

Is That So?

By EUGENE BURNS
Ranger-Naturalist

Leaving Honolulu, With Japan Air Lines—We are on our last flight-leg from Honolulu to San Francisco, a distance equal to that which spans our North American continent from Los Angeles to Jacksonville, Fla.

The thought recurs: Vast as is this trackless sea, angry and wind-swept as it can be, how did the Polynesians, surely the greatest of all prehistoric voyagers, pinpoint their tiny island homes over 2,500 miles away, making regular voyages in their seemingly frail canoes year after year with their families?

Tradition is vague today as to the methods employed by these prehistoric ancestors of our golden-skinned Hawaiians, who are citizens of the U.S.A. But this we know: These fearless sea-rovers, born with the thunder of the surf in their ears and the ocean breeze on their cheeks, had a wide and intimate knowledge of their surroundings. They knew the heavens by heart—descendants today can still name 60 stars; they were keenly observant of the winds about them—they still have names for 24 different winds; and they understand the waves, too—they have personal names for more than a dozen waves!

Their oral tradition—much of it gathered by that South Seas expert, Kenneth P. Emory, and recorded by my Polynesian friend, Mary K. Pukui, both of the Bishop Museum, Honolulu—tells us that father instructed son, and he his son, that a string of stars arose from the same pit of the sea each night and beat down to a complementary pit across the horizon. Hence, if the voyagers set their course by Antares (the giant red star, Mars) to a certain island, then any other star from the same pit might also serve as guiding star. Star's Course Followed

So in bearing eastward, the star from that certain pit was used after it had risen clear of the horizon haze. Its course was followed until after it began to curve high in the sky, when it was dropped for another star in the same string, following the same path in the heavens.

But if headwinds demanded that the helmsman take a tack across the true course, then a greater task was set for the navigator's calculation and judgment—it was not enough to have merely a guiding star ahead; it was also necessary to have one directly over the stern, so that the line of these two stars constituted the true course. That way, the navigator always knew where east and west, north and south were, and he could steer near to his true course until the forward and stern guiding stars twinkled again on the horizon, marking the precise course.

Of course, allowances had to be made for ocean currents, crosswinds, and storms—and remembering the tiny pinpoints at which they were aiming, weeks distant, tolerances had to be close for their lives depended upon it. Less than a half-degree change, and the canoe-load was doomed.

What if clouds rolled in across the sky, erasing the stars from his only chart and blotting out the sun by day? And what if they persisted, as they can, for a fortnight? Then the navigator would summon his profound knowledge of the wind and the waves. He knew that from whatever quarter the wind blew, it took on a quality of coolness or warmth, dampness or dryness, gentleness or strength, stead-

iness or gustiness—all of which enabled him to identify the wind and name it and know what it would do.

In Gentle Puffs For example, there was the Maoske which came in gentle puffs from due east; the Maragai which blew heavily from the southeast but less strongly as it veered toward the east. He knew too, according to season, the likely number of days a wind would hold from a certain direction and the wind likely to succeed it.

Further, cloud formations and ocean swells indicated to these experts the coming of rainy or clear weather, adverse or fair winds—vital factors which played a life-saving part in the course chosen. The choice always was between life and slow death when they pin-pointed lone islands, 2,500 miles distant.

With the angle of the wind, the Polynesian depended too, upon the angle of the waves. A feather pennant fluttering from the outer tip of the triangular pandanus-plaited sails served as a sensitive weathervane. Steering by the angle of the wind and the waves, the navigator would notice immediately the shift in one or the other, because the change is never simultaneous—the wave action remains constant long after a wind shifts.

What of the night, when even the light of the stars was blotted out and he could not see the penant or the direction of the waves? Then this master of navigation lowered a stone tied to the end of a fibre and from its tug knew the direction his boat was running.

Small wonder that songs were dedicated to the helmsman's steering paddle; that the navigator was celebrated in chant.

