

The Hermiston Herald

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BASKING SHARK NEVER BITES

This May Have Been Fortunate for Men Who Caught Monster Off Long Key.

The 40,000-pound sea monster caught off Long Key has been identified as an Indo-Pacific basking shark by L. L. Mowbray, vice president of the New York aquarium. The basking shark, Mr. Mowbray announces, is harmless when let alone. Permit him to bask placidly on the undulating bosom of the sea, and he bears no creature ill will.

It is fortunate for those who go down to the sea in ships or down to the surf to swim that the creature is thus disposed. It required an all-day struggle and 50 shots from a high-powered rifle to subdue him, once his wrath was stirred by the stab of a harpoon. He was 55 feet long, 28 feet in greatest circumference and had a tail span of 12 feet.

Were such a creature of an aggressive nature the sea in his vicinity would be hardly safe for the average submarine, while pleasure boats would afford no protection whatever from his fury, and if he used the waters of the North Atlantic coast as a basking ground surf bathing would soon become obsolete.

Hitherto the children of the earth have found abundant reason for gratitude that rattlesnakes cannot fly like hawks, or tigers run like antelopes, or houseflies sting like wasps. To this list of blessings we may now add the fact that basking sharks do not bite. —New York Times.

HEALTHY BABIES OF JAPAN

They Seem to Have a Hard Time, According to Our Ideas, but Thrive Nevertheless.

According to our modern scientific ideas as to the careful treatment of babies, those of Japan would seem to have a hard time, and yet there are no healthier, nor fatter looking little mortals on the face of the earth. We insist on a fixed temperature, on sterilized milk, on all sorts of improved things, while the Japanese baby gets a good dose of nature, and seems to

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thrive on it. It is dressed and undressed in a frigid temperature in winter, and in summer its tender little eyes are always exposed to the full glare of the sun, as it is carried on its mother's back. It is to be feared, however, that this latter treatment often does affect the eyes of the children, though they get over it later in life. At Nagasaki, among the women coalers who coal the ship, you may see many with babies on their backs. The mothers work all day in the rain or in the sun, or the snow, and there baby sleeps, indifferent to everything, the top of its head alone visible, while the movements of the mother do not seem in the least hindered, and she as if the babies of this class were born stoics!

Modern Jerusalem.

The ancient city of Jerusalem, where Christ did so many of his mighty works, now has a modern waterworks system. The reservoirs known as the Pools of Solomon were not really Solomon's at all, but were made by Roman engineers. These have been cleaned out and their leaks stopped. Now two of them are at work again. They hold 40,000,000 gallons.

The pools are supplied from a spring in a cavern called Bir Darash. A large quantity of gravel and stones has been removed, and the aqueduct and tunnels between the spring and the pools repaired; and Jerusalem has its up-to-date waterworks—a splendid tribute to the science of ancient Rome.

For many years the origin of Jerusalem's water supply was a secret. During the siege of Jerusalem the besiegers were disappointed in their hope of the city surrendering through lack of water.

Uncle Jasper.

"Proverbs ain't always correct," began Uncle Jasper. "I'll cite you a case. Some years ago Rothschild decided to add to his collection of mosses and lichens from many parts of the world, but he wanted more. He wanted moss from the Urals, from the Arctic circle, from the tip end of Patagonia. He was ready to pay a good salary. And who did he employ to gather this moss? A rolling stone." —Louisville Courier-Journal.

CANNED MUSIC IN YUCATAN

Demand for American Talking Machines in Yucatan, Says Our Consul at Progreso.

The talking machine is as popular in Yucatan as in the United States, according to a report to the Department of Commerce from O. G. Marsh, United States consul at Progreso. Small, cheap instruments cheer the Indian but, ordinary machines are found in middle-class homes, and the most elaborate cabinet styles grace the mansions of the wealthy. Perhaps no other modern invention has done more to enliven these homes. An enterprising local dealer has popularized and capitalized this idea in a phrase: "How happy is the home that has its phonograph."

The American machine has monopolized the market. Old styles with horn have had an extensive sale, but cabinet designs are preferred by most customers. A few portable instruments have been sold.

Practically all orders have been placed by importers direct with factories on factory-price quotations, railway and steamship freight and marine insurance being attended to by American agents of importers or by freight forwarders at American ports. The largest importer, and the one who has done a large part of the local business, has purchased on open credit. Other firms have been, and will have to be dealt with in accordance with their financial standing and credit rating. The most recent shipment, by a manufacturer just entering the Yucatan market, was on a documents against payment basis.

Almost all records sold in Yucatan are of well-known American makes. The most popular have been American fox trots and Latin-American songs and dance music. The principal importers have dealt with manufacturers of records on the same basis as with makers of phonographs, but a considerable number of records enter in a manner difficult to trace and are sold at varying prices by small dealers.

Blue Law.

When they closed the bar on one of the transatlantic liners bound for the land of liberty one of the passengers protested. "Seems like you're closing up awful soon; how far are we from land, anyway?"

"Just about three miles," answered the steward politely.

"Funny we can't see it!"

"You could, if the water were clear enough." —Los Angeles Times.

No Trespassing.

On a farm in South Georgia is posted this sign:

"Trespasser's will be persecuted to the full extent of 2 mean mongrel dogs which ain't never been ovariectomized with strangers and 1 dubbel barlet shotgun which ain't loaded with no soft pillers. Dam, if I ain't tired of this hel raisin' on my property." —Everybody's Magazine.

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