

## This Week's HISTORY MYSTERY



### What is the Significance of This Object?

**CLUE:** This object is connected with a shipwreck off the Northern coast of Oregon. That the disaster occurred long before 1813 is attested to by a comment made that year by Alexander Henry of Astoria.

**ANSWER:** The object is a piece of the "Nehalem" Spanish vessel wrecked off the Oregon Coast near Astoria. The object is a piece of the "Nehalem" Spanish vessel wrecked off the Oregon Coast near Astoria. The object is a piece of the "Nehalem" Spanish vessel wrecked off the Oregon Coast near Astoria.

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OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
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## Fairbanks Fire Fatal To Woman, Fireman Injured

Fairbanks, Alaska — One woman died and a fireman was injured Saturday night as a result of a fire which spread through the second and third stories of the four-story Lathrop building here.

Mrs. Arthur Schaible, about 45, a professor of biological science at the University of Alaska and wife of a prominent physician here, died in her third floor apartment.

Witnesses said Mrs. Schaible was last seen calling for help from her window when she suddenly collapsed and fell back into her apartment. A fireman later was within reaching distance of her body but was forced to withdraw because of intense heat and smoke.

A Ladd Air Force base fireman was injured and taken to the base hospital when a ladder he and two other firemen were using at the back of the building collapsed.

The three-story cement building includes several apartments and the offices of the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner. A News-Miner reporter, Chuck Hoyt, telephoned: "I'm calling from downstairs in the newspaper office and the fire is heading down the back stairs. I have to hang



### Paul Bunyan News

Two grand operas have been written on Paul Bunyan, Babe the Blue Ox, Johnny Inkslinger, Hells Hells, Cream Puff Fatty and Hot Biscuit Slim. The first grand opera—or operetta—was written by Richard L. Stokes in the 1920s, when he was music critic of the New York Post, and his composer was Howard Hansen, head of the Rochester School of Music. It was published by G. P. Putnam & Sons. The second was written by W. H. Auden 17 or 18 years ago, with music by the noted English composer, Benjamin Britten. The operetta was given one performance as a Columbia University production in May, 1941. Ever since it has withered on the vine.

At one time the Auden libretto was announced for publication, but the poet began to win

up now, I don't know how much longer the phone will last."

Hoyt said he had just talked to George Sundborg, managing editor of the newspaper, who said the billows of smoke and flames erupted on the second floor and forced residents to evacuate through windows.

Firemen battled the flames with torrents of water from the outside where the temperature was 15 degrees. Hoyt said the upper floors of the building house about 40 persons.

fame and fortune from his "Age of Anxiety" and other volumes of his poetry. In any event, the composition, words and music both, has been withheld from publication and production and kept in storage at Columbia university. Meanwhile, curiosity and other phases of public interest have mounted. And, at last, a movement has been started to produce Auden's Paul Bunyan opera in the Paul Bunyan country.

### Chore for a Chorus

The job can be done at much smaller cost than the traditional opera requires. Auden and Britten have described their work as an operetta for a chorus, with many small parts, rather than a drama with a few roles for "big-shot" singers.

The part of Paul Bunyan himself is described as being only that of a voice off stage. It is, says the authors, "a projection of the collective state of mind of a people whose tasks were primarily the physical mastery of nature."

The story is a string of legends that tell, in music and song, the story of America's development from before Paul's time until the end of the pioneering period. Its form is such that it can be presented as a chorale in costume.

### The Grand Circuit

Now here is good art, the kind teachers talk about, created by

Hollywood — Actress Dorothy McGuire plays a farm mother in "Old Yeller," who as a frontier woman manages livestock, cuts lumber and handles other outdoor chores with complete competence. "It all ends when I get to my own home," she said. "I can't even grow grass successfully in my backyard."

artists in poetry and music who have risen on in world fame since their opera on the life and times of Paul Bunyan was composed. It has not only the stuff of popular appeal in it. An opera, or chorale, that is not about a bunch of Italian dukes, dames and dopes, but about our own Paul Bunyan and his logging men. In short, a show that would bring out a crowd in any sizeable center from Vancouver island south to Humboldt bay.

