a resultant reduction in pay roll expenses, but also gave the road to the public for use at an earlier date.

According to T. Warren Allen, chief of the division of control of the bureau of public roads, the "lost-time" element is a problem that is of the greatest importance in road building. Appearing before the house committee on roads recently Mr. Allen declared that the bureau of public roads was collecting information to show the results of poor management and good management in the building of highways.

"There are a great many more items in the lost-time category than would appear possible at first thought," he said, "and during the time that work is actually performed there are widely varying results, ranging from excellent progress due to good management, to slow progress due to poor management."

"On the Janesville road in Wisconsin, as well as on roads in Ohio, the mix containing lime was so dry that rolling was unnecessary, reports received by Mr. Stokes from those states show.

"The elimination of this operation increased the efficiency of the job and enabled the finishers to work close to the machine, which resulted in a large saving in overtime finishing costs," Mr. Stokes declared.

"Reports from all sections of the country being received at present indicate that more roadway will be made during the coming summer months in highway construction than ever before, and that the roads will be open to the public much sooner as a result of our tests, showing a large saving of time in the laying of concrete roads," he said.

## Chicago Promised Real

### Traffic Congestion Soon

Within the next five years Chicago will have twice as many automobiles as it had in 1925.

This is the forecast of Cook county traffic issued by the bureau of good roads of the United States Department of Agriculture.

In its statement making this prediction the bureau outlined a plan for highway improvement to prevent traffic congestion on the county highways at that time, when there will be an average of one car for every 4.80 persons in Chicago.

These figures, bureau officials stated, are not guesses, but careful estimates based on traffic data obtained in Cook county, together with population trends and the rate of motor increase during the years 1914 to 1924.

## Good Roads Notes

Throughout the United States there are 96,929 state and federal government-owned motor vehicles.

Rough roads cause considerable damage to the working parts of an automobile. Uneven roads are often unnoticed while driving, as the body of the car does not shake with the axles and differential.

The 11 states traversed by the Lincoln highway, between New York city and San Francisco, with the aid of the federal government, spent more than \$9,000,000 during 1925 to put the route in first-class condition.

There are many wide streets and broad boulevards paved in the United States, but the widest city thoroughfare on record is in San Bernardino, Calif. It is Third street, paved its entire width of 180 feet from curb to curb.

The most heavily traveled grade crossing in Los Angeles is to be eliminated by the construction of a subway underneath an elevation of the railroad tracks. The cost is estimated at \$237,000, exclusive of property damage.

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#### Ancestry of Chickens.

It is generally believed that the parent stock of the domestic chicken is the red jungle fowl, which inhabits northern India, the Malay peninsula, and even parts of the Philippines. The bird was first domesticated in Burma or the adjacent countries. The Chinese have a tradition that they received their fowls from the West about the year 1400 B. C.

#### Lighting Dark Corner.

By placing a small oval mirror in a dark corner it will catch the light and reflect it. This at once makes the corner brighter and more attractive. The mirror can also be used as a decoration, particularly if it is ornamental with a flower design, either frosted or painted, and is attached to the wall with glass rosettes.

#### Mind Impressions.

The expression "persistence time" is used in the movie world to signify the frequency with which the mind can receive impressions. It is known that this time is one-sixteenth of a second. Pictures presented at the rate of sixteen to a second, therefore, produce the effect of continuous motion.

#### Photographing Mirage.

The bureau of standards says that it believes that a mirage can be photographed if clearly visible. The weather bureau has not taken any photographs of a mirage, and it does not know of any photographs that are considered good. There have been some poor ones made by individuals.

#### Roasted Freak.

Vermont Paper.—Burglars who visited the house of Mrs. James G. Wilson last night ate the two hind legs of a fresh-cooked turkey. — Boston Transcript.

#### Iron Highly Important.

Iron, although present in the body in the proportion of only about two-thousandths of 1 per cent, is an important constituent, being found in the red corpuscles of the blood.

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#### Government and Citizen.

We can get good government only upon condition that we keep true to the principles upon which the nation was founded, and judge each man, not as a part of a class, but upon his individual merits.—Theodore Roosevelt.

#### Pigeon's Long Memory.

A homing pigeon has returned to the loft of Mr. J. W. Andrews at Beth, England, after an absence of three years and nine months. This is considered a remarkable instance of bird memory.

#### Politeness Extraordinary

A trained nurse in Touro Infirmary says the politest and most grateful man she ever met is a patient in her ward, who was eloquent and profuse in his thanks when she gave him a big dose of castor oil.

#### Hoodoo in Tennis.

In tennis circles it is generally reckoned unlucky for a player to wear green, and even a racquet strung with green gut or with green binding on the frame is looked at askance by many players.

#### "Dead Water"

The nautical definition of dead water is the mass of eddying water forming along the vessel's sides in her progress through the water.

#### Missing and Married.

A pessimist is a man who has lost heart and has no great shakes of a liver.—Boston Transcript.

#### Practically So.

He who stands still in this hustling age is going behind because others pass him.—Boston Transcript.

#### Columbia Cruised World.

The Stars and Stripes was first carried around the world by the ship Columbia, of Salem, Mass., in 1790.

#### No System is Perfect.

It is necessary to have some sense, even in a safety zone.—Toledo Blade.

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