Free: By special arrangement with the editors of the Encyclopedia Americana, my panel of judges will award each week to the reader who sends me the best true-life nature adventure, the best nature observation, or the best question on nature and wildlife, a complete 30-volume set of this world-famous reference work in a handsome Sealcraft binding. Each week new submissions will be considered. Sorry, I simply can't answer your many friendly letters.

Please address your letter to: IS THAT SO? c/o Medford Mail Tribune, Box 575, Sausalito, Calif.

San Francisco—UP—Maurice A. Hutcheson, general president of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters, has criticized AFL-CIO President George Meany for threatening to suspend the Teamsters' Union.

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Mental illness is taking a greater toll in the United States today than ever before in our history.

According to recent figures, there are some 700,000 men, women and children in mental hospitals—more people in mental hospitals than in all other hospitals combined.

In Observance of Mental Health Week, April 29 to May 5, the Medford Public Library called attention to books available at the library on the country's No. 1 health problem.

Mental hygiene information can be found in such recent books as John Schindler's "How to Live 365 Days a Year," a guide to mental hygiene written for the average reader who wants medical lingo translated into the language of every day. Everyday Problems

Another is Wendell Johnson's "People in Quandaries," dealing with the problems that plague all of us day in and day out. "Psychiatry and Common

Sense," by C. S. Bluemel gives a sane and sound interpretation of the mind and emotions and how they affect all of us.

A helpful and readable book on this subject is "Why You Do What You Do," edited by Robert Linscott and Jess Stein. David H. Fink's "For People Under Pressure," is a self-analytic anodyne for the complexity of contemporary living.

A number of books tell how to overcome fear, worry, anxiety and emotional strain. They include David Fink's "Release from Nervous Tension," Lowell Ditzgen's "Personal Security Through Faith," Bonaro W. Overstreet's "Understanding Fear in Ourselves and Others," George Lawton's "Aging Successfully," and many others.

The library also has many books on self-improvement, psychology, personal living, psychiatry, and other related subjects. All of these books are available at the Medford Public Library and any branch of the Jackson County Library district.

In the Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS
President Eisenhower's health is a big political issue back here in the East (where these words are written.) The Democrats say the wicked Republicans have prevailed upon a VERY SICK MAN to run again.

They intimate that prevailing upon him to run is a personal crime so far as the President is concerned and from the standpoint of the nation at large is a political crime in that if he is elected he can be only a "part-time" President because of the state of his health.

This the Republicans vigorously deny.

WHAT is the truth? Not being the President's personal physician, I wouldn't know.

I can only offer here a few personal observations.

A LITTLE more than a week ago, our President vetoed the hodge-podge farm bill that had been batted up to him by the Democrats after they had hashed it up to the point where he HAD to veto it. (Their strategy was to force him to veto it so that they could claim he is the enemy of the farmer, thus giving them the chance to garner enough big state farm votes to enable them to win the election this fall.)

Shortly after his veto of the farm bill, Ike made a personal talk over a television hook-up to explain his veto. The talk was staged in the White House. It was a good talk, but the President's personal appearance on the screen that night was certainly not flattering to his candidacy. He looked AWFUL. His face was gray and haggard and lifeless. He seemed shrunken and old and worn.

Someone sitting in the group in which I was watching the TV screen remarked in a shocked voice: "Why, the poor man! I don't believe he'll ever be able to make it through the campaign."

On the evidence of the television show, it sounded like a logical observation.

SO MUCH for his TV appearance on the occasion of his farm bill veto.

A few nights later, he appeared IN PERSON before the nation's editors, assembled in their annual convention at the Statler hotel in Washington. That was a different story. In PERSON, Ike was tanned and husky. At the table, during the dinner at which he was the honored speaker, he chatted animatedly with his neighbors to the right and left.

When he arose to speak (at the exactly timed instant when all the lines were cleared so that at the predetermined moment people all over the land could settle down in their living rooms to watch their President in action) he was full of zing and vigor. His voice was strong and clear.

