

Strange But True

By F. H. MacArthur

The keepers of lighthouses have recorded some amazing freakish doings of the sea. At Unst on the Shetland Islands, a door in the lighthouse was broken open 195 feet above the sea. At the Bishop's Rock light during a heavy gale a bell was torn from its moorings 100 feet above high water. Once a rock weighing 100 lbs. was hurled with terrific force against the lighthouse at Victoria, P. E. I. The force of the blow shattered the windows of this light. The same day wind blown rocks broke many panes of glass in lighthouse windows all along the Atlantic coast line. The most amazing of all such stories has to do with the lighthouse at Dunnet Head, which stands on a high ledge at the south entrance to Pentland Firth. The windows of this light (330 feet above sea level) have been broken time and again by stones swept from the cliff and tossed skyward by gigantic waves.

The ashes of Jane Taylor, a former resident of Charlottetown, lie in a cemetery in Denver, Colorado, while those of her husband, Mark MacCormack, are buried in Cornwall Cemetery, having been disinterred from their resting place in Denver and brought to this province for reburial many years ago, on the assumption that Mrs. MacCormack would end her days in her native province and then be laid to rest beside her husband.

In the course of time, Jane Taylor MacCormack and her children wandered back to Colorado where Mrs. MacCormack died at the age of 90. Today her remains rest in the graveyard which once held the body of her husband. Thus the Fates separated by death a couple of Island folk who'd planned to enter their last long sleep together.

Into Passamaquoddy Bay 2 billion tons of water are carried by the tidal currents twice every day; into the whole Bay of Fundy, 100 billion tons!

It is no superstition that the moon controls the tides. Indeed there is gravitation attraction between every drop of water and every star in the heavens, but the big pull comes from the moon. Here's one point to prove it: The moon rises later each day by 50 minutes, on the average, than the day before. So, in most places, the time of high tide is correspondingly later each day. And as the lamp of heaven waxes and wanes in its monthly cycle so the heights of the tide varies.

Twice each month, when the moon is a mere ribbon in the sky, and again when it has spent all its quarters getting full we have the highest of the high tides, called the springs or spring tides. At these seasons, sun, moon, and earth are directly in line and the pull of the two heavenly bodies is added together to throw the tide high on the beaches and deep in the harbours.

On the other hand, twice each month, at the quarter of the moon, when sun, moon, and earth lie at the apexes of a triangle, and the pull of sun and moon are opposed, we have the lowest tides of the lunar month, known as the neaps. More amazing still is the fact that the moon's power to move the tide is more than twice that of the sun, although astronomers tell us that the latter's mass is 27 million times that of the moon.

The very latest in clocks is the atomic time piece. It differs from other clocks in that it shows actual time. Conventional clocks, geared to the earth's rotation, do not show the effects of its lengthening days and therefore are not absolutely reliable.

Canada boasts one of the world's few bore tides. It's at Moncton, on the Petitcodiac River, but it is impressive only on the spring tide of the full moon or new moon. What caused a bore tide? A bore tide comes into being when a great part of the flood tide enters a river as a single surger-like wave or at most two or three waves, with a steep and high rolling front, and is produced by sand bars and other obstructions in the river's mouth, so that the incoming water is held back, until it gathers enough strength to rush forward.

The greatest bore in the world may be seen on the Tsientang River, which empties into the China Sea. The ancient Chinese had a great fear of the bore and used to toss offerings into the river to appease the angry spirit of the bore. Compared to Tsientang River bore the one in New Brunswick is just a mere trickle of water. Average height of the Tsientang bore is 10 feet. Rate of movement 12 1/2 knots. But during new and full moon tides this famous bore rises to a height of 25 feet above the surface of the river.

COLORFUL CEREMONY

CALGARY, CP — One of the most colorful of historic military ceremonies will be reviewed here in September when color guards from the 1st and 2nd battalions, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, combine for the regiment's 20th "trooping the color." The last ceremony was in 1951.

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Scout News and Notices

Scout Fireman Course

The third in a series of lectures and demonstrations leading to the Scout Fireman badge was held last evening in the Scout hall with Mr. L.A. Stewart of Charlottetown instructing. Last evening's lecture dealt with controlling panic, rescuing animals, salvaging valuables, first aid for burns and how fires are caused by defective wiring and defective electrical appliances. Firemen drags and lifts and the Holger-Nelson method of artificial respiration were demonstrated. The Scouts also practiced knots used for rescue work during fires. The Fireman badge is one in a series of public service badges which Scouts may earn and is one of several which lead to the Queen's Scout badge.

