

The AZORES ISLANDS



On the Street of Ponta Delgada.

(Prepared by the National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C.)

WITH the coming of spring and summer the Azores islands take on an added interest, for several of the trans-Atlantic airplane flights being planned for this year will use these mid-ocean isles as a stopping and refueling point, just as merchant vessels have used them for centuries.

Although much has been written about the origin of the islands, this is still a matter of conjecture. Interesting arguments have been advanced to prove they are remnants of the lost continent, Atlantis. One theory is that the islands are the topmost peaks of a subterranean range of mountains extending north and south, and another that they were at one time a part of the continent. English geographers have taken a deep interest in the study of the islands, and it is not improbable that botanical investigations will prove that the latter theory is correct. But whatever may have been the origin of the islands, they are certainly the result of tremendous volcanic eruptions that have continued to change their physical aspect ever since their discovery in the fifteenth century.

According to a Moorish account, written before the thirteenth century, an Arabian caravan started from Portugal to discover new lands. Sailing westward for eleven days, the sailors suddenly found themselves in a sea of "fetid gases" and confronted by dangerous rocks and shoals, which so frightened them that they turned southward. It is quite possible that these daring Arabian sailors reached the Azorean waters during a volcanic disturbance, which prevented their further discoveries.

Pico the Highest Volcano.

Pico, 7,613 feet high, on the island bearing the same name, is interesting as the central and highest volcano of the islands. It is considered by some as the principal communication of this region with the interior of the earth. Light clouds of vapor occasionally rise from its summit and the ashes at the top are still warm.

St. Michaels has perhaps suffered more from volcanic disturbances than any of the other islands; but Santa Maria, only 53 miles south of St. Michaels, has always been free from eruptions and even heavy earthquakes.

Portuguese architecture was, of course, brought over to the islands by the early settlers. Many of the houses are built of massive blocks of lava rock. The interiors are divided into spacious rooms, provided with many windows and doors that often connect with long rows of balconies. Ornamental designs worked in plaster of paris decorate the painted walls and ceilings. Large chimneys stand like sentinels on the roofs. These chimneys, having long narrow openings, are in some cases eight feet wide at the lower part where they rise from the fireplace in the kitchen.

Back of the houses are flower gardens surrounded by high walls. These walls, sometimes 15 feet high, are found everywhere on the island, often inclosing the roads for a long distance.

The Azoreans of the rural districts of the island of Saint Michaels lead rather monotonous lives. The husband or father leaves his home at daybreak to till the soil, while the female members of the family attend to their domestic duties, carry their corn to the nearest windmill, and bring back the meal for the week. Mass on Sunday morning and a walk or visit in the afternoon constitute, in many cases, the only change in their simple lives throughout most of the year. They welcome, with great enthusiasm, therefore, the two great religious celebrations that center around the metropolis of Ponta Delgada, the procession of Santo Christo, and the Imperio do Espirito Santo or Holy Ghost.

Procession of Santo Christo.

The procession of Santo Christo takes place on the fifth Sunday after Easter. In the afternoon of the day before, the image is taken out of the convent, where it remains all year. It is carried into the adjoining church, which is kept open all night for the 15,000 people who come from

far and near, many of them from other islands, to worship and witness the great procession of the year. The pilgrims walk long distances, and make their beds in the park in front of the church or sleep in the vestibule itself. Nor do the faithful worshippers in the United States forget their beloved image. Generous contributions arrive from America, and in remembrance of absent friends, the American flag is produced in the form of pyrotechnical displays in the Park of San Francisco.

The second of the great religious festivals is the Imperio do Espirito Santo, or Holy Ghost, which extends over a period of ten or more weeks, from Easter Sunday until Salut Peter's day. The season is marked by a series of processions, but the principal and most interesting feature is the poor people. On the last Sunday mormons, or chiefs, whose duty it is to collect money and other gifts, are selected for the ensuing year.

The most attractive feature of carnival time is the "Battle of Flowers" in the square of San Francisco at Ponta Delgada. Those wishing to participate prepare their coaches for that purpose, covering them with elaborate floral designs. Since the introduction of automobiles, these are also used, the bodies and wheels of the cars often forming solid masses of flowers and oranges. The coaches are loaded with baskets full of flowers and confetti. Soon the street and park become a solid mass of people, and the progress of the vehicles is obstructed. Then the battle begins and rages everywhere until the battlefield is covered with a thick carpet of flowers and confetti, and the immaculately dressed women and girls, flushed with the exciting hardship of attack and defense, present a fascinating picture.

Garb of the People.

The handkerchief still forms the principal head covering of the older women of the peasant class, while the younger wear fancy scarfs. Wooden shoes are also worn by many of the peasant women and servants. The old Carpaucas, with its cape falling over the shoulders to protect the neck from the cold, is not used as extensively by the men as in former years, but the tasseled cap used by the laboring class is often seen in the streets of Ponta Delgada.

In the cities many of the women wear a special garb known as the "capote and capella." The capote is a long blue cloak, to which is attached the large bonnet-shaped hood known as capella, which completely hides the face, extending far out in the front and back. This costume is not found elsewhere in Portugal.

