

# "The God of 2.5"

By E. S. WATSON

IN NO institution of higher learning in the United States is tradition stronger and more religiously observed than in the two service schools, the United States Military Academy at West Point, N. Y., and the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, Md. Commencement day at Annapolis is occasion for one interesting exhibition of that. After the last member of the graduating class has received his diploma from the hands of the secretary of the navy and returned to his seat, the solemnity of the occasion is suddenly broken. At a signal every graduate rises to his feet and a second later the air overhead is filled with white objects. They are their white caps which they have hurled aloft, thus signalling their promotion from midshipmen in the academy to ensigns in the navy.

But most interesting of all Annapolis traditions are those which cluster around a curious statue there. It is the figure of an Indian chieftain, the mock-serious patron saint of the midshipmen—"Old Tecumseh," the "God of 2.5."

All who enter the academy are warned that the great Indian chief frowns on skeptics, but will smile on all believers in his power. It is said that in return for a respectful salute he will grant a passing mark in examinations, which in the navy is rated as 2.5, and the midshipmen file past the stern figurehead of wood, tossing pens and looking him in the eye.

This statue has had an interesting history. Until this year, "Old Tecumseh" was a "wooden Indian," that is to say he was originally the figurehead of an American warship, the Delaware. But last May the wooden statue was replaced with one of bronze. Originally, too, his name was "Tamanend" instead of "Tecumseh."

Way back in 1817 the name Delaware was selected by the commissioners of the navy for a ship of the line, which was laid down at the Gosport navy yard in Norfolk, Va. After consulting senators and representatives from Delaware, it was decided that the most appropriate figurehead for the new vessel was that of the distinguished chief of the Delaware Indians, Tamanend. The gentlemen from Delaware then informed the navy that:

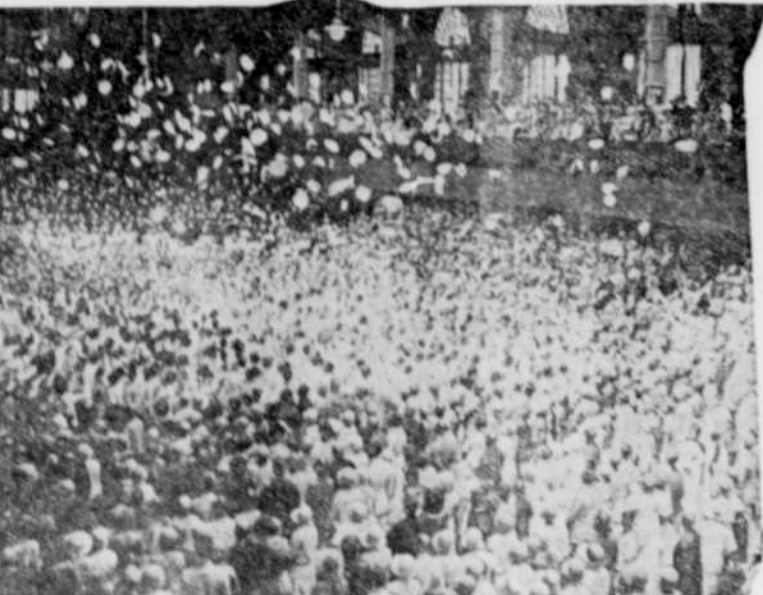
"The name of Tamanend is held in the highest veneration among the Indians. Of all the chiefs and great men which the Lenape nation ever had he stands foremost on the list. . . . All we know of Tamanend, therefore, is that he was an ancient Delaware chief who never had his equal. He was in the highest degree endowed with wisdom, virtue, prudence, charity, affability, meekness, hospitality—in short, with every good and noble qualification that a human being may possess. He was supposed to have had an intercourse with the great and good spirit, for he was a stranger to everything that is bad."

The Delaware, with the great Indian chief poised on her bow, was a wooden vessel of 2,633 tons displacement, mounting 74 guns and with a complement of 830 officers and men. Launched in 1820, she served in Mediterranean and Brazilian waters.

At the beginning of the Civil war the Delaware was out of commission at the Norfolk navy yard. When the navy yard was destroyed in 1862 she was scuttled and burned, but after the close of the war what remained of her hull was sold to woodworkers, who raised and broke her up for the copper in 1880-81 and the figurehead was sent to the naval academy.

In the old naval academy "Tamanend" had a place near the Lyceum, a building devoted to gunnery and close to the department of seamanship. When the old building was torn down the figurehead was moved to the new main building. In 1880 it was placed in the gymnasium and later placed on a pedestal facing Bancroft hall.