Wrestler Given 10-Year Sentence

MONTREAL, (CP)—Benoit Forget, 40, who wrestled professionally under the name of Ben Jackson, last week was sentenced to 10 years in penitentiary and to five strokes of the lash for a \$19,668 holdup. In defence, Forget told the court the money was left by two men who became frightened and ran when they heard a knock at his door.

Picks Mantle As Top Baseball Player Of Today

ST. LOUIS (AP)—"I'd say Mantle today is the greatest player in either the American or National baseball league," said manager Marty Marion of the St. Louis Browns.

He was speaking, of course, of Mickey Mantle, the powerful and speedy switch-hitter of the New York Yankees.

Marion was asked how the 21-year-old Mantle compares with Stan Musial of the St. Louis Cardinals, Marion's former teammate and six-time National League batting champion.

"Well, yes, Stan had that kind of speed a few years ago," Marion replied. "I'm thinking of Mantle as of today compared with today's crop of players."

"Mickey is a different type of athlete from Musial. Stan in his best day couldn't hit a ball as far as Mickey. He's bigger, more powerful."

"Doesn't Mantle have any weaknesses?" "Let's see," said Marion. "Oh, yes. There's one thing he can't do very well. He can't throw left handed."

"When he goes in for that, we'll have the perfect ball player."

Sportscaster Fired By NBC

CHICAGO, (AP) — Sportscaster Tom Duggan last week blamed his comments Sunday night on the Rocky Marciano-Jersey Joe Walcott heavyweight title bout May 15 for his second dismissal in two months by the National Broadcasting Company.

The radio and TV commentator was fired Monday, the NBC said, because he failed to submit broadcasting material for advance clearance.

Duggan said in a story copyrighted by the Chicago American that two NBC officials told him his remarks on a Sunday night telecast were damaging to the gate receipts of the Marciano-Walcott fight at the Chicago Stadium.

"They said the National Broadcasting Company was in effect a co-promoter with the International Boxing Club in the staging of this fight and they could not tolerate any criticism of it."

Duggan said his telecast included "jocular" references to Walcott's age, the ability of Marciano and the \$50 price of ringside seats.

The NBC had no comment on Duggan's remarks. Last Feb. 24, NBC suspended Duggan for "unauthorized personal attacks" on James Norris, president of the International Boxing Club. Duggan was re-instated when fans swamped the network with protesting phone calls and letters.

Amsterdam in Holland "Venice of the north," is built on 90 islands connected by 300 bridges.

BULLETINS FROM BIRDLAND

WINIFRED E. WILSON



SPOTTED AND STREAKED

Camouflage is essential for very young birds born in the open, and also for the adults which feed them. Accordingly, streaks and spots are common in Birdland, simulating grass or pebbles. Brown striped backs are given to many seed eaters as a great deal of their marketing takes place at a low level. In spring Song Sparrows build their nests on the ground with pieces of old, brown grass, and all members of the family have streaked plumage so they may remain hidden.

Thrushes have spotted breasts, the dark varying in intensity with different species. The most prominent spots are found on Wood Thrushes, essentially birds of the forest floor. They scratch the ground for insect food, and except to go to their nests, which are in a crotch on an average of 8 feet high, seldom rise more than a few feet. Young Robins show their Thrush ancestry by having heavily spotted breasts though their parents' breasts are plain. This camouflage is provided when the

babies are still in their grass nests, yet are big enough to be seen over the sides. The spots persist later, when these juveniles are unable to fly far above the ground.

The arched-over nests of Oven-birds are woven of dead leaves right into the forest floor. Parents have rust and black streaked heads, and the black spots on their white underparts are arranged to form streaks. Young ones are striped both above and below. Because Brown Thrashers spend most of their time digging into the soil for insects, their wings are barred and their underparts streaked.

Nature provides a camouflage for the young more frequently than for their parents that are better able to elude danger by quick flight. Examples of this are found in Red Crossbills and Cedar Waxwings. Mothers, doing more of the nursing and housework, require more protection than males. Mrs. Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Mrs. Red-winged Blackbird both look like big Sparrows, and their children are somewhat like their mothers.

The offspring of many birds which nest on beaches are blotched to match the pebbles. Downy young of the Long-billed Curlew are daubed in large patches of dark and light, like little clowns. Baby Herring Gulls are mottled black and white, so that we can be within a few feet of a downy, live ball and fail to find it crouching between grey stones. Tiny buff balls of down, ornamented with black spots, seen among sparse grass on a sandy shore, are newly-hatched Least Sandpipers

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