Santa Maria, the second island of the eastern district, is much smaller than St. Michaels. On a clear day its outline may be discerned from St. Michaels. Villa do Porto, on the bay of Santa Luzia, is the largest town. This island furnishes much of the red volcanic clay that is used in the manufacture of all kinds of pottery, such as the porous water bottles that keep the water cool, jugs, jars, and other receptacles, some of which are very artistically designed. The mountains of this island range from 1,700 to 1,900 feet.

Of the central group, Fayal is the most important. The city of Horta is the principal port. It has a well-protected harbor and is the great cable station of the Atlantic. Nine cables connect the Azores with all parts of the world. A message has been sent around the world from New York via Horta in 11 minutes. The lace workers of Fayal are famous for their skill in making a beautiful drawwork called "crivo."

The islands of Pico, Terceira, Sao Jorge, and Graciosa lie close to Fayal. Pico is separated from Fayal by a narrow channel, only five miles wide.

Terceira is the most interesting of this group from an historical point of view. A naturally fortified place. Angra, the picturesque capital, was the central point of battles and political disturbances of by-gone times. The castle of S. Joao Batista, the old Spanish fortification built on the slope of Monte Brazil, is an interesting relic of the seventeenth century. The massive walls of this castle extend down to the sea front and to the edge of the city.

New Dresses for The School Girl

By MAE MARTIN

Thousands of mothers with daughters of high school or college age, have problems like this Little Rock, Arkansas, mother. She says: "I don't believe I could have put my daughter through the last two years of high school and college without the help of Diamond Dyes. Dresses long out of style and faded were made new with a package or so of Diamond Dyes and the addition of a few dozen buttons and a little braid. Sometimes two dresses were combined and brought up to date in lines that gave no hint of their past. People never knew they were redyed when I used Diamond Dyes. They never take the life out of cloth or make it limp. They always make things fresh, crisp and bright."

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Death rates from heart disease, pneumonia, cancer, tuberculosis and diabetes were all higher in 1926 than in 1925, government figures show.

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Tully, N. Y.—"It hurt me to walk or sit, down without help and I felt sick and weak. My mother-in-law took Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound and she induced me to take it. I am now on the fourth bottle and have also used Lydia E. Pinkham's Sanative Wash. The medicine that will do for me what the Vegetable Compound and Sanative Wash have done are certainly worth their weight in gold. I think I have given them a fair trial and I expect to take two more bottles of the Vegetable Compound."—MRS. CHARLES MORGAN, R. F. D. 1, Tully, N. Y.

W. N. U., PORTLAND, OR. 18-1928.

Money Talks
"He says money talks."
"Yes, he found that out as soon as he married it."



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Trees of Past Ages in Botanical Garden

Seeding trees of a species that represents the vegetation of Florida 100,000 years ago, during the glacial epoch, have been added to the collection in the New York Botanical garden as the result of a scientific tour of the state by Dr. John K. Small. The trees, which are known as Torreya, or locally as Savers, belong to the botanical genus Taxodium, and occur naturally in a small strip of territory along the east bank of the Appalachicola river, in the Florida panhandle. They occur nowhere else in the world, though related species are found in California, Japan and China. They resemble few trees in some ways, and can be cultivated under the same sort of climatic conditions that favor the yew.

Beasts of the Jungle

The African wild buffalo, according to Martin Johnson, is one of the most dangerous customers on the trail—"a cutthroat from the word go." The zebra is silly and stupid, "a first-class rowdy." The leopard is a killer, "the gunman of the forest." The giraffe he calls "the creature that God forgot." The elephants are "the fine, upstanding, middle-class citizenry of the jungle." The rhinoceros is "always fighting, always grunting, always looking for trouble."

Autumn Wisdom

Claire Meredith, the brilliant poet, disembarking from a sumptuous liner, talked to a New York reporter about a retired actress who had condemned severely the immorality of modern plays, modern dances and modern youth.

His Father's Boy

Aunt—What does your new baby brother look like, Junior?
Detective's Son—He's got small features, clean-shaven, red-faced, and rather bald.

Preacher Surely Had Right to Be Annoyed

E. S. Harkness, the philanthropist and patron of the arts who recently gave \$250,000 to the New York Memorial hospital for the purchase of four grams of radium, was talking at the University club against speculation. Speculation is demoralizing," he said. "There was once a country preacher who speculated in all stock. A deacon asked him some time afterward: 'Well, doctor, what have you done with that old stock of yours?' 'Done? I've been done. Got cheated out of it,' the preacher said. 'No!' said the deacon. 'No! How come?' 'Why,' said the preacher, 'I thought the stuff was valueless, you see, and so I unloaded it on a greenhorn for a song. But it turned out to be worth thousands, and that swindler who bought it from me knew it all the time.'—Kansas City Star.

Grim Relic Now a Font

Near the Fiji village of Suva where reigned "King" Cakobau before he gave his island empire to Queen Victoria as an expression of good will, is a grim relic. It is a heart-shaped stone on which Fijian warriors in their unregenerate days smashed out the brains of their captives in war. The stone, which has a depression in the top, now is used by the reformed natives as a baptismal font.

Who's Responsible?

Father—Here, Billy, you shouldn't hit Harry. Because Harry hit you is no reason to retaliate.
Billy—Well, he retaliated first.

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