Gradually the tradition of his mysterious power of insuring knowledge was established. Also by this time he had been renamed "Tecumseh" by the midshipmen and had become the "God of 2.5." Later his powers were increased and he was charged with causing victories for the navy. As the reputation of midshipmen decays for the big games each plebeon gives a "half-day salute" to him that the navy men with that day. Another ceremony is centered around "Tecumseh." When the final examinations are concluded the graduating class gathers before him to read his class history and pay final honors to his spirit.



The Middies Discard Their Caps

Lieutenant Rowan said:

"The last Saturday in July (1841) we got under way for Annapolis. We arrived there on the fourth day, having to anchor at least five miles from the city. Commodore Morris, who had been in Washington for some weeks, came off and informed us that the President and secretary of departments, in 1817-18, distinguished citizens and naval officers would visit the ship in a few days.

"During this interval our first lieutenant, who is a man of energy, did all in his power, with the able assistance of the officers, to put the ship in the perfect condition of a man of war. The officers and crew were thoroughly exercised in every department of ship's duty until the ship was in better order than anyone I had ever the honor to sail in.

"When the steamer reached the gangway Lieutenant Wilson, who was to receive the President at Annapolis, informed the first lieutenant that the President was not on board. The commodore then ordered all the honors to be paid to the secretary of the navy which were intended for the President, except the number of guns and the substitution of the American ensign at the main for the broad pennant.

"Mr. George E. Badger, then as secretary of the navy, led the way and was followed by Webster, Crittenden, Granger, Bell, Senator Preston and numerous other members of both houses with their ladies, as well as other distinguished citizens. When the company had all reached the deck of the ship the steamer dropped anchor and a salute of 17 guns was fired and the men ordered down. The officers all came forward and were severally introduced to Mr. Badger by the commodore.

"Refreshments were furnished in the port cabin and mastroom and after the retreat was beaten the officers devoted themselves to the company, talking palms to show them everything. The people went to dinner to the infinite interest of our visitors, all of whom were delighted with the fare as well as the apparent comfort of Jack. When an hour had elapsed the drummers beat to quarters for action. In scanty all were lying in apparent confusion for arms, cartridge boxes, etc., and all of which delighted our visitors. In a few minutes all was quiet and silence reigned the ship.

"The divisions had been reported about 10 o'clock and the officers and men stood in their places anxiously waiting the order to fire. Presently the order was given in detail to load and the firing commenced from each deck in admirably confusion.

"Having tickled their fancy to the amount of three rounds of blank cartridges, we ceased firing and secured the guns, and while all hands were called to exercise skill for the amusement of the nobles, a small detachment was busy in spreading tables on the gundeck, gunroom and poop cabin. By the time exercise of skills was finished the collation was ready and the whole party divided and dined the tables and no doubt gratified their palates equally with their curiosity while on board.

"About noon the steamer took the party back to Annapolis, where an extra train was in waiting to convey the highly gratified party back to Washington. They left with the assurance that their visit would be highly advantageous to the service. The subsequent promotion of many old and meritorious lieutenants was no doubt the consequence. The long-told-for grade of admiral will no doubt grow out of this visit."

In recent years it was discovered that the message of this were thereat going to destroy "Old Tecumseh." From time to time heroic efforts were made to lengthen his life but finally it became apparent that he could no stand much more exposure to the elements. Then the class of 1880 got busy. They decided to remove the wooden figure with an exact replica of bronze which should not only be a



Tecumseh, The God of 2.5

memorial to all members of the class but which should continue to be an inspiration to all future midshipmen in the academy.

They raised funds to have the work done and received subscriptions varying from \$5 to \$200. Along with the subscriptions usually came letters, recalling fond memories of midshipmen days at Annapolis. One anonymous subscription was sent with this message: "Well, I got ten demerits for hanging a light on Old Tecumseh one dark night, so I guess it's up to me to give him ten bucks now." The bronze which was used in the cast of the new statue was obtained from historic ships and from trophies of many wars and naval demonstrations. So the "Old Tecumseh," who was unveiled last May at a ceremony in which Charles Francis Adams, secretary of the navy, and Rear Admiral Samuel Robinson, superintendent of the academy, took a leading part, and who will stand guard over the destinies of future midshipmen, is not only the patron saint of the naval academy, but is also a visible symbol of the long and honorable record of service of the United States Navy.