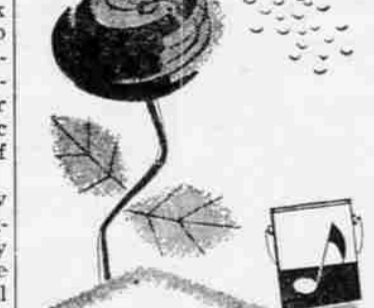
To everyone, Republicans and Democrats alike, he seemed in the pink of condition.

THEN—

When the TV show was over and the world was no longer looking in—

He arose in his place to make an extemporaneous talk to the guests. He spoke for more than a quarter of an hour. Throughout this informal appearance, he seemed even fuller of zing and energy and enthusiasm than he had been before.

If ever there was a picture of health and strength, it was presented by Ike there in the Presidential room of the Statler hotel, addressing the nation's



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editors. He was obviously enjoying every minute of it, and if he felt any fatigue he concealed it well.

YOU can draw your own conclusions. But I'll offer this advice:

Don't pay too much attention to what you hear about Ike's health. My personal faith in his integrity is such that I'm sure if he'd felt himself physically unable to assume the strains of a political campaign he would have refused to run.

I'd say that HE feels he is a WELL MAN.

4-H Club News

Phoenix Sheep Club
Phoenix Sheep club met April 21 at the home of their leader, Charles Swingle.

Vice-president Fred Swingle presided. Pictures were shown of members and their sheep.

Rogue River Dairy Club
The Rogue River Dairy club met at Strickland's on April 21 at 1 p.m. Members present were

Ronald McGee, Sandra McGee, David Parson, Larry Moorman and Zane Strickland.

We discussed our calves and preparing them to show at Gold Hill May 19, at 10 p.m. We also discussed ways and means of raising money for our club.

Parents present were Mr. McGee, Mrs. Strickland and our leaders Ed and Betty Parsons. Our next meeting will be May 12 at 1 p.m. at Parsons. Refreshments were served and we adjourned.

Zane Strickland, Reporter

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40 Only	Toddler's Better Poplin Jackets . . . 1 to 4 . . . Bright Colors . . . Ouch!	1.44
40 Pair	Girls' Better Plisse Pajamas . . . "Baby Doll" Style . . . 7 to 14 . . . To Clear	1.44
100 Only	Better Cannon Bath Towels . . . Solids and Stripes . . . Replace Yours Now!	.50
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75 Only	Men's Rayon Gabardine Sport Shirts . . . Pastels . . . Hurry!	2.00
65 Only	Ladies' Better Purse . . . Plastic Leather and Genuine Corde . . . Grab 'Em!	Plus Tax 1.00
43 Only	Ladies' Better Butcher Rayon Suits . . . 10 to 18 . . . These Get the Axe!	5.00
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80 Only	Women's Better Cotton Plisse Half Slips . . . Shadow Panels . . . A Real Value!	1.00
19 Only	Better White Sheet Blankets . . . 70"x84" . . . Sensational Value	.99
100 Pair	Women's Better Cotton Anklets . . . 8 to 10 . . . Scoop Them Up!	5 Pr. 1.00
45 Pair	Men's Better Dress Shoes . . . Suedes and Leathers . . . 6 1/2 to 11 . . . Wow!	5.00
29 Pair	Men's Better Western Jeans . . . 13 3/4 oz. . . 29 to 36 . . . Special Purchase!	1.66
48 Pair	Better Rayon Drapes . . . 84" Long . . . Pink, Green, Gold . . . Slashed to Clear!	3.00
30 Only	Rubber Fatigue Mats . . . Large Size . . . Come and Get 'Em!	.50
400 Yards	Much Better Gingham . . . Reduced to Clear!	Yd. .50
200 Pair	Boys' Better Nylon Stretch Socks . . . S,M,L . . . Cut to The Bone!	3 Pr. 1.00
50 Only	Women's Much Better Wool Short Coats . . . Pastel Colors . . . 10 to 18	12.00
40 Only	Better Rayon Panels . . . White . . . 40"x81" . . . Wow!	.77
600 Only	Men's Red and Blue Bandana Handkerchiefs . . . Special Purchase . . . 10 for	1.00
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