All that is needed is a simple chorus and able band, with costumes and scenery, to make a successful ground tour of the Pacific Northwest, in any season, presenting the Auden-Britten "Paul Bunyan" (as taken from the books by your Uncle Jim. Here is a prime challenge, it seems to me, to the musical and dramatic organizations of Seattle, Portland, Tacoma, Eugene, and other centers. Auden and Britten ought to be pleased to cooperate on the experiment.

So then a mighty Paul Bunyan show could be built up for the coming world fairs. Yay-hey! P. S. And this, readers and friends, winds it up. Now aged 65 years, I am "retiring" to the writing of books—"of which there is no end." Thank you all. So long!

**Newspaper Repeats Its Claim Denied by Official**  
Nicosia, Cyprus — The English-language newspaper Cyprus Mail Sunday repeated its report that a British officer warned that his men would fire on young Cypriot children if they did not stop booing him.

An official spokesman had denied the newspaper's statement that the officer commanding British forces in the village of Akanthou threatened to open fire or clamp on a curfew unless the children stopped making the derisive sounds.

**SIGNS OF THE TIMES**  
Chicago — A Chicagoan advertises his car-wash business with a huge sign that reads "collectors of external residue."

### EMERGENCY NUMBERS

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## The Medical Roundup

by

*Walter Alvarez*  
Emeritus Consultant in Medicine,  
Mayo Clinic  
Emeritus Professor of Medicine,  
Mayo Foundation

### WHEN TO OPERATE

I was just pleased to see a list of the optimum times for operations on children with a defect of some kind, published by Dr. Thomas J. Zaydon and Dr. H. Clinton Davis of the University of Miami. They advise the removal of a birth mark between the ages of two and six years; they advise operation on prominent or flaring ears around the fifth or sixth year; they think a rupture in the groin should be operated on when it is found; a rupture at the navel, if it persists, can be operated on at about one year. Undescended testicles should be operated on between the ages of four and 10 years. Certain types of congenital heart disease should be operated on between three and 10 years of age; a hare-lip had better be operated on within 48 hours after birth, but a cleft palate can be operated on after from 18 to 21 months.

Some experts may, of course, disagree a bit with some of these figures.

**Body Covered with Hair**  
At the recent meeting of the American Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, Dr. A. J. McDowell, of North Hollywood, Calif., reported the case of a boy who was born with a huge dark-brown birthmark with hair on it as thick as that of a dog's. Like a bathing-suit, it covered much of his body. He also had smaller moles scattered all over his face, back, chest, lower thighs and feet. Before the child was two years old, 31 of these smaller moles were removed. Later, when the boy was two and a half, five operations were performed in which sizeable parts of the giant birthmark were removed and replaced with grafts of skin taken from normal parts of the child's trunk and lower extremities. As a result, now, the boy when he grows up will be able to go swimming without the terrible embarrassment which he otherwise would have had.

Many persons ask what is

lupus erythematosus and what can be done for it. It is a fairly rare disease, which attacks not only the skin but also a number of important organs in the body. It is related to rheumatoid arthritis, and some rare chronic diseases of the skin called scleroderma (a hardening of the skin) and dermatomyositis (an inflammation of the skin and the muscle under it).

Fortunately, today, the patient with these serious diseases can often be tided over one of the recurrent flare-ups, with the help of cortisone or a cortisone-like drug, or with the help of an anti-malarial drug, such as atabrine.

Now, I hear that there is a lupus erythematosus Foundation which will foster research such as may lead to the discovery of new and better drugs for the relief of this strange and puzzling disease. The address is 341 S. Vermont ave., Los Angeles 5, Calif.

### Arms Accusation Denied By British

Bury St. Edmunds, England — British Foreign Secretary Elwyn Lloyd Saturday night denied that Britain sent arms to Tunisia to undercut French influence in North Africa.

"Our sole purpose was to prevent Communist infiltration of North Africa," he said in a conservative party speech here.

The American and British shipments of arms to Tunisia caused great concern in the French government last week with French legislators walking out of the NATO parliamentary meeting then in progress.

Informed sources said also the dispute almost wrecked plans for an Anglo-British summit conference, but Prime Minister Harold Macmillan and Lloyd will fly to Paris Monday for talks on the issue with French Premier Felix Gaillard.

Lloyd said he regretted the "difference of opinion" with France over the supply of British and American arms to Tunisia but that the differences "arose after much discussion and consultation with the French authorities."

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