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If you suffer rheumatic, arthritis or neuritis pain, try this simple inexpensive home recipe that thousands are using. Get a can of RU-EX Compound, a 2 weeks supply, today. Mix it with a quart of water, add the juice of 4 lemons. It's easy! No trouble at all and pleasant. You need only 3 tablespoons 2 times a day. Often within 48 hours—sometimes overnight—splendid results are obtained. If the pain does not quickly leave and if you do not feel better, return empty can and RU-EX will cost you nothing. You are the sole judge as RU-EX is sold by your drug store on a money back guarantee. Over 7 million cans used. Proof of wonderful results.

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MUCOSITY* a common cause of BAD BREATH

*Excessive mucous discharge that causes bad breath, sticky mucus drip, throat phlegm, now speedily removed with Glyco-Thymoline, a soothing alkaline solution especially formulated for this condition. Freshens breath and taste. **Glyco-Thymoline** TREATMENT FOR MUCOSITY



Anna Edson Taylor conquered Niagara first, shocking gentlemen-rescuers of the 1900s.

By CLIFF SPIELER

THOUSANDS OF THRILL-SEEKERS lined the river banks above and below thundering Niagara on a bright autumn day 60 years ago this week. Everyone watched an oak barrel tossing and turning in the raging rapids, buffeted mercilessly from rock to rock as it swept headlong for the cataract's brink and the terrifying 161-foot plunge over the Horseshoe Falls.

For hundreds of years sight-seers had marveled at the beauty of the cataracts and at their relentless power, but not until Oct. 24, 1901, had any human mustered the courage to attempt to conquer mighty Niagara Falls.

Inside the barrel, disregarding what Niagara rivermen considered certain death, a widowed 43-year-old schoolteacher rode toward the precipice. Anna Edson Taylor was traveling the deadly route to what she hoped would be glory and financial security.

The drop took about three seconds. Then the crudely constructed barrel disappeared in the boiling mist rising from the base of the Horseshoe. Ten seconds later it bobbed into view and, as the crowd gasped, floated toward the Canadian shore.

The minutes—17 of them—seemed like hours until a riverman named Kid Brady hooked the barrel with a long pole. In a short time the cask was opened. Carlisle Graham was the first to peer inside. "She's alive!" he said disbelievingly.

Mrs. Taylor, married at 19, widowed at 20, graduate of Albany, N. Y., Normal School, a Michigan schoolteacher and dancing instructor—all in all, an unlikely candidate for such a stunt—had accomplished what no man had dared. And had added a new expression to our speech. She had "gone over Niagara Falls in a barrel."

Others would follow Mrs. Taylor's path, risking the rocks and the torrent which dump 1,500,000 gallons of water every second over Niagara's brink into a 180-foot-deep pool at the base of the falls. Three men would die in their attempts; three oth-

THEY



Jean Lussier plunged downward in this rubber ball. It took heavy buffeting.

ers would succeed. And on a summer day 59 years later, a seven-year-old boy would amaze the world by surviving the wrath of the Thunderer of Waters, as the Indians once called Niagara.

It was stage center for Anna Edson Taylor—for 10 years at least. Then a circus stunt man, Bobby Leach, crawled into a steel barrel in the middle of the upper Niagara River July 25, 1911. Forty minutes later, aides helped the small, 54-year-old Englishman, cut and bruised, from his conveyance. He, too, had conquered the falls.

MANY HAVE DIED in the churning waters of the Niagara River. Several persons each year, drawn in some eerie fashion by the cataracts, take their lives by plunging into the raging river. Not until 1920, however, did a daredevil sacrifice himself in trying to conquer the falls.

Charles G. Stephens, a 38-year-old English barber, plunged over the Horseshoe Falls July 11, 1920, in a heavy oak barrel. It was crushed like an eggshell; Stephens was torn to pieces.

Undaunted, a handsome, gregarious French-Canadian-New Englander decided to bid for fame and fortune at Niagara—not in a steel or wooden barrel, but in a seemingly vulnerable rubber ball.

