

War Birds



"Old Abe"



Military Pigeons



The Plattsburgh Game Cock

By ELMO SCOTT WATSON



RECENTLY there was added to the war collections of the National museum in the Smithsonian institution in Washington an exhibit that is unique. In strange contrast to the imposing array of trophies and other relics of the conflicts in which this nation has engaged is the stuffed body of a scraggly-tailed pigeon with one leg shattered and twisted out of shape, yet it is mute testimony to one of the heroic deeds of the World war. For this bird is "President Wilson," the most famous carrier pigeon of all that served with the A. E. F. and hero of innumerable long and dangerous flights during the World war.

It began at Grand Pre. On the morning of November 5, 1918, advance units of the Americans were dismayed to find their communication lines dead. Radio failed, too, because of the overcrowded air. At Rampont, 25 miles away, was headquarters where staff officers anxiously awaited word from Grand Pre. Between the two points lay an inferno of fire and smoke, shot and shell. But there was no other way. The all-important message was entrusted to "President Wilson" which was soon winging its way toward Rampont.

Twenty-five minutes later the panting bird fluttered down in front of headquarters at Rampont, the message, intact, dangling from the torn ligaments of its wounded leg. Like many a human warrior "President Wilson" had been safely through the fighting from the start only to meet mishap with the armistice almost at hand.

That was the faithful little flyer's last time under fire. Nursed back to recovery "President Wilson" for the past eleven years has been an active member of the army pigeon loft at Fort Monmouth, N. J., giving the younger birds valuable pointers in the art of message bearing under war conditions. Death came quietly to the famous bird while asleep recently and the army decided to have the body stuffed and mounted. An officer of the signal corps accompanied it to the Smithsonian institution where it is now enshrined.

But even though "Taps" have sounded for this hero bird, there are still living others of his tribe whose records are nearly as remarkable. Visit Fort Monmouth, between Red Bank and Long Branch, N. J., today and you can see some of them.

Here you will see most of the famous war birds which rendered such valiant service with the signal corps in France, among them those two veterans, "Spike" and "Mocker," almost as renowned as "President Wilson." Here also you will see a number of captured German birds, but perhaps most interesting of all are the various pigeons which played an important role in the operations of the famous "Lost Battalion."

The story of the "Lost Battalion" is so familiar to most Americans that it needs no retelling—even though the name is a misnomer and most Americans therefore have a wrong idea about it. For Major Whittlesey's outfit never was really "lost"—it was "cut off" or "beleaguered." But be that as it may, the fact remains that had it not been for seven carrier pigeons, which the commander of that devoted band sent out from time to time, Major Whittlesey could not have sent word of his location back to his superior officers, they could not have rendered him such aid as they did, the Germans probably would have wiped the detachment out of existence before help arrived and it would have been a "Lost Battalion" indeed.

It was during the "push" of the Seventy-seventh division in the Argonne on October 2 that six companies of the first and second battalions of the Three Hundred and Eighth Infantry, one company of the Three Hundred and Seventh Infantry and two sections from the Three Hundred and Sixth machine gun battalion, all consolidated under the command of Maj. Charles W. Whittlesey, discovered that German forces were behind them and they were cut off from communication with the rear. At 8:50 a. m. on October 3, Major Whittlesey sent his first pigeon with this message: "We are being shelled by German artillery. Can we not have artillery support? Fire is coming from northwest." At

ous intervals that day he sent messages by pigeon, keeping his regimental commander informed of developments. By the morning of October 4, he had only two pigeons left, and about eleven o'clock he sent one of these with a message telling of the growing seriousness of the situation for the detachment.

That afternoon the American artillery started to lay down a barrage, but instead of falling upon the enemy it rained shell and shrapnel upon the beleaguered detachment. Then out of that inferno of noise, dust and confusion flew Whittlesey's last pigeon. Late that evening a soldier in charge of the pigeon cote at division headquarters came upon a pigeon, blinded in one eye by scattered shot and standing upon one leg. The other leg was almost severed and attached to the dangling leg was the pellet containing this message: "We are along the road paralleled 276.4. Our own artillery is dropping a barrage directly on us. For heaven's sake, stop it." Immediately the barrage lifted and Whittlesey's men were no longer swept by the fire of their own artillery.

