

Strange But True

By F. H. MacArthur

What is described as a "miracle of surgery" was recently performed by Dr. William Frackleton of Marquette University in Milwaukee, when he replaced the 10 fingers of Marion Cody, 42, which were amputated 3 years ago when Cody lost them while snow-bound on a hunting trip in Alaska.

The artificial fingers created by modern surgery enables Cody to write, use a carpenter's set of tools, dress and feed himself, and live a normal life. The how of this amazing operation was the opening of clefts an inch and a half deep into the palms of the victim's hands, then freezing the bones to make them the beginnings of longer fingers and thumbs. Some tendons had to be transplanted from one part of the hand to another to give added power to the new digits, each now 3 1/4 inches long.

Another man without a country is Mike O'Brien, a weatherbeaten seafarer who keeps riding a ferry-boat between Hong Kong and Portugal because he has no passport for any country. The Capt. of the ferry boat says O'Brien can't ride his ship for-

ever, though he has no solution to the problem. The man without a country boarded the ferry Sept. 18, 1952 and hasn't set foot on land since. Needless to say O'Brien has a foggy future and a mysterious past. While he considers himself an American, he can't name his birthplace, never knew his father and knows nothing about the mother who bore him. The 57-year-old mystery man claims to have served with the U. S. Navy when only 13, and made his first trip to the orient in 1931. The U. S. State Department says he's a Hungarian with many a claim to American citizenship. An international Red Cross certificate issued him in June of 1952 describes him as a stateless Irishman.

Stranger than fiction is the story of this 57-year-old man who rides the ferry boat from Macau to Hong Kong because he has no passport and no country.

Baby oysters are produced when the sperm from the male fertilizes eggs discharged into the water at the rate of 50,000,000 a year by the female. One pint bottle could hold all the eggs needed to produce the annual crop. The young of all animals can be handled without danger of biting. Even the king of the jungle's cubs are friendly little fellows for the first few months of their lives. There's an old saying that a girl can reach into a man's heart through his stomach. 13-year-old Mary Darsey has even done better. She has baked her way to fame. Her special dishes have become so well known that she was asked to be a student teacher at the state 4-H club on the University of Maryland Campus. Mary Darsey is the eldest girl in a family of 4 boys and 3 girls and has been cooking toothsome dishes since she was 7-years old. Too many parents tie up their dogs and let their teen-aged children run loose.

The ancient Greeks voted by marking the name of their candi-

date on a laurel leaf with a stylus. The thighbone of a human is as tough as iron and just about 15 times as light. The fact that bone endures down through the centuries after the flesh has gone back to dust and ashes, provide scientific men with a major source of information about primitive men and animals. You might not think so, but all bones are slightly flexible and in addition have elastic cartilages between them that serve as shock absorbers. Birds, whose lives depend largely upon flight, have hollow air-filled bones to make them lighter and thus more adapted to flying.

When we see dead people in our dreams they do not appear as lower forms of life. They come to us just as though they were living beings and we find it difficult to believe, even after awak-

ning, that so and so was actually dead. The Iroquois often speak of the dead wandering about at night when they are supposed to leave the death cell in search of food. But highly civilized races believe in ghosts—at least many of them do—and this belief survives in its original crude form in the vampire stories current in many places, including the Garden of the Gulf. The Nicaraguans tie food to the body before cremation takes place so that the dead may be fed in the next world. Equally absurd is the custom of the Ahts, who burn blankets with their dead, to keep them warm in the world below.

Men of various tribes visit their dead from time to time to carry vitals and drink. Others sprinkle food upon the grave and adjacent ground believing that the spirit will come to places where food

and drink are left for them. In Africa the Washutu often build small penthouses over the graves of their dead where they carry food and water as offerings. These are but a few of the fantastic religious ideas current among the various peoples of earth. The belief that ghosts often return to their old haunts leads the peasants of remote sections of Poland to give milk and eggs to a species of black serpents which crowds around their homes. We find the same beliefs among the Apaches who consider the rattlesnake as the form to be assumed by the wicked after death, and therefore must not be harmed under any circumstances.

HISTORIC STATE The name "Vermont" comes from the French "verd" and "mont," or green mountain.



