



Small Worlds Around Us

By Lynn W. Watkins

Register & Tribune Syndicate, 1963

Ever Been Chased by A Speedy Blue Racer?

"Blue racers" man those critters were fast! A man had to be pretty fast! A man had to be pretty spry on his feet to outrun one.

"I remember the time I was chased. It was in haying time, and I was a young man. The blue racer was hiding under a haystack. I uncovered him, and he started for me. We went across the hayfield and along the road for a good mile, with me running as fast as I could.

The Amazing Chase

It still lives, that old superstition... the tale of the chase between man and snake. And, of course, it is as untrue today as it was when the legend started. The man who told the story really believed it had happened, back a half century ago.

This gentleman was no exception. It's not difficult to find others who tell the same story; that it either happened to them or to someone they knew real well.

Those must have been wild times, when a man working in a field had to be ever on the alert and ready to spring away at full speed whenever a blue racer was encountered. And the wide distribution of the racers was such that just about anyone, anywhere might meet one sooner or later.

Funny that such a ridiculous superstition should have persisted, but there are many things regarding snakes that people insist on believing. Snakes seem to generate superstitious feelings, perhaps because so few folks take the trouble to understand them.

Reversed Chase

Perhaps one reason the gullible swallow this wild tale, is the name of the snake - blue racer. This conjures up in minds cluttered with superstitions a speedy reptile that can move like a "blue streak," and the name "racer" suggests something pretty fast.

Some folks elaborated on the already ridiculous story by claiming the racer would be the one doing the chasing until the one being chased became tired of the game, and turned around and started chasing the snake. This reversal of the chase put the shoe on the other foot and both snake and man ran until total exhaustion overtook them both and caused them to fall into the dust of the roadside.

Most of us, never having been chased by a blue racer - or never having chased one - still might believe a snake is pretty fast on its stomach. So, as someone once said, "Let's look at the record."

Seven Miles an Hour

Granted, the blue racer with the blue-black body and white chin and throat, is probably the most aggressive and active American snake. But out-running a man would be somewhat beyond its greatest efforts, unless the man were crawling along on his stomach, or even on his hands and knees.

Even if a husky, four-foot-long blue racer were in a hurry and running downhill with a strong tail-wind, he could not exceed a speed of about seven miles an hour. Even then he couldn't maintain this breakneck speed for much over a few hundred feet.

This may explain why there is no record, or even soundly based superstition, of any of those old boys ever being overtaken by a blue racer. The stories always end with a dull plip.

Amelia Earhart Missing 26 Years

Atchison, Kan. - (UP) - Amelia Earhart and her navigator, Fred Noonan, disappeared somewhere in the Pacific 26 years ago today.

The famed aviatrix and Noonan were on a leg of a round-the-world flight.

Miss Earhart was born here July 24, 1898. On July 24, the city will salute the "first lady of aviation." The program will include the first-day issue of a commemorative air mail stamp, and U. S. Postmaster Gen. J. Edward Day will be the main speaker.

The ceremony will be at Amelia Earhart Stadium. Atchison's municipal airport also is named after Miss Earhart.



ADMIRED BY TOURISTS - The wax effigy of playgirl Christine Keeler, arms raised as if in horror at the wickedness of the world, is admired by girl tourists at Promenade Waxworks at Brighton, England. The statue went on display recently following the scandal involving Miss Keeler and ex-War Minister John Profumo, which is continuing to cause a sensation. (UPD)

Quotes From the News

BY UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL

Miami - A 14-year-old refugee from Cuba who said he had played hooky in Cuba to escape Communist indoctrination in school.

"I guess I'll have to start packing the books again."

Los Angeles - George Waegell, of Elk Grove, Calif., when asked by a House subcommittee on un-American activities whether he would fight for Cuba in the event of a war:

"If there is another war, we're through. I don't care which side I'm on. I'm dead and so are you."

Jackson, Miss. - Circuit Judge Leon Hendrick, deploring recent Supreme Court decisions on Bible reading:

"We can't do without the Bible or God. We need all the help we can get to get along in this life."

Chicago - Executive secretary Roy Wilkins of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, condemning "southern diehards" for allegedly holding up the administration's civil rights bill:

"These people have never cared about anything except the right to kick Negroes in the teeth without federal interference."

Couple Honored at Retirement Party

William R. Crawford, Medford, who is retiring after more than 12 years of government service, was honored at a party given by the bureau of land management recently. Honored with him was his wife, Grace.

Nearly nine years of Crawford's service with the government were spent with the BLM.

Mr. and Mrs. Crawford plan to continue their residence at 515 West Second st., Medford.

S-o-o Pretty



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by Alice Brooks

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The Medical Roundup

by Walter Tolson

Emeritus Consultant in Medicine, Mayo Clinic, Register and Tribune Syndicate, 1963.

Dangers of Acute Sunburn

Now with summer here, it is well to warn persons who are headed for the mountains and the seashore to go slow when they start sunbathing. Especially when a person has a fair skin, and does not have well-tanned all the time, he or she can burn badly in a few minutes. In the tropics, as in Hawaii, I have seen people get so badly burned on their first day on the beach that by night they were ill and running a fever.

I have seen fair-skinned or red-haired people who, when they got themselves badly sun-burned, were left with big freckles which did not please them, and which never entirely cleared away.

Skin specialists hate to see people tanning themselves - they know that this ages the skin; it tends to bring wrinkles, and it invites the formation of cancer. And yet this warning from skin specialists is not likely to do any good, because today the fad of sunbathing is so popular.

According to a recent editorial in the New England Journal of Medicine, some people feel unusually well after their first day on a beach, while others are made sleepy and tired and slightly nauseated.

Recently, physicians have grown interested in the harmful effects of strong light on the skin. In some persons, it can bring out nodules and blebs. It is worth noting that a number of new commonly used medicines can sensitize the skin to light, so that it can even more easily be burned.

Also, a number of diseases have been found - such as porphyria - in which the skin is abnormally sensitive to strong light - sometimes so much so that little ulcers form, which leave scars. Laboratory workers are finding out what happens chemically in the skin that makes it so sensitive.

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\$850 million building subsonic jets. Now it said the United States must build the supersonic jet unless it wants to "declare itself out" of the next significant and logical step in commercial aviation.

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