

Strange But True

By F. H. MacArthur

Benjamin Franklin was the most amazing person in American history. Although he had but two years of formal education, he was one of the first publishers in America. To this genius goes the honor of being the first person to organize a fire department. He founded the first fire insurance company, the first library, the first post office, the first fire alarm, the first meteorologist and the first cartoonist in America. He was the first man to advocate the use of electricity for the treatment of rheumatism and opened America's first hospital. He invented the mouth organ and was also the first composer of music in his country. His early experiments with electro-magnetism first suggested the modern radio. He invented the first spectacles having both near and far-sighted lenses. He invented the first stove used in Uncle Sam's country and designed the first chimney. In other words, he was a pioneer genius and you can't put your finger on another American who has been such a leading thinker in so many important fields.

In his early years, John Newton was quite a notorious figure. At the age of 11, he ran away from school and joined the navy. At eighteen, he was forced to enlist on a British man-of-war. Later he deserted, was captured, and flogged publicly. Next we find him aboard a slave ship bound for Africa to get out of the country. In Africa he became Captain of a slave-carrying ship. During these years he led a wild, reckless life. But strange but true, in one of his sea voyages he read, "The Imitation of Christ" and was converted. Gradually Newton came to hate the slave trade so he returned to England and married the sweetheart of his boyhood. For the next few years he worked as a tide foreman at the port of Liverpool. In his spare moments he studied for the ministry.

After he was ordained in 1764, he met poet Bill Cowper, and began writing hymns. Perhaps the best of his productions is "Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken."

Add a stout rubber band to your car tools. Some night when the car balks on a lonely road it will serve as a third hand to hold a flashlight. Fasten the band to your foot and the beam will fall where you want it. Hollywood is the only place in the world where infants earn big pay. But strange to say these little "extras" actors receive less money as they get older. For instance, an infant—15 to 30 days old—pulls down \$75 for a maximum work day of 20 minutes. When he reaches a year old, however, he must work up to two hours a day for the miserly sum of \$50.

At 18, two years, his pay is only \$18.50 for a few hours a week—the standard rate for adult extras. Ever hear of British Columbia's bottle house? There is such a house all right and its builder is David Brown former funeral director in a village in Alberta. When Brown decided to build his unique home he remembered all those empty embalming fluid bottles he left behind in Alberta. A friend sent the empty bottles to Brown and he went to work on his glass palace. Brown's guest book contains the names of several thousands of tourists who came to take a peep at the glass castle in '53. The building is two stories tall in the center and the wings are one story high. One room has a large fireplace made of mountain stone.

This strange home together with landscaped grounds cost Brown about \$1,500 to date. He plans to put in the best furniture that money can buy and rent it to some persons who want a quiet spot. So, if you are thinking of renting the glass castle, you can get in touch with its owner by addressing your letter to David H. Brown, Saanich, B.C. Because of the recent floods in Holland a railway train there carried the "Ebb Express" runs only when the tide is low. The track lies under six feet of water when the tide is in. Nearly 5,000,000 sense organs in the skin, register pain, pressure, touch and temperature. There are the outposts that gather knowledge, from abstract ideas, and make predictions! As we think of Thanksgiving Day, it is natural that our thoughts go back to the Pilgrims and their celebration of this day. But the Pilgrims were not the first people to set aside a day for a time of thanksgiving. Thanksgiving festivities have been observed in one form or another since the time of the Hebrews' harvest festival. They had a different name for it, "The Feast of Tabernacles." The day was duly celebrated after the crops had been harvested, and the celebration lasted one week. The Hebrews considered this as one of their most important holiday seasons.

The Greeks and Romans also observed their annual autumn festival, giving thanks for bounteous crops, etc. At this season they sacrificed to the god or goddess of agriculture. Going back still further we find that the ancient Druids observed a holiday season known as "The Harvest Home," and the English followed many of their customs in their observance of Thanksgiving. Rural folk in Scotland made much of the day. Not only did they offer thanks for crops, harvested, but they decorated their