A "war bird" of another type and more picturesque, perhaps, than these feathered veterans of the World war was the famous eagle "Old Abe" which served through three years of the Civil war with a Wisconsin regiment, taking part in 22 battles and 30 skirmishes and being wounded in three of them. "Old Abe" was captured by an Indian, Chief Sky, on the banks of the Flambeau river in northern Wisconsin in 1861. The Indian sold the bird and finally it came into possession of a company which was formed at Eau Claire and which became Company C of the Eighth Wisconsin regiment when it went into camp at Madison. There Captain Perkins of Company C named him "Old Abe," in honor of the President, a standard was made for him and he was carried beside the regimental flag.

When the regiment went into action, "Old Abe" gave evidence of the wild delight in the smoke and roar of battle. Spreading his wings he would jump up and down on his perch, uttering wild and piercing screams which could be clearly heard above the noises of the conflict. But this Berserker spirit was not the only evidence of "Old Abe's" being a true soldier. If we are to believe the stories that have been told of him, before he had been a year in the service, he would give heed to the commands of the officers on parade, or when preparations for a march began. Of his military habits one chronicler has written:

"With his head obliquely to the front, his right eye turned upon the commander, he would listen and obey orders, noting time carefully. After parade had been dismissed, and the ranks were being closed by the sergeant, he would lay aside his soldierly manner, flap his wings, loiter about and make himself at home generally. "When there was an order to form for battle, he and the colors were the first upon the line. His actions upon those occasions were uneasy. He would turn his head anxiously from right to left, looking to see when the line was completed. As soon as the regiment got ready, faced and began to march, he would assume a steady and quiet demeanor. He could always be seen a little above the heads of the soldiers, close by the flag. That position of honor was never disallowed him.

"At the battle of Farmington May 9, 1862, the men were ordered to lie down on the ground. The instant they did so, 'Old Abe' flew from his perch. He insisted upon being protected as well as they, and flattened himself on the ground, remaining there until the men rose, when, with outspread wings,

he flew back to his place of perch, and held it until the close of the contest. At the battle of Corinth the Confed- erate general, Price, discovered him and ordered his men to take him if they could not kill him, adding that 'he would rather capture that bird than the whole brigade.'"

It is of "Old Abe's" conduct at this same battle of Corinth that another historian writes: "The regiment is in Mower's brigade and 'Old Abe' is on his perch, looking out over the scene. Cannon are thundering around him, there are long rolls of musketry; the air is thick with bullets. From the flank comes a fearful volley, enflaming the line, cutting down scores of men and severing the cord which holds 'Old Abe' to the staff. He flaps his wings, rises above the two armies, circles over the Confederates, then back again to his friends and lights once more on his perch. The regiment is in retreat and Old Abe goes with it, to be in a score of battles and to come out of them all unharmed."

Almost as renowned as "Old Abe" of the Civil war in our national tradition is a game cock which enjoyed a brief moment of fame during the War of 1812. In 1814 Lieut. Thomas MacDonough was placed in charge of a small American fleet on Lake Champlain to resist a strong British fleet which was moving down the lake to attack northern New York. On the morning of September 11 the British attacked the Americans in Plattsburgh bay. At the beginning Commodore Downie, the British commander, on his flagship, the Confiance, attempted to break the American line but was met by a devastating fire from the Saratoga, MacDonough's flagship.

Thereupon the battle resolved itself into a sort of duel between the two flagships, both of which dropped anchor and at a distance of 250 yards from each other prepared to "shoot it out." The first broadside from the Confiance, which had heavier guns than the Saratoga, all but wrecked the American vessel. But it did something else. According to one of our school histories "At the first broadside fired by the enemy, a young game cock kept as a pet on board MacDonough's ship, the Saratoga, flew up upon a gun; flapping his wings, he gave a blast of defiance that rang like the crow of a trumpet. Swinging their hats, MacDonough's men cheered the plucky bird again and again. He had foretold victory. That was enough. They went into the fight with such ardor, and managed their vessels with such skill that in less than three hours all of the British ships that had not hauled down their flags were scudding to a place of safety as rapidly as possible."

