

Strange But True

By F. H. MacArthur

The Narasansuk Air Force Base in Southern Greenland is a spot that flows with milk and honey. So says Miss Pearl Andrews, a St. John's Newfoundland, native. Pearl ought to know as she is in her sixth year there as a secretary.

Here are some of the advantages of living in this isolated spot in Greenland: (1) Living quarters are par excellence. (2) All salaries of clerks, typists, librarians and so on are tax-free. (3) Girls pay only a small rental a month for attractively furnished rooms, which includes janitor service and linens. (4) Meals cost only \$1.10 a day.

By rubbing alcohol on the outside of the glass and then, polishing with a dry cloth, windows are prevented from frosting when the weather is cold.

Angel Falls in the wilds of South America are more than fifteen times the height of Niagara Falls. And strange but true, the source of its constant water supply is the clouds in which the falls has its head most of the year.

The amazing tree ants of Australia eject some mysterious active chemical into certain nerve cells of leaves, bringing about a general and uniform contraction of the leaf without destroying its vitality. The poison which this clever insect hypos into the leaf nerves, causes the leaf to curl at any angle the ants design. Into these leaf shelters the ants retreat when the weather is bad outside.

How does a small snake, the neck of which is only about 1 1/2 inches in circumference, swallow a large duck egg? Actual observation enables me to explain the magician-like feat.

The snake slides its head and neck over the egg, and pressing hard upon it with its body, prevents it moving. Suddenly I saw

the upper and lower jaws unhook and strange but true the egg gradually slid down the snake's throat. When the egg reaches the stomach, the shell undergoes a break down by the gastric juices, and the meal is digested.

During one of my visits to Florida I saw some colored boys feeding snakes porcelain counterfeits. No doubt the snakes took them for real eggs. Anyway, they swallowed them and the boys told me afterwards that the snakes never died.

One of the chief vegetable foods of the natives of New Zealand is very poisonous until treated by them in the following manner: The bean of the "tinda-burra" is steeped in water for several days, and dried in the sun, roasted in hot ashes and pounded into a sort of flour. By soaking the beans for a few days in water the natives convert a poisonous vegetable into a valuable food that tastes like tapioca.

Ever hear of "wild dynamite"? No? Well, when the supply of fish bait runs out among the blacks of Australia they simply toss into the shallow parts of the water a creeping plant which so stupefies the fish that they actually come floating to the surface belly up.

The natives call this strange plant "pagg-arra," and the botanists—Derris Scandans. It used to be believed that the rainbow's end rested on the earth and anyone who found the place would also find there a bag of gold. Hence the phrase, "He found the pot of gold at the rainbow's end."

Even to-day among some North Queensland blacks the legend is accepted as a fact, because the wonderful sky bow seems to spring from the Island of Bedarra and arch itself over the Great Barrier Reef.

Some boys find it hard enough to fly one kite on one string. But Charles Baum, 73, of Bradley beach, N. J., flies 85 kites on a single string and all at one time.

To do this, the 73-year-old boy attaches each kite to a 50-foot line, gets it in the air, and then

ties it to his main cable, which is a seven mile long nylon cord. Who says kite flying is only for kids?

A bachelor is a man who never makes the same mistake once.

Fables aside, our red fox is a very interesting creature, and his reputation for outsmarting man is well earned and indisputable.

Only last winter I saw two West Royalty fox-hunters trudging through the light snow trying to head off Reynard, which appeared to be heading for a point of land in the West River where he could cross the stream to the opposite shore.

The hunters had guessed wrong, for all the time Mr. Fox was following in their footsteps at a safe distance, while the hounds, baffled and out-smarted, layed disappointedly from a clump of bushes half a mile down the river.

Following in the tracks of hunters is one of Reynard's ace cards. A few years ago a farmer of my acquaintance was amazed to see a fox standing on its hind legs in order to look through a crack into the hen house. The farmer rushed for his gun but Reynard dodged behind a corner of the building and keeping it between himself and the gun made his escape.

When followed too close the fox will make a great leap to one side and start off in a new direction or sometimes it will go back in its own tracks to fool the dogs.

Any person who has hunted these animals will tell you they are gifted with a degree of shrewdness beyond anything they have been credited with.

STOLE MOTHER'S WATCH

MONTREAL, (CP) — One ungrateful son and one busy burglar appeared in criminal court Monday.

Jacques Bourget, 20, was sentenced to one year in prison after pleading guilty to theft of a watch and a ring from his mother, Fernand Thureux, 20, pleaded guilty to 25 minor burglaries during the last week. He will be sentenced today.

Junior Red Cross Members to Meet In Wolfville, N. S.