Joseph Albert Jean Lussier's six-foot ball, with two layers of fabric and rubber stretched over a steel frame, was cut loose from a boat July 4, 1928. A crowd estimated at 150,000 persons had come to watch. Jean Lussier hit the brink at 3:35 p.m.

But let him tell the story in his French-Canadian English:

"Hitting below the Falls the water pressure is so heavy I'm going to the bottom of the river and the first cover is smashed. Water is rushing in between the two covers and the ball is rolling behind the Falls.

"It circles around maybe five or six seconds and then it's coming out with a strong current. Men are waiting with a boat and

CHALLENGED NIAGARA

Sixty years ago this week, a woman became the first to dare the Falls; others have tried since—some to find fame, others death



Roger Woodward, 7—saved by miracle.

the ball is pulled out. No one knows if I'm dead or alive.

"At 4:23 the ball is finally opened. I am exhausted but smiling. Jean is proud to have carried the Union Jack and the Stars and Stripes over Niagara Falls."

Now the score stood 3-1 in favor of the daredevils, but not for long. The next two challengers were destined to die. George L. Stathakis, a Buffalo, N. Y., chef, took the plunge in a wood and steel barrel July 3, 1930. The barrel remained intact but was trapped behind the Horseshoe Falls for 22 hours. Stathakis suffocated.

William "Red" Hill, Jr., a veteran Niagara riverman, built a contraption of truck inner tubes, webbing, and fish net. The conveyance, which he called "The Thing," broke up when it plummeted over Niagara on Aug. 5, 1951. Hill's body was recovered from the river the next day.

WHAT HAD these daredevils gained? All made a little money, but not much considering the risks. Anna Edson Taylor died penniless, nearly blind and friendless in the county infirmary near Niagara Falls. Bobby Leach slipped on an orange peel in New Zealand, breaking a leg. He died soon after the leg was amputated. Jean Lussier became a factory worker during World War II, is now retired but still makes occasional public appearances.

Despite the dismal prospects, still another daredevil was to try his luck. He called himself Nathan Boya when he entered his steel and rubber ball July 15, 1961. In reality, he was William A. Fitzgerald of Jamaica, N. Y.

"Compulsion" drove him into the river, Fitzgerald said. His ball, based on the design of Jean Lussier's, was badly dented in the plunge over Niagara, but its occupant emerged smiling. A Canadian judge fined him \$113 for stunting, which modern-day authorities frowned upon.

The exploits of all these daredevils pale,

however, beside the fate of seven-year-old Roger Woodward. With his sister Deanne, 17, he ventured into the placid river some five miles above the Falls in a boat operated by a family friend, July 9, 1960, was a pleasant day for an outing. The temperature was in the 90s.

The boat, powered by a small outboard motor, headed downstream. Then, suddenly, it was in trouble. The motor failed. The friend, James Honeycutt, began to row frantically, but the current was too strong. The boat was sucked relentlessly into the treacherous rapids.

In a few moments the craft was swamped, its occupants thrown into the water above the Horseshoe Falls. The current carried them closer and closer to the brink. Roger and Honeycutt were swept toward the center of the cataract, Deanne toward the American shore.

At the U. S. flank of the Horseshoe, two tourists leaped into action. John R. Hayes of Vauxhall, N. J., grasped the girl's arm as he maintained a perilous grip on a railing with his other hand. John Quattrochi of Penns Grove, N. J., raced to his assistance. The men pulled Deanne to safety.

But the girl's brother and friend were swept over Niagara.

In the river below the Falls, *Maid of the Mist II*, an excursion vessel, plied its regular course toward the Horseshoe Falls. "There was nothing there, and then up he popped," Capt. Clifford Keech recalls.

Clad only in bathing trunks and a life jacket, frail Roger Woodward had emerged, dazed but alive, from the seething caldron at the base of Niagara. He was rescued by the boat's crew.

Jean Lussier happened to be standing at the Falls that afternoon. As the drama unfolded in the river below, Jean said: "The Lord was with that boy like He was with me. It just wasn't his time to die."

The river surrendered James Honeycutt's body the following week.

DEAF HEAR AGAIN WITH NEW CORDLESS ELECTRONIC CAPSULE

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