Cyrus Townsend Brady gives a slightly less theatrical version of the incident. He says "It has been fondly noted by various writers that the first terrible broadside of the Confiance smashed a chicken coop on one of the American vessels, thus liberating a game cock, which sprang into the rigging and with lusty crowing encouraged the cheering crews. Inasmuch as nearly every writer puts the chicken in a different ship, it is safe to conclude that there must have been one chicken there, and the incident probably did occur. At any rate, if it was an American chicken, it would certainly crow upon being made free."

Before the battle began "MacDonough bade his waiting crews to prayer. There at their stations with bowed heads they knelt down upon the white decks, soon to be stained with their own blood, while with his own lips, in the familiar words of the Book of Common Prayer, the young commander invoked the protection of the God of Battles for the coming conflict—a rare and memorable scene indeed!" Spears, the naval historian, in commenting upon these two incidents, says, "with all due respect to religion, that for the purpose of rousing the seamen a rooster in the rigging is worth more than a dozen prayers of the quarter deck."

OREGON STATE NEWS OF GENERAL INTEREST

Principal Events of the Week Assembled for Information of Our Readers.

William Nichols, founder of Milton, was buried there recently. He was 92 years old.

Waterfront mill plant No. 5 of the Port Orford Cedar Products company opened recently at Marshfield with a small crew.

Married in North Bend in May, 1873, Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Simpson celebrated their 57th wedding anniversary there May 21.

At the final session of the P. E. O. state convention held in Klamath Falls recently, Mrs. Grace Kent Magruder of Clatskanie was elected president.

Polk county paid approximately 55 cents for each vote cast at the primary election. The total vote was 3278 and the cost of the election was \$1890.

The \$60,000 armory to be built in Cottage Grove, voted by the last Oregon legislature, will be erected on North Eighth street between Gibbs and Whiteaker avenues.

George H. Brown, 67, known as the potato king of Clackamas county, was fatally injured when he was struck by the fender of a truck driven by Wilson Wilde, Clackamas.

No hope is held out for the rebuilding of the business section of Bonanza, recently destroyed by fire. Six main buildings, including the bank, supposedly fireproof, were burned.

A boulder dislodged from the hillside by heavy rain demolished Oscar Kelly's new automobile when he struck the rock on the highway two miles west of Clatskanie recently.

The Stoddard Lumber company of Baker has obtained a lease on the abandoned Baker Molding company plant on the west side of town and reopened it June 1 as a cut-up plant.

The Pendleton city council recently passed a milk ordinance for regulation and inspection of dairies providing milk for Pendleton. C. W. Daley, Pendleton, will be employed as milk inspector.

While the fruit crop in the vicinity of Corvallis does not look as promising as growers would like, it is indicated that there will be more than an average yield. Cherries and prunes have been damaged.

A serious situation in Douglas county is in connection with fire blight infestation of apple and pear orchards. Under present weather conditions the blight is apt to make rapid headway until hot weather comes.

Traffic accidents on Oregon highways took a toll of 16 lives and resulted in the injury of 376 others during April. A total of 2436 accidents were reported during the month, four of those killed being pedestrians.

Further proof that an ocean long ages ago rolled over central Oregon was obtained recently when there was discovered on hillsides near Mitchell, at an elevation of 3000 feet, numerous marine shells, including a huge coiled ammonite.

An airplane will be used to dust clover with sulphur on the Henry Strixner ranch near Redmond. Sulphur dusting appears to be the only method of preventing mildew, which has been known to reduce crops by 50 per cent.

J. H. Billingslea, supervisor of the Siskiyou national forest, has announced that the United States forest service this summer will reconstruct the suspension bridge across Rogue river at Agnes. Work on the structure will be started soon. The bridge, which was built several years ago at a cost of approximately \$25,000, was wrecked when a flood washed out one of the main piers.