The original "Old Tecumseh," however, is not the only ship figurehead which is preserved at the naval academy. It also owns one of Oregon design which once graced the British ship *Macedonian* until that vessel was captured by Stephen Decatur, while in command of the U. S. S. *United States* during the War of 1812, and one of a bust of Benjamin Franklin, which adorned the U. S. S. *Franklin*, launched in 1815. But more interesting than either of these, because of the exciting history it had, was a figurehead which once had a place at the bow of the famous private Constitution, the "Old Ironsides" of song and story.

The first figurehead on the Constitution, when she was launched in Boston in 1792, was Hercules with his club. This was shot away during a battle with the Barbary pirates in Tripoli and was replaced with a figure of Neptune. During a part of the War of 1812, "Old Ironsides" had only a small figure head. Then in 1814, when, as a result of the stirring poem written by Oliver Wendell Holmes, the ship was being retired in Boston, a full-length statue of Andrew Jackson was ordered for a figurehead. This caused a great political furor. Jack's opponents were outraged over what they called the "monstrous" putting the likeness of "our Hickory" on the famous vessel and declared that no fitting man with the possible exception of James Madison, the "Father of the Constitution," should have such an honor.

One dark night after the figurehead had been placed in position a young cabin mate named Lewis rowed out to the ship, boarded it, sawed off the head of the statue just below the nose and carried it away in a bag. His friends hailed this feat as a great achievement and Lewis is said to have carried the head to Washington with the intention of presenting it to Jackson himself. Eventually the figure was removed and a new head fashioned on with a hub of iron size so that no other vessel could take such liberties with it as Lewis had taken. It is this "Iron" figurehead which is now one of the most cherished possessions of the naval academy.

## OREGON STATE NEWS OF GENERAL INTEREST

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

The Grants Pass city council has agreed to purchase from a group of Denver, Col., capitalists the water system for \$65,000.

E. E. Wescott of the Dever neighborhood has brought into Albany for exhibition vetch measuring 9 feet and 10 inches in length.

Fire destroyed the Horton Lumber company plant near Junction City. Officials of the plant estimated the loss at more than \$100,000.

Six carloads of Douglas county cherries will be shipped out this season as the first consignments of the new Hurst-Root plant at Roseburg.

The annual reunion and picnic for the former students of Mineral Springs college, once a flourishing institution at Sodaville, will be held July 27.

The total value of gold, silver, copper and lead produced in Oregon in 1929 was \$486,000, the largest since 1924, the bureau of mines announces.

A total of 887 persons, in 252 automobiles, visited Crater lake national park over the July 4 week end, Superintendent Solinsky announced at Medford.

The sweet pea and garden show, an annual community event in Rainier for 15 years, will not be held this year because of an unfavorable season for flowers and gardens.

Clatsop county farmers are harvesting one of the largest hay crops in recent years. Due to intermittent rains pasting throughout the county is in good condition.

Indian fishermen near The Dalles report the beginning of the summer run of steelheads. Many fish are being caught with dip nets below Celilo on the Columbia river.

Four hundred tons of sulphur, property of the Sitka Spruce Pulp & Paper company, was dropped into the bay near Empire when a dock on which it was stored collapsed.

A total of \$63,722.99 was spent in the fiscal year ending July 1, 1930, on road and trails construction in the Cascade national forest, according to Perry Thompson, supervisor.

Picking, packing and shipping of the Union county cherry crop, which will amount to several hundred tons, began recently at Cove and Union, the two centers of the local cherry belt.

The plant of the Mill Creek Lumber company, operated 11 miles south of The Dalles by O. A. Wallmark, was destroyed by fire. Officials estimated the loss to be about \$12,000.

Repairs have been completed at the Gold Hill plant of the Beaver Portland Cement company and the company's limestone quarry at Marble mountain, and both are ready to resume operations.

A rock crusher has been set up on the A. Christensen farm four miles east of Harrisburg for crushing rock to be used in surfacing the Blue Stocky market road in that neighborhood.

The rainfall of Astoria is short approximately 20 inches since last September. Despite the fact that 1.74 inches fell in June the total was still shy of the normal rate of 2.94 inches for June.

Fire destroyed the Eugene Box company plant at Eugene, causing damage estimated at \$15,000. The spread of flames to adjoining lumber yards was prevented by firemen after an eight-hour fight.

Waller high school children of Chicago, through an air mail letter which arrived in Salem recently, invited Governor North to attend the national air races to be held there August 25 to September 1.