Another large group of high school students from many points in the Atlantic Provinces, plus a dozen or so "outside" guests, will combine serious business with a goodly measure of pleasure this summer, in order to become fully versed in the program provided for their age-bracket by the Junior Red Cross.

These are the boys and girls who will be selected soon to attend the second annual "Atlantic Provinces High School Junior Red Cross Leadership Training Centre", to be held at Acadia University, Wolfville, N. S., July 6 to 15, inclusive.

As the name of the project indicates its purpose is to produce leaders to spark the formation of more high school branches of the junior society in Atlantic Provinces communities, and to stimulate greater interest and participation where such branches already exist. To this end, a schedule is now being formulated which will enable those attending to absorb as much information, and to put as many projects into actual practice, as 10 intensive days of work and fun will permit.

An innovation this year, it has been announced, will be the attendance at the centre of six Canadian juniors en route to Europe, where they will take part in an international training centre to be conducted later in the summer at the Skara Youth Centre, Flamslat, Sweden. One of them is Suzanne Frances, Charlottetown, P. E. I., who attended last year's initial Atlantic Provinces centre at Mount Allison University, Sackville, N. B.

Arrangements for the 1954 event are under the supervision of Miss Elizabeth O. R. Browne, Halifax, director of the Junior Red Cross in Nova Scotia, who has also revealed that last year's "elective" plan had been dropped in favor of a rotative system of participation

by all delegates in all activities. The latter, generally similar to those which comprised such an interesting, all-round syllabus last summer, will be enumerated later this month.

The "main contingent" will be made up of 20 girls and boys from Nova Scotia, 20 from New Brunswick and 10 each from Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland. In addition, there will be six guests from the Province of Quebec and four from the United States, along with the six chosen from as many provinces to represent the Canadian Junior Red Cross in Sweden.

Miss Browne will serve as assistant director with a staff which will also include provincial directors of the junior society from the other provinces and two field workers. The centre's director, to be appointed on the recommendation of Nova Scotia's department of education, and various program leaders, will be named in the near future.

SOUTH WINSLOE W. I.

The April meeting of South Winsloe Women's Institute was held at the home of Mrs. Orville Turner.

Roll call was answered by 10 members and one visitor. Mrs. Erith Hughes reported on the leadership course which she attended. Some discussion was held regarding an evening session at the "district convention," this matter to be given a decided answer at next meeting.

A committee of four was appointed responsible for the plans of the convention, namely Mrs. Harold Diamond, Mrs. Earle Rodd, Mrs. Heber Hardy and Mrs. Lloyd Gillespie. Correspondence was read and discussed. Two thank-you cards were received, also government grant.

Mrs. Ivan Turner invited the members to her home for the May meeting. Lunch committee are Mrs. Gillespie and Mrs. Hughes. Roll call to be answered with an exchange of slips or seed.

Mrs. Harold Diamond then led in recreation and a social half-hour followed, with the serving of lunch by hostess and committee in charge.

URANIUM PROCESSING NEAR PRINCE ALBERT, Sask. (CP)

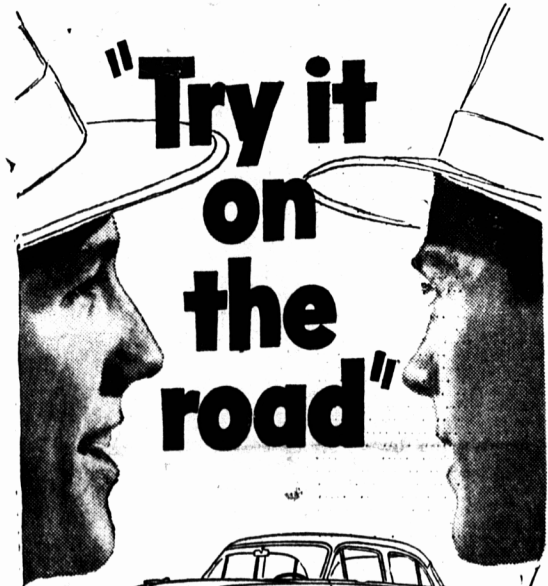
Saskatchewan's first low-grade uranium ore processing mill will start operating early this summer in the nearby Lac la Ronge area. The company says there is a supply of 15,000,000 pounds of Uranium-308 in the region.

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You are cordially invited to an exhibition of A Collection of Paintings of the Cities of Canada by Canadian Artists The Lounge, Charlottetown Hotel, Tuesday May 18th through Saturday May 22nd Daily 10 a.m. to 11 p.m.

This exhibition has recently returned from an international tour of leading cities of the world including San Juan, Havana, Mexico City, Caracas, Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, Buenos Aires, Montevideo, Rome, London, Paris, Geneva, Stockholm, The Hague, Madrid, and a visit to the Canadian Armed Forces in Soest, West Germany.

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