THE MARKETS

Portland

Wheat—Big Bend bluestem, \$1.17; soft white, western white, \$1.04; hard winter, northern spring, western red, \$1.02.
Hay—Alfalfa, \$20 per ton; valley timothy, \$20.50@21; eastern Oregon timothy, \$22.50@23; clover, \$17; oat hay, \$16; oats and vetch, \$16@17.
Butterfat—28@31c.
Eggs—Ranch, 20@24c.
Cattle—Steers, good, \$11@11.50.
Hogs—Good to choice, \$9.75@11.25.
Lamb—Good to choice, \$8@9.

Seattle

Wheat—Soft white, western white, hard winter, western red and northern spring, \$1.05; Big Bend bluestem, \$1.18.
Eggs—Ranch, 21@25c.
Butterfat—34c.
Cattle—Choice steers, \$11@11.50.
Hogs—Prime light, \$11.40@11.50.
Lamb—Choice, \$9@10.

Spokane

Cattle—Steers, good, \$10@10.50.
Hogs—Good to choice, \$11.
Lamb—Medium to good, \$8@8.25.

Word has been received at La Grande that the new cooperative creamery to serve Union and Willowa counties would be located at Union.

The Rogue River Valley Traffic association has gone on record in favor of postponing the annual Jackson county fair to October. The September dates comes at the height of the fruit season and works a hardship on growers and shippers.

The Farmers Co-operative Creamery company of Baker, which recently purchased the Commercial Creamery company plant, is adding another department to its operations, a casein plant, which is expected to be in operation within the next two weeks.

James Brindley, 45, clerk at another Burns hotel, lost his life in a fire of undetermined origin which destroyed the Grand hotel with a loss of about \$45,000. Ten other occupants of the hotel escaped, but were unable to dress or to save any personal belongings.

It is feared that the apple crop in the Shedd section will be light next fall. Some trees did not bloom well and apparently they were injured by the extreme cold weather last winter. Some growers do not have enough apples to make spraying their orchards worth while.

At a meeting of the North Morrow County Fair board Mrs. W. C. Isom was elected treasurer and Mrs. O. Corryel was re-elected secretary. The office of president has not yet been filled. The fair is held alternately at Irrigon and Boardman and will be held at Boardman this year.

The C. A. Spaulding Logging company, which operates a large mill in Salem, has announced that their operations would be placed on a 40-hour per week basis. This is necessitated, it was said, because of the unsatisfactory lumber market and a desire to keep their present crew employed.

A fall out of a window at Ashland almost cost Robnett Oversby, a small girl, her speech. When she fell she struck with her teeth in such manner to almost sever her tongue toward the back of her mouth. Physicians managed to sew up the wound and the girl is expected to suffer no ill effects.

That the farm lands of Union county are considered by the state land board as high-grade loan risks is indicated by the fact that out of a total of \$5,570,024.89 that has been loaned from the state irrevocable school fund, loans aggregating \$456,259.21 are in the hands of Union county land owners.

Jersey breeders of Linn and Benton counties conducted the largest Jersey cattle show at Albany that has ever been put on by the Two-County club. With 38 exhibitors showing 141 cattle, all entry records were broken. Each entry is certified as abortion free and otherwise a thoroughly healthy cow.

Orchardists in Marion county have declared war on the native hand tall pigeon which is said to be causing heavy losses in prune and cherry orchards. Several orchardists have obtained permits from the state game commission permitting them to kill the pigeons, which are said to be stripping the fruit trees.

Fire, believed to have been of incendiary origin, destroyed the Roy Beebe mill at Leona, with a loss estimated at around \$350,000. The fire threatened the entire town of Leona, as no water was available. Dynamite was used to destroy the lumber dock and keep the fire from spreading away from the buildings.

The new two-story grange hall at Williams is nearing completion. The structure is 40x80 feet in dimension. The first story is constructed of concrete, housing storage, dining room and kitchen, while the second story, of wood construction, will be the main assembly hall, with a large stage room. The hall will be dedicated July 4.