### THE MARKETS

**Portland**  
Wheat—Big Bend bluestem, \$1.85 1/2; soft white, western white, \$1.75; hard winter, northern spring, western red, \$1.75.  
Hay—Albion, new crop, \$17.50; valley timothy, \$20.50; eastern Oregon timothy, \$22.50; clover, new crop, \$14; oat hay, new crop, \$14; oats and vetch, new crop, \$14.  
Butterfat—27@30.  
Eggs—Eason, 20@25.  
Cattle—Steers, good, \$8.50@10.25.  
Hogs—Good to choice, \$12@12.25.  
Lamb—Good to choice, \$4.50@7.50.  
**Seattle**  
Wheat—Soft white, western white, hard winter, western red and northern spring, \$20; Big Bend bluestem, \$1.82.  
Eggs—Eason, 20@25.  
Butterfat—32.  
Cattle—Choice steers, \$8@10.  
Hogs—Prime light, \$11.25@11.50.  
Lamb—Choice, \$7@8.  
**Spokane**  
Cattle—Steers, good, \$9@10.  
Hogs—Good to choice, \$12.75.  
Lamb—Medium to good, \$4.50@7.

According to County Agent Harms of Douglas county the wheat crop this year will be about the same size as that of last year. In some places the moisture has gone down 5 to 20 inches, while in others it has penetrated only 6 or 7 inches.

A radio station for fire prevention is being installed at Hemlock ranger station. This will take care of this section of the Columbia national forest reserve. Each man will have a portable set and thus send descriptions and location of all blazes.

Packing of 2000 barrels of strawberries in sugar for cold storage shipment was completed recently at the plant of the Washington berry cooperative at Vancouver. Loganberries and raspberries are being packed and the cannery is running on cherries.

Centralia's three banks report total deposits of \$2,845,710.18 at the close of business June 30. This is a gain of \$179,554.33 over the deposits of March 27, date of the previous call for statements, and an increase of \$411,129.37 since the first of the year.

Approximately 4,000,000 bushels of wheat will be produced in Walla Walla county this year, in the belief of Carl Rod, district manager for Kerr, Gifford & Co., who said that the yield should be normal throughout the southeastern Washington wheat belt.

Cowlitz county's share of the lateral highway fund this year will be \$51,970 instead of \$46,000 as estimated last year when the fund went into operation. The state auditor has made an estimate of \$51,970 for the fund for next year, basing it on this year's receipts.

A road which would directly connect Grays harbor with Hood canal and Bremerton, and would tap a large undeveloped district in eastern Grays Harbor and Mason counties, is being proposed by the transportation committee of the chamber of commerce at Aberdeen.

Yakima valley farmers will harvest 32,375 cars of fruit and vegetables this year, according to the estimate of W. P. Brown, district horticultural inspector. Last year's harvest produced 28,388 cars. Brown places the apple crop at 15,000 cars as compared with 12,275 last year.

A survey of the prospective apple crop of the Wenatchee and Okanogan districts made by the state department of agriculture, indicates a total of 20,125 cars as compared with 19,150 last year. The five-year average is 18,000 cars. Wenatchee will lead the field with a yield of 6551 cars.

The Three Rivers Growers association shipped its last straight carload of transparent apples recently. The association now is shipping four and five carloads of potatoes daily. Prices still continue around \$45 a ton f. o. b. shipping point. About 60 per cent of the crop already has been handled.

Harvest hands will receive approximately 20 per cent smaller wages this season than last in Spokane and Whitman counties. A wage committee representing the two counties decided that wages must be reduced, after a study of farm crop prices, decrease in food costs and the supply of labor.

Four hundred members of the Humpulps Pioneers' association will hold their fifth annual picnic August 3 on the school grounds of Humpulps. Members of the pioneer organization are residents of the territory north of Hoquiam, living in New London, Quinalt, Queets, Humpulps and Clearwater.

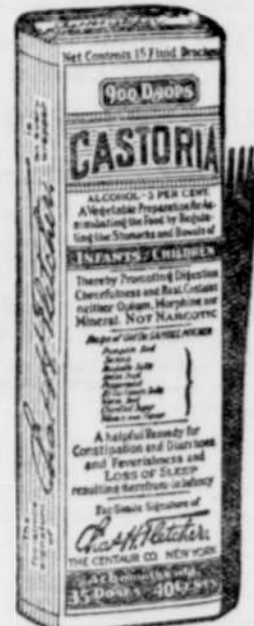
Ellis Bountis of Yakima learned recently there is no state law to support a damage suit he wanted to file against a neighbor whose bees killed a team of horses on his ranch and caused one man to be confined to bed with stings. The prosecutor's staff searched in vain through shelves of books for a statute covering a case of bees on the warpath.