Kingston and Vicinity

Misses Edna Colwill and Velda Green, spent their Christmas holidays at their homes in Kingston. Mr. Reginald Newson employed at Stewart Motors, spent the holiday at his home in Kingston. The children were treated with candy and fruit by Mr. Edgar Newson, Mr. Orman Yeo and the Kingston Women's Institute. Miss Ruth Younker, P. W. C. student, spent the holidays at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Younker, Kingston. Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Holmes of Toronto, Ont., spent Christmas at the homes of their parents, in Kingston and Churchill. Mr. Wendell Willis who is a College student at Oshawa, Ontario, spent the holidays at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Willis, Kingston. Mr. and Mrs. Eric MacPadyen and children, Toronto, Ont., motored to the Island where they spent the Christmas holidays visiting with relatives in Kingston. Mr. and Mrs. Grant Laird and family of North Winooski, were guests of Mrs. Laird's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lorne Smith on Christmas day. May Willis who has been spending sometime in the United States was the welcome guest at her home in Kingston during the Christmas holidays. The January meeting of Kingston W. I. was held at the home of Mrs. Whitfield Yeo. On January 8, Roll was answered by nine members with a New Year's resolution. Next meeting will be at the home of Mrs. Bert Willis. The January meeting of the United W. M. S. was held at the home of Mrs. Elmer and Ralph Younker the Devotional leader was Mrs. Bert Willis, the program was followed in monthly. Next meeting will be at the home of Mrs. Bert Willis. On December 17, the pupils of Kingston school presented their Christmas concert in the hall before a large and appreciative audience. The hall was decorated for the occasion with tinsel and evergreen boughs; and a beautifully trimmed tree adorned one side of the platform. The organist for the evening was Mrs. Everett Holmes while Mr. Yeo, Holmes capably acted as chairman. The program consisted of choruses, drills, exercise, solos, duets, recitations and dialogues. Much credit is due to the teachers, Mrs. Grant Willis Principal and Miss Ethel Graham assistant for the splendid training which the children received. At the close of the program Santa arrived and distributed gifts.

HUNTER'S RIVER UNITED CHURCH W. M. S. The regular meeting of the W. M. S. of Hunter River United Church was held Thursday evening, Jan. 7, at the home of Mrs. C. B. Matheson, with 14 members, and two visitors present. Mrs. J. S. MacLeod presided, opening the meeting with the theme "What is the Church?". The question "What is the Church?" was replied to by Mrs. E. Seaman, Hymn, "The Lord Is King Lift Thy Voice", was sung, followed by prayer and scripture reading in union. Mrs. C. B. Matheson as leader, assisted by Mrs. W. J. Bowman, Mrs. Howard Christie, Mrs. Reagh Pound and Mrs. Lloyd Carey, gave a fine presentation of the program topic, "The four Rs in Europe", namely: Relief, Reconstruction, Reconciliation and Reading the Bible. "The circle of prayer" and the singing of Hymn "Now To The King Of Heaven", closed the devotional. A letter was read from Dr. Florence Murray, medical missionary in Seoul, Korea, in which she expressed thanks for the prayers, support and relief parcels that made it possible to relieve the suffering of many. She made special mention of the new recruits for the Mission, closing by saying that people need something to hold on to when home, family and country are gone. The story of a loving Father brings peace to troubled hearts. The reports for the year were most encouraging, although the membership was less than last year. The allocation was exceeded by 2% increase. The question of sending delegates to Presbyterial was left open for as many as possible to attend. One new member was welcomed into the society. Seven members paid dues. The February meeting will be at the home of Mrs. W. I. Bowman with Mrs. Geo. Nesbet, Mrs. Elmer MacMillan and Mrs. Chester Whitlock on the lunch committee. Mrs. J. W. Patterson and Mrs. Gloria Read will have charge of the study book. Roll call will be answered by a verse of scripture containing the word "open".

HANDLESS ARTIST CALGARY (CP) — The Alberta Society' Petroleum Geologists' prize for the best sketch of a crest for the group was won by Nick Bidniak of Calgary, who lost both hands in the Second World War. He works with brushes attached to the stumps of his arms.

churches with fruits and flowers, and the reapers and musicians followed the last load of grain to the barn, singing harvest songs and offering prayers. An old English law decreed that anyone found doing "servile labor or work" on Thanksgiving Day would be fined five shillings.

What Happened To The Cow That Ate Radioactive Dust

WASHINGTON, (AP)—The most unusual story about a cow since Mrs. O'Leary's bossie started the Chicago fire was told Saturday by a government scientist. Dr. Herman Yagoda said he has what looks like evidence that a bit of radioactive dust from an American or Russian atomic explosion was eaten by a grazing cow, probably in India, and then: 1. The particle became incorporated in the cow's bones; 2. Passed into a gelatin made from the bones; 3. Found its way into an emulsion which was made from the gelatin and which was used by a firm in Britain to make photographic plates; 4. Was transported as part of

the photographic plates to the United States; 5. Was flown to an altitude of 110,000 feet in a navy research balloon over Peyote, Tex., where the plates were used to study cosmic rays; 6. Finally showed up under a microscope used to study the plates in a laboratory at Bethesda, Md. Dr. Yagoda, a radiation physicist of the National Institutes of Health at Bethesda, reported his findings in an article in the British scientific journal, Nature, and also discussed them with a reporter Saturday. He said that in studying the plates he found, among the tracks of cosmic rays, "an unusual radioactive inclusion." "I feel certain," he said, "that the markings I saw were due to a radioactive particle that had come from an American or Russian atomic explosion and had in some way gotten onto the photographic plate in the process of its manu-