Tranchell & Parelus, Portland, Or., contractors, started work recently on the \$150,000 union station being built in La Grande by the Union Pacific system. The firm has 150 days to complete the two-story structure, which, when completed, will be the largest depot between Portland and Boise on the O-W. R. & N. railroad.

To John R. Moore, Portland, goes the distinction of owning the lowest motor vehicle license number in Oregon, No. 1, and of being the first person in the state to receive the 1930-1931 license distributed under the new fiscal year license law. Dennis K. Koupal, Eugene, will have No. 13, much sought despite its reputation.

Daylight saving time, which started at La Grande recently, has proved a failure, and now La Grande is operating on standard time. The city commission rescinded its previous proclamation at the request of 533 petitioners.

Hood River county Pomona grange, in defense of the dairy industry, has adopted resolutions pledging to buy no substitutes for butter and urging merchants to discontinue the sale of oleomargarine and other butter substitutes.

FAVOR SATIN-STRIPE SHIRTINGS; COSTUMES FOR BEACH LOUNGERS;

A MULTITUDE of lovely weaves, colorings and fascinating effects come under the caption "sports silks" this season. The best of it is, no matter how delicate their pastel blues or pinks, eggshell shades, pale greens, yellows or any of the other delectable tints, these enchanting silks, whether shantung, flat crepe or what not, are capable of being rubbed and tubbed without sacrificing an iota of their original beauty. And that's the marvel of it, that silks can be so exquisitely lovely,

fans has for the most part resolved itself into a matter of pajama ensembles. And such ensembles! They are all that their name implies, ensembling as they do about every item of wearing apparel there is to ensemble from beach bags, shoes, wraps, shirts, blouses, coats and trousers to parasols and huge hats. Wherefore it is plain to be seen that beach costuming has become an elaborated and complicated affair.

It's heaps of fun, just the same, planning one's beach togs, if for no



Sleeveless Tennis Frock.

and at the same time so practical because they are washable, and because they yield so satisfactorily to tailored treatment.

While the list of popular sports silks is long this season, when it comes to outstanding types, the handsome striped shirtings rank among the foremost. One of the chief charms of these striped silks is their incomparable laundering qualities. The new basque stripes are especially attractive. These feature satin stripes on a dull-finish crepe background, the entire carried out in monotone pastel. The colors of these basque-stripe silks are perfect, including the much-wanted baby blue, odd shades of pink, mauve, beige and yellow. In fact they are available in any of the new summer soft subtle tones, also quite a few bright shades.

For the sleeveless tennis frock pictured the stripes are worked in a very desirable manner, thus enhancing the appearance of the frock, at the same time maintaining a coveted tailored simplicity.

The summer sports story so far as the making of frocks is concerned is a continuous recital of interesting detail which has to do with such subtle touches as the new cap and puff sleeves, low decolletage sultan backs, scallops, saw-tooth edges, belts, buttons, one-piece frocks, the tuck-in blouse, pleated skirts (sometimes the costume consists of skirt, shirt and shorts), and if the skirt be not pleated then it is liable to be circular cut.



Pajama Ensemble for the Beach.

Most every sports frock has its own jacket, too, which counts in its favor so far as wearableness and general utility is concerned.

There is every indication that the all-white sports costume will prove a winner as well as the pastel colored outfit. Very frequently the frock is of washable silk, the coat topping it being a novelty woven weave such as white basket cloth or white flannel.

For Beach Fans. Vacationing at the beach? Well, for such fashion has an intensely interesting message in regard to that ever recurring what-to-wear problem. Fact is the clothes question for beach

silk with navy insignia on one arm, a white vest being embroidered with an anchor.

Pleated pajamas are quite the rage. That is, there is a dounce of knife pleating from above the knee to the ankle. The first impression is that of a skirt with a pleated dounce.

The beach hat is a very intriguing item this season, reaching proportions which are amazing, yet withal very practical as a protection from the sun. Not only are straws of every color employed for these hats but novel fabrics are conjured into wide brims and generous crowns.

JULIA BOTTOMLEY.

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