"Blackbeard" Tied His Whiskers Back of Ears

Edward Teach, who changed his occupation from privateering to pirating when a treaty ended the war of the Spanish succession in 1713, was known as "Blackbeard." He tied the ends of his heavy beard with ribbons and fastened them behind his ears. Several years after the signing of the treaty, he captured a large French merchantman which he rechristened "Queen Anne's Revenge," and converted it into a warship of 40 tons. Then he proceeded to raid the important ports on the Spanish Main, extending his activities as far north as the Carolinas.

In June, 1718, according to a writer in the Indianapolis News, "Blackbeard" sailed into Charleston harbor with a fleet of four ships, manned by a crew of 400 scoundrels, and captured ten vessels, among them a ship carrying many leading citizens to London. Not content with this, "Blackbeard" sent a landing party into the city to get supplies. Led by a mate, they carried a message to Governor Johnson which threatened to send him the heads of the prisoners unless he fulfilled their demands. The citizens complied, but the pirates stripped their prisoners of all belongings, including clothing, before sending them ashore. "Blackbeard" then retired to his winter base in Ocracoke inlet, North Carolina. It has been said that Gov. Charles Eden looked upon him with suspicious indifference and even attended the wedding of the pirate to his fourteenth wife. However, the governor of Virginia displayed no such casual attitude, and sent two powerful sloops under the command of Lieutenant Maynard to find "Blackbeard." He was finally cornered in the inlet and killed. After hanging or shooting his crew, the victorious Virginians sailed back with the severed head of "Blackbeard" on the bowsprit of the leading vessel.

"Blackbeard" is supposed to have buried his treasure on an island off the coast of Georgia, which since has been literally dug to pieces by treasure hunters. Of his treasure "Blackbeard" is said to have said: "Only me and the devil knows where it is, and the one who lives longest gets it."

Sun Is Much Closer in Winter than in Summer

The sun is 3,000,000 miles closer to the earth on January 3 than it is on July 3.

The reason for this is that the earth's path around the sun is not a perfect circle, but slightly oval, and the sun is not exactly in the center. In other words, says a writer in the Chicago Tribune, the earth's orbit is an ellipse, with the sun at one focus.

The temperature difference between summer and winter is due primarily to the fact that the sun's rays strike the earth at a more horizontal angle during the winter, due to the tilt of the earth's axis. From an obvious geometrical relation, a given amount of solar energy is then spread out over more area and each square foot of land receives proportionally less heat.

The difference in the sun's distance has a measurable effect, but not a sufficiently great one to counteract this diffusion of rays. It merely tempers slightly the seasonal variations in the northern hemisphere and accentuates them south of the equator, where the seasons are reversed.

Peat, After Many Years, Develops Into Hard Coal

Peat, according to scientists, is coal in the making. It consists of decayed trees and vegetation.

When the world was younger, say about 250 million years ago, in the carboniferous era, there were many peat bogs, writes a correspondent in the Chicago Tribune. Eventually the peat became lignite, then soft or bituminous coal, as in Illinois, then hard, or anthracite, as in Pennsylvania. Something like this happened:

The ancient peat beds sank below sea level, and over eons of time the beds were buried under thick layers of silt and sand.

Tremendous pressure upon the peat squeezed out the moisture and, after several hundred thousand years, peat became lignite, a brownish coal which crumbles rapidly when exposed to the air. The pressure continued and, after some two million years, the lignite became soft coal. And when the earth exerted both a horizontal and vertical pressure, as in mountain making, hard coal resulted.

Peat, because of its great moisture load, has little value as fuel. Its heating value is about half that of lignite, according to estimates by Prof. Adolf Noe of the University of Chicago, a member of the Illinois geological survey staff, and about one-fourth that of hard coal.

Old Autographs in Cave

Practically all of the exploring of Mammoth cave, Kentucky, before the Civil war was done by the use of reed torches and homemade tallow candles. In those days it was a practice of the visitors who were taking routes through the cave to tie their candles on walking canes and smoke their names on the walls and ceiling of the cave. At one place in the cave this practice was carried on so extensively that it has been named Register hall. Here many of the dates are a century and a quarter old.

Fingers for Forks

The old rule that fingers were made before forks holds good in Morocco. Soups and stews there are dipped up with bread and chicken and meats are torn apart with the fingers. A meal at the palace of a Moorish pasha may consist of as many as 12 courses, mostly of fowl and lamb. Pigeon may be served in a very light pastry, chicken in a thick stew, or with stuffing. Double pancakes with a little honey inside them, vermicelli and lamb served in a variety of ways make up the rest of the meal, which may be topped off with tea.

CASCADE LOCKS CHOSEN

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in communication with Ross and that he hoped that before long ". . . . this industry can be helpful in this country in not only developing the raw materials and paying labor, but at the same time, substitute the importation of foreign chemicals."

It is thought that the property he refers to is the Haskin fox farm just east of Cascade Locks although no official statement has been made.

In his first announcement three weeks ago Chipman stated he and his associates were planning on building a plant to cost between $1,500,000 and $2,500,000. It would employ around 125 men the year around.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

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transcriptions sent forth from the power station nearby.

Mr. Ross sees in the great dam he is now called upon to administer, not a mere inanimate object of steel and concrete stemming the Columbia River as a commercial project, but a humanitarian venture that will provide more leisure in the home, comfort and convenience on the farm, and progress and efficiency in the factory. Ever since his boyhood days, when he fashioned his first battery from a copper kettle and a pickle jar, he has been continuously absorbed in the labor-saving possibilities of electricity. He is especially proud of the reputation Seattle has gained of being one of the best lighted communities in America, and he derives much satisfaction from the fact that lower power rates have resulted in the installation of more electric stoves in Seattle kitchens than in any other city in America.

Mr. Ross is a plain and unassuming man, who eagerly hopes to meet personally all the people of the Pacific Northwest interested in the power problem. In the cities where he has lived thousands of persons call him "J. D.," which is also President Roosevelt's nickmane for him. Mr. Ross does not believe in frills or pretention, and never surrounds himself with pomp or ceremony. He has never owned an automobile and cares little for the luxuries of life. He has a quality of "homespun-ness" about him that constantly reminds one of his old friend and fellow electrical engineer, the late Thomas Alva Edison.