Prune growers are puzzled by the appearance of brown ridges and patches on the growing fruit and are wondering whether the affected fruit will be worth drying. The disease has appeared in virtually every orchard in Clark county. Carl G. Ivitt, county agent, declares that he had never seen anything like it and has no idea what could cause it.

With unpaid debts contracted to conduct a county fair last year, Clark county grazers decided that it would not be advisable to hold a county fair this year. The fair last year was about \$4000 in the "red" when it closed, due to unfavorable weather and other unforeseen contingencies. This debt has been reduced materially, but there is still a considerable balance due.

Members of the Washington cooperative Egg and Poultry association belonging to the Winlock station will share in a cut of \$46,677 of the \$218,000 of stock that has recently been called in by the organization. In addition, as 1 per cent dividend for the six months from January 1 to June 30, 1930, will be paid. The payment of this stock return all common and preferred up to January 1, 1931. Capital and surplus of the association is \$700,000—reduced to be in excess of \$2,500,000.

# Restless Children



Children will fret, often for no apparent reason. But there's always one sure way to comfort a restless, fretful child. Castoria Harmless as the recipe on the wrapper; mild and bland as its tastes. But its gentle action soothes a youngster more surely than some powerful medicine that is meant for the stronger systems of adults.

That's the beauty of this special children's remedy! It may be given the tiniest infant—as often as there is any need. In cases of colic, diarrhea, or similar disturbance, it is invaluable. But it has everyday uses all mothers should understand. A coated tongue calls for a few drops to ward off constipation; so does any suggestion of bad breath. Whenever children don't eat well, don't rest well, or have any little upset—this pure vegetable preparation is usually all that's needed to set everything to rights. Genuine Castoria has Chas. H. Fletcher's signature on the wrapper. Doctors prescribe it.

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### Old-Timer Takes Fling

#### at Feminine Reasoning

With the announcement of a woman senator nominated in Illinois, a worried look spread over the countenance of Senator Moses of New Hampshire. "I guess the Old Guard is about leached," he grinned, "because in debate, either domestic or political, you can't beat a woman."

"A constituent of mine has a wife who would make a great congresswoman. She had tackled her husband for a new fur coat.

"'Tut, my gracious,' he cried, 'I just bought you an elegant, brand-new fox coat last year.'

"'New?' shrieked his wife, 'John Jones, how dare you say it was new? You know very well that the fox had been wearing it for at least six years!'"—Los Angeles Times.

### Britishers Well Fed

Specifications as to supplies brought to this country for the British army in the Revolution required sound "beef, pork, bread, flour, rice, salt, pease, oatmeal." To these were added cheese, bacon, suet, fish, raisins and molasses. Don Seitz, in writing on the subject, adds: "Potatoes, parsnips, carrots, turnips and cabbages were provided when possible. Nor was there lack of liquid refreshment. Port, claret and spruce beer were forwarded in quantities."

### Snow Quickly Melted

Calcium chloride, for the removal of snow, was first applied about three years ago. During last winter experiments were conducted in Queens, Brooklyn and Manhattan, N. Y., as well as in Philadelphia, Pa., and Hartford, Conn. The pavements were sprayed with a treated solution of calcium chloride made non-corrosive. It was found that when the mixture was applied, before or at the beginning of a storm, the snow did not stay but melted almost immediately.

### Real Long Distance Talk

Prince Pursachtra, Siamese minister for trade and communications, by using the telephone on his desk in Bangkok, Siam, recently, spoke for an hour and a half with his son in Hamburg, Germany, and with friends in Berlin, a distance of 5,750 miles. The German Telefunken company has a short-wave station in Bangkok.

### Civil War Necessity

Shrapnel, or fractional currency, were issued during the Civil war because of the disappearance of coin from circulation and the shortage of small coin. The first issue of fractional money was made on August 1, 1862. The last and fifth issue was made from February 20, 1874, to February 15, 1876.

### Important European River

The Danube river with its more than 300 tributaries, drains one-tenth of the area of Europe in its course of 1,750 miles.

### All Stocked Up

Author—Can I sell you a scenario? Movie Producer—Gwan, we've had a scenario for years.—Brooklyn Eagle.

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# flies

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Flit is sold only in this yellow can with the black band.

Kills flies, mosquitoes, house flies, and other pests. Kills them quicker.