

Strange But True

By F. H. MacArthur
There are 36 circuses in America. They employ 5,000 persons and perform before 10,000,000 persons every year. Payrolls according to Billboard Magazine, exceed \$15,000,000 a season, which is about 25 or 30 weeks long.
It costs the Ringling Brothers \$28,000 to operate one day in New York City. Ringling Brothers is the largest mobile amusement enterprise on the face of the earth. The big tent contains 38,560 yards of fire-proof canvas which has to be replaced every second year; while on the road the employees eat in the world's largest tented dining-room.

Jack Hall, Salt Lake City, was born on March 23; his wife was born on March 23, they first met on March 23; and strange but true their baby was born on March 23. Here's another news item to prove how dates play quite a role in the lives of some people.

On October 13, 1929, Mary Carlson, of Grand Rapids, Michigan, met her future husband. They went together for 13 months. They got married Nov. 13, 1930, and lived together for 13 years. Mary's husband was a fireman. All his equipment, coat, helmet and boots bore the number 13.

However, the marriage ended on the rock of grief and the couple were divorced May 13, 1943. He then joined the navy and was given number 13 on everything during the 13 months he served overseas. Upon his return home he was again given number 13 in the fire department.

After being divorced 13 months Mary married a florist who had been in the business 13 years. Nature and junkyards would take care of you if you wanted to live like Manuel Mayer, 64, of Springfield, Ohio.

His home is a cave, his bed an old sleeping bag. His furnace and cooking range is a five gallon can. A nearby river provides drinking

water and baths.
In summer he cools his heels in the shade of beautiful trees which grow about his cave. In winter, he retires farther into the natural cave and closes its entrance against wind and snow.

A few dollars picked up from the sale of junk keep this nature man in food. Berries, mushrooms, etc., are provided by nature.
You and I might call Mayer a tramp. Mayer doesn't care a tinker's dam what anyone calls him as long as they let him live the way he wants to.

Trash dumps have provided Mayer with a bit of spending money and also with the conveniences which his cave boasts, including the clothes he wears.
Nocturnal birds and animals and fish living in the dark depths of the ocean often have unusually large eyes, better to catch the faint light.

A bull moose can weigh as much as 1800 pounds, stand 8 feet tall at the shoulders, and have a six-foot spread of antlers.
The incisor teeth of a pocket gopher grow almost an inch a week. The animal can keep them reasonably short only by constant gnawing.

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British Women

look like mannequins," says Tintling. "I haven't."

The outfits include a plain grey terylene and wool skirt, straight-cut with shaped waistband and pocket, a pale blue rayon skirt in Prince of Wales check, slim with dark blue petersham trimming on the waistband and pockets and a pure white terylene skirt with wrap-around front and side buttoning.

"A golfing skirt must be flat so that there is no movement between the eye and the ball," said Tintling.

POCKET MOTIF
There are matching white and blue cotton shirts with high pointed collars, cap sleeves and fitted bust and with pocket motif of the Eng-

Church Council Opening Sunday Crucial Test Faces World

By GEORGE W. CORNELL

EVANSTON, Ill. (AP)—Most of the world's churches are moving toward a fateful crossroad. Which way they turn can mean either closer ties or sharper gaps in the centuries-old division of Christianity.

The answer hinges on the assembly of the World Council of Churches opening here next Sunday.

"It will be a critical test," says Dr. W. A. Vassert Hooft, the council's general secretary. "We shall see which is stronger—the force of unity or the force of division."

The meeting will be the most representative Christian gathering

ever held in the American continent. In range of subjects, purposes and participation, it may well be the most comprehensive Christian assembly ever called.

MEETING TERMED CRUCIAL

All things considered, says Dr. Franklin Clark Fry, head of the United Lutheran Church and vice-chairman of the council's central committee, "it is the most crucial interchurch meeting in Christian history."

Fundamental theological questions, buried through the years in the ashes of denominational cleavages and regional aloofness, will be raised in the first such broad attempt to cement Christianity's scattered forces.

"The assembly will deal with subjects that go to the very heart of the faith," Dr. Fry says. "It is a daring thing to do."

More than 1,500 representatives from 161 denominations with approximately 170,000,000 members in 48 countries on both sides of the Iron Curtain will take part in the meeting.

Although the world council met once previously—at its founding

42 YEARS AGO IN AMSTERDAM

As rigging for the first time into basic and potentially shattering—or consolidating—matters of faith. Dr. Samuel McRea Cavert, the council's American secretary, believes that the churches, "instead of finding themselves far apart will discover that they are on common ground to a far greater extent than they have known."

Such discoveries, on less ticklish theological matters, started and spurred on the present-day "ecumenical movement"—to rebuild a firm alliance of the world's Christian churches.

FORMED THROUGH YEARS

It was dreamed, discussed and designed at succeeding meetings of Christian leaders in Stockholm in 1925, in Lausanne, Switzerland, in 1927, at Oxford and Edinburgh in 1937. In 1948 at Amsterdam it culminated in the world council.

Although Roman Catholic churchmen have attended some previous meetings of world council groups, none will be present at Evanston under a ruling by Samuel Cardinal Stritch of the Chicago archdiocese.

There have, however, been studies by Roman Catholic leaders on the assembly's theme. Said an American Catholic publication, "The Pilot:

"No true Christian at any rate will look with indifference at the hopes that are set in Evanston."

MURDERER HANGED

LONDON (Reuters)—William Sanchez de Pina Hepper, 62-year-old artist, was hanged at Wandsworth prison here Wednesday for raping and murdering an 11-year-old girl at his studio in the South coast resort of Hove. Hepper, a married man with a family, persuaded young Margaret Spevick's parents in London to let her go down to Hove to recuperate after fracturing her arm. There he raped her strangled her with the sling supporting her arm and fled to Spain.

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