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Strange But True

By F. H. MacArthur

Sauer, Krout on ball team.

Charlie Sauer and Cell Krout play baseball on the same team in Evergreen, Washington.

If the world were really civilized (as indeed it claims to be), there would be no danger of a Third World War or the constant threat of famine.

The reindeer is the only deer that man has been able to tame.

Ever hear of the sweating Death? There was such a strange disease in Europe many years ago and it killed Europeans for almost a century. The victims broke out in a cold sweat combined with a consuming thirst.

The strange disease first made its appearance on Aug. 22, 1485, the date on which Henry Tudor killed Richard III and the bloody War of the Roses came to an end.

Here are some of the amazing facts connected with "The Sweating Death":

1. In five weeks the plague carried off more people than did the 30 years of war.

2. Its victims were only Anglo-Saxons and Normans. The celtic races were not smitten.

3. At the time of the 4th major outbreak the plague crossed the channel to the continent. It killed scores of Englishmen in Brittany, but the French around them remained unaffected. The plague also struck at the Germans, close relatives of the English (though no Englishman would admit relationship with the Huns during World Wars One and Two and killed over 15,000 of them in five days.

Nothing was heard of the strange disease after this until 1551, during the reign of Edward VI. Then it disappeared as mysteriously as it had come and has not been heard of since.

What caused the strange disease known as The Sweating Death? For 400 years medical men have tried to find the answer. Current opinion is that it was caused by a virus and that's that.

• • •

Some of the ancient writers believed that swallows and certain other birds hibernated. For generations after their deaths the theory was ridiculed by scientists and naturalists.

Proof of the hibernating of the poorwill, a cousin of our common whip-poor-will is now an established fact, due to the labors of Edmund Jaeger, a California biologist. The bird already referred to was found by Dr. Jaeger in the Chuckawalla Mts., a low range in the southern tip of California, deep in a state of hibernation. When first removed poorwill showed no signs of life, from its sleeping quarters the and the doctor assumed it was dead.

Held in Dr. Jaeger's hands for some minutes the bird sleepily opened its eyes. It was put back in its place and after the passing of a week brought out again. This time the poorwill not only opened its eyes but flew away.

The second examination showed the bird's temperature averaged 65 degrees as compared to 106 for an active bird.

"One is never too old to fall in love," said 84-year-old Sanfrisco Pastor, when he led his blushing bride of 80, Maria Riverilo, from the altar after their recent wedding in Mexico City.

• • •

We thought we had a fisherman's paradise right here in the Garden of the Gulf. But listen to this and then pack your bags for the Quarter Club in Pirate Bay, Florida. Here patrons fish through a trap door in front of the bar, and and drinks are on the house any time a fish more than 18-inches long is caught.

"For sale" notice on a bulletin board at the University of California at Los Angeles: "Good courting car! Owner needs money to buy wedding ring!"

Above the rattle and din of noisy Washington, D. C., soon will be heard a new sound—the call to prayer: "There is no God but Allah! Mohammed is the prophet!"

Five times every day the capital will echo to the traditional call to prayer. The voice will come through a loud speaker set up 160 feet above the city on the nearly completed mosque, the money for which was raised by contributions made throughout the Moslem world.

A wife seeking a divorce told the judge that she was allergic to wedding rings. She didn't get the divorce.

Dorothy Dix's Column—

Continued from page 2

so that Dad has little money to spend on the girl, and she'll soon give him his walking papers. It's too bad some men can't see what fools they make of themselves when they think they can win the love of a girl young enough to be their granddaughter. Your man isn't the first to be caught like this, but bear in mind that the erring hubby invariably returns to the family hearth.

Miss Nissen cannot reply personally to readers but will answer problems of interest through this column.

15-Year-Old Strike Ended At Irish Saloon

By Michael Rooney

DUN LAOGHAIRE, Ireland, (AP) —It was all peaceful in front of Jim Downey's pub on upper Georges street today—yet somehow it wasn't the same.

The world's longest strike ended officially Friday night.

Missing—and missed, too—were the pickets who have paraded in front of the saloon for nearly 15 years.

