

Strange But True

By F. H. MacArthur

Besides pansies there are several other blossoms which bear the likeness of human faces. The green man orchid is such an one. There are other wild orchids which bear a real or fancied resemblance to various insects and animals. Wild life is sometimes strangely human!

The smallness of frogs is almost past belief. When these midges first leave the ponds they are no bigger than a housefly, and unless one has sharp eyes it is next to impossible to observe their movements in the grass.

Even the best of weather forecasters pull a honer now and then. Not so the scarlet pimpernel. The sky may be overcast and cloudy, the barometer dropping and the weather man shouting, "Don't forget your umbrella!" Take a look at the pimpernel. If its flowers are wide open you can put aside your rain coat and umbrella for the clouds will soon disappear and the sun come out, strange but true.

Among bird weather forecasters we might mention the pea-fowl which has a natural fear and dislike of earthquakes and thunder and will utter a strange cry when their sounds are still too far away for the human ear to pick up. Seismologists sometimes keep pea-fowl around for this reason.

Is there any truth in the old saying, "Under the oak there comes a stroke, under the ash there comes a flash, under the elm there comes no harm"—from lightning. Well, according to well kept records of the trees most frequently struck by lightning the elm is almost at the bottom of the list.

The moorhen is so prolific that the older youngsters act as baby sitters while their parents are busy with the latest brood. This is believed the only instance in

bird life where the older birds look after their young sisters and brothers.

The extraction of certain metals from ores, the art of glass making, the baking and glazing of pottery and the making of dyes from certain shell fish were known methods centuries before Christ.

No one knows who was the first person to interest himself in flying. Certainly the flight of birds must have called to early man's mind the possibilities of zooming through space as it had to the mind of that amazing man Leonardo da Vinci who caged birds and then released them to watch the first movements of their wings.

He pondered over the possibility of artificial wings for humans. He even attempted the invention of a flying machine.

No doubt his and earlier man's ideas lent itself to further investigation which in turn led to a dream becoming a reality. It is only when we begin to think things out for ourselves that knowledge increases with us. It was not until after the discovery of America that men realized the geography they had been learning all their lives was wrong. It was not until the Renaissance brought about a revival of art that the great artist of that day began to study the human form more closely and began to dissect to get a true picture of anatomy. It was not until the printed word came into being that men would read for themselves and form their own opinions on questions that they had hitherto only heard from the mouths of renowned scholars.

For thousands of years whenever men wanted to know about this or that thing they turned to the ancient writers and accepted their views whether right or wrong. We know better now. We study, experiment, and as a result find out new facts for ourselves.

Oliver Nikoloff, an instructor at the University of Cincinnati, owns a watch that tells the time with chiming. The watch is worth \$300 and strange but true, there are only seven like it in existence.

Ever since Biblical days the woman having two husbands dead

powered where the husband should be buried. But a woman in Cookeville, Tennessee, solved the problem nicely. "She reserved space for her grave between the graves of her husbands. Her tombstone reads: 'Their wife.'"

The only way to escape the evils of life is to rise above them. Have you ever noticed that the people who get the most joy out of life are those who have a plan and work at it persistently. Such persons grow with their work. They have found their place in the sun, have tapped the inner sources of power and are happy.

Twin daughters born to Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Yarbrough, of Alamo, Tennessee, have different birthday anniversaries and birthplaces 100 miles apart. Reason: The first child was born in the Yarbrough home. Complications developed, and the mother was removed to hospital 100 miles away where the second daughter was born.

Budget your time carefully, for it is the one thing, you can never replace.

A tablespoon of vinegar added to the water after beets have been peeled and diced keeps their color a bright red.

Due to the comparatively mild winters in the Arctic Circle the little town of Aklavik, on the delta of the MacKenzie River, will have to be moved to a new site where it will be safe. The project has been approved by the Canadian Parliament. The ground under the town is an ice field and a sudden thaw would drop Aklavik a good six feet to the level of the river, scientists estimate.

Young ladies in Corvallis, Ore-

you, are forbidden by law to drink coffee at evening meals except Friday and Saturday.

Hindu custom demands that a man have a legitimate son at the earliest possible moment—a son to perform the proper religious ceremonies at and after the death of the father and to break the father's skull on the funeral pyre, according to his caste's ritual. Little wonder that the average Hindu of 30 years is an old person.

In the case of a barren woman, the husband has the right to send his wife on a pilgrimage to a temple where she must pray to a pagan god for a son. If after returning to her home she gives birth to a child, she revisits the temple, carrying with other gifts, a cutting of hair from the infant's head.

If you were to visit one of these temples in India you would see hundreds of little packets bound in dirty rags, while beneath the packets you would see great quantities of human hair.

What strange things are done under the name of superstition and religion?

The 18th century brought about the recognition of orderly happenings in nature and a more rational attitude into daily life which was a great thing for humanity as it led mankind away from a thousand and one silly superstitions which tagged the 17th century as one of the blackest in human history.

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