facture. "I feel this certainly because of the nature of the radiations evidenced on the plates in connection with the radiation source. The characteristics were the same—a strong preponderance of so-called 'beta particles'—which I have repeatedly seen in radioactive dust given off by the test explosions at Bikini." While he granted that it was possible that a bit of radioactive dust had fallen from the air on the plant while it was being manufactured, he said "the most likely possibility" was that it was contained in the gelatin employed to make the plate emulsion. "That likelihood," he said, "is further increased because of the fact that the gelatin originated from the hides and bones of cows which are constantly grazing over large areas of soil. In the process of digestion, they pick up and to a large extent assimilate the dust particles—radioactive or otherwise—that fell on vegetation."

That Body Of Yours

Continued from page 2

til recently, the number of these "scientific food specialists" was numerous but food is so important that many laymen now study food and food values including vitamins and minerals. In the American Journal of Public Health, Dr. C. A. Elvehjem states: "Even though deficiency diseases are mentioned in medical journals as often as formerly and their effect not spectacular, nutrition remains as the most important environmental factor affecting our health. Improper dietary habits are increasing and they are aided and abetted by so-called food specialists, some of whom succeed in attaching an M. D. to their names." However, due to research conducted by well-established authorities, the field of nutrition is expanding rapidly, so rapidly in

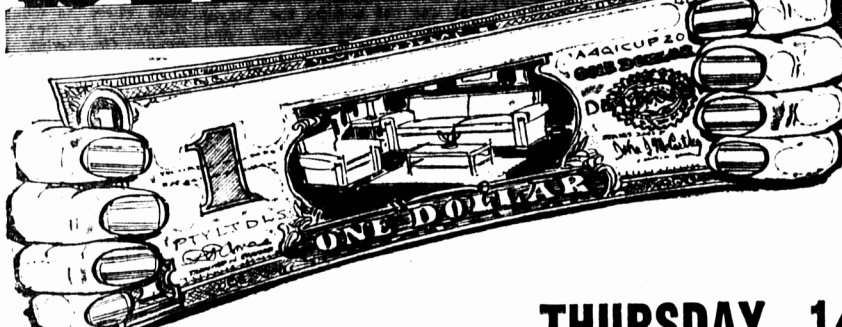
fact that the practitioner must constantly review and reassess his knowledge. So many and varied are the changes in the knowledge of nutrition that we have all seen the pendulum swinging from a low protein (meat, eggs, fish) to a high one." Despite all the valuable information on nutrition, Dr. Elvehjem states that physicians as a whole are not absorbing or using this information from high sources, that is, from recognized specialists, the nutritionist and the dietitian. He points at the special need for investigation of children's diets although he admits that more research work has been done on children's diets than on adults but even slight changes or deficiencies in children's diets can affect them when they become adults. "Since fadism in food diets thrives on half-truths and speculation regarding nutritional questions which have not been adequately studied in schools, medical schools should give more serious

thought to an adequate basic presentation of this important field to their students." There is no question about the honesty of most of these fadists who believe that anything that has helped them should help everybody but, unfortunately, this is not true and scientific research medical men should give more attention to this important matter of nutrition.

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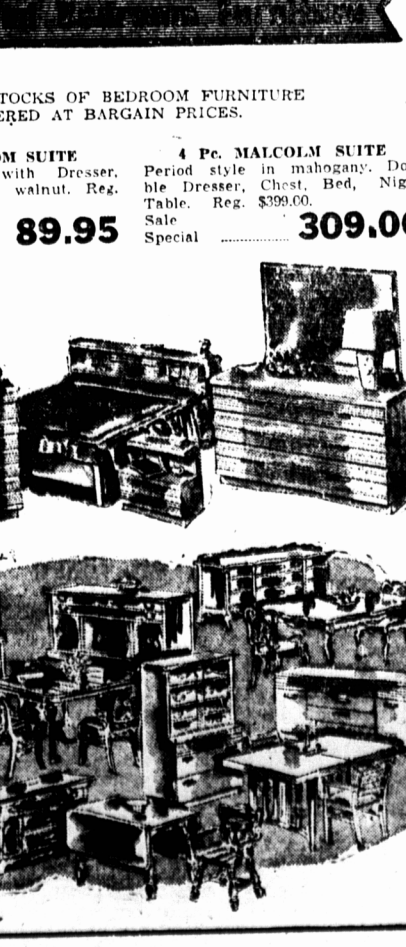
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