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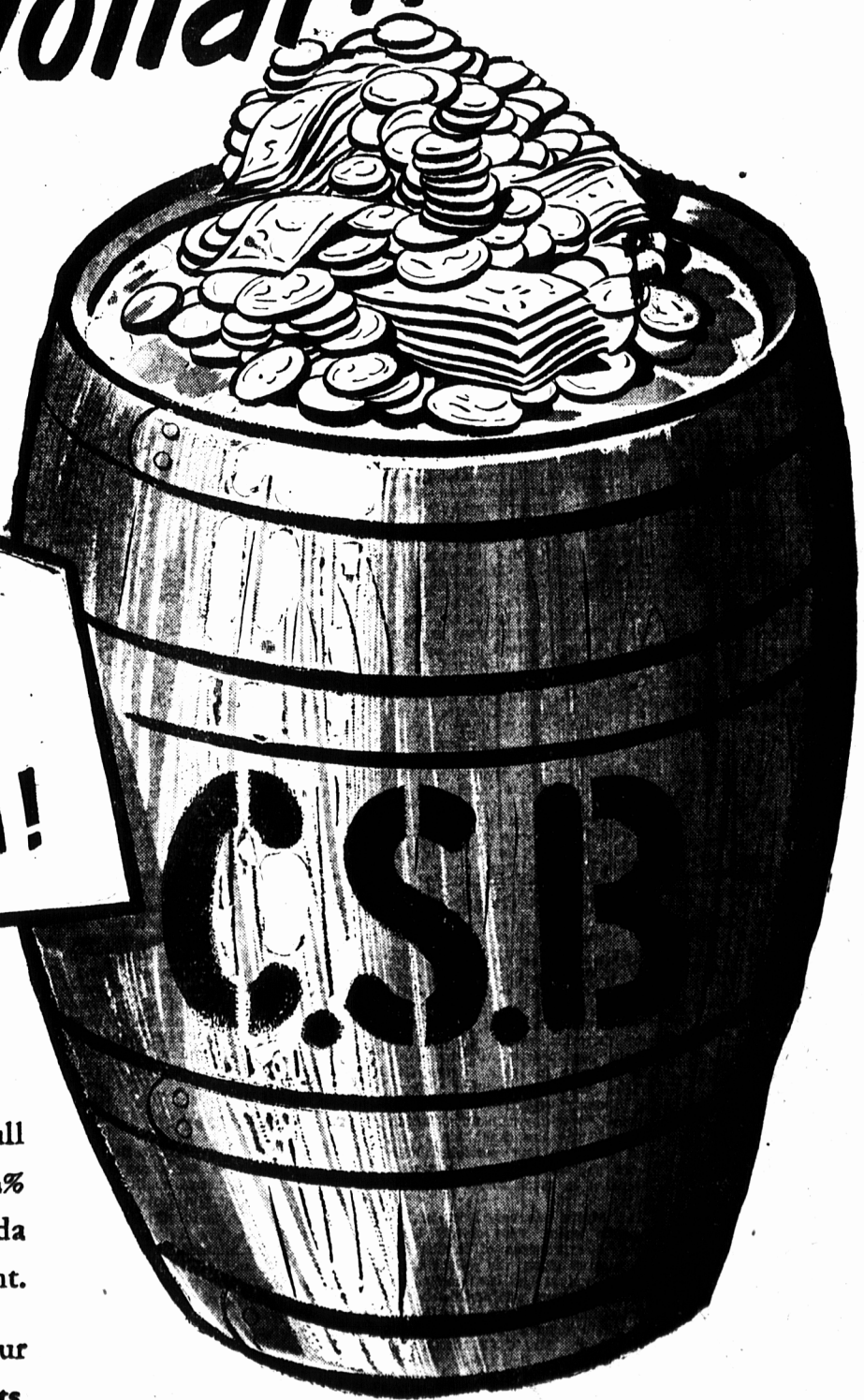
**WARNING!**

**INTERRUPTION NOTICE**  
There will be an interruption of electric power on our Borden line West of Charlottetown on Wednesday afternoon, October 21st, between the hours of 1:00 and 5:00 p.m., weather permitting, for the purpose of moving the line as required by the construction of the Trans-Canada Highway.

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