They were inside at the bar knocking back a few.

Among the sentimental Irish in this little hamlet outside Dublin the truce touched deeply—and more than one regular customer wondered aloud what "Old Jim" Downey, the late owner, would have thought.

The settlement of the dispute—not of money but principle—was reached between Pat Neville, who bought the pub when Downey died, and the National Union of Vintners, grocers and Allied Trades Assistants Union.

Began In 1939

The strike began in March, 1939, when "Old Jim," fired a union bartender.

The union called out all the other bartenders and set up a picket line.

This only made "Old Jim" more stubborn.

He hired pretty non-union barmaids instead—and business seemed to prosper.

"Old Jim" and the union settled down for a long siege.

Over the days, months and years the pickets carrying placards paced the sidewalk in front of the saloon—through the Second World War and into the atomic age.

Became Tradition

They became a tradition—a virtual landmark—in Dun Laoghaire. Thousands of tourists went out of their way to get a look.

"Old Jim" bore no bitterness. And the pickets—paid by the union—held no hard feelings toward him personally.

Val Murphy, who had picketed the place since the strike began, was the first to offer condolences to Downey's widow when "Old Jim" died last May at the age of 79.

Jim's widow carried on for a while—standing just as firm as her husband.

The new owned, Neville, finally made peace with the union on formally taking over the saloon Friday night.

Business was still brisk.

There was singing and drinking to mark the end of the strike.

Surrender Trafalgar Square To Starlings

LONDON, (AP) — The government Thursday officially surrendered Trafalgar Square in the heart of London to the starlings.

Labor MP Norman Dodds asked in the Commons how many of the thousands of starlings that swoop around Nelson's column had been caught in an eradication campaign.

Somberly G. R. H. Nugent, parliamentary secretary to the agriculture ministry, replied:

"The attempts made last winter to catch starlings in cages at their roosting places was unsuccessful. The cost was about £200. No further action in this matter is contemplated."

Dodds asked amid laughter if this was not a "humiliating confession of failure in the battle of Trafalgar."

Missing Vet To Hitch-Hike Home

WINNIPEG, (CP) — Allan Siemens, 22-year-old navy veteran who was located here after disappearing in Victoria 'eight days ago, plans to hitch-hike back home. He said he apparently suffered a loss of memory.

"I want to go back to Victoria and see my wife and Linda Darlene" (his two-year-old daughter) he said.

"These blackouts have happened before and my wife has been understanding. I imagine she will be quite upset now. It is just too bad I don't know when they are going to occur."

Siemens said he was discharged from the regular navy last Feb. 27 for medical reasons after serving 18 months on HMCS Antigonish.

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A town-planning project was ried out by the Abbott Baldwin in the 11th century at Bury St. Edmunds, England.

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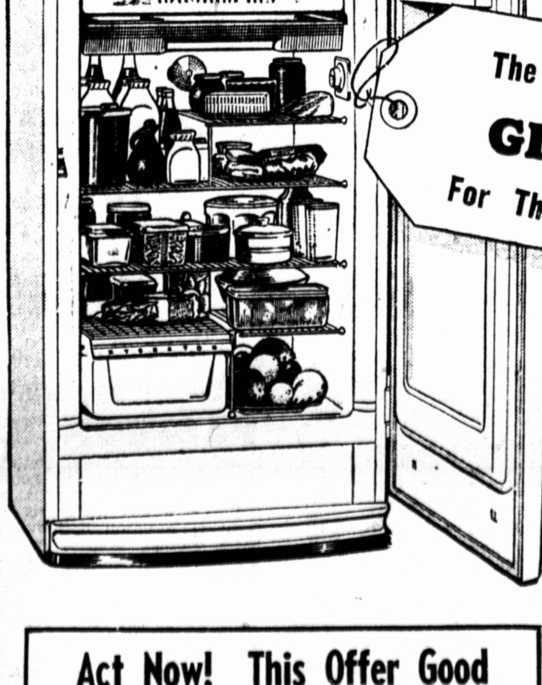

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