

Strange But True

By F. H. MacArthur

Here are a few superstitions which still linger on round the Easter festival. It is considered unlucky to omit wearing new clothes on Easter day. To see a lamb on first looking out of one's window on Easter morning is a good omen, especially if its head is turned in the direction of the house. But it's a bad omen if the animal is looking the other way. It must be remembered, however, that to meet a lamb at any time is lucky, as, according to the popular notion, the devil can change himself into any form except that of a lamb or a dove.

Again, if the sun shines on Easter morning, it will shone on Whitsunday.

In 1761 and 1818, Easter fell on March 22, but neither in this nor in the next century will this occur again. In 1913 Easter fell on March 23, as it did in 1845 and 1886. The latest Easters in this century and the nineteenth are April 25, in 1869 and 1943.

The female hare carries her young for 30 days thus representing the lunar circle. It was once held that both the moon and the hare had the power of changing their sex. The new moon was masculine, the waning moon feminine. The superstition about the hare may be read in Faithless Shepherdess, Act III:—

"Hares that yearly sexes change, Prattels, altering oft and strange, Hecate with shapes three, Let this maiden changed be."

Here again we have the hare in close connection with Hecate, or the moon.

A little boy who was born blind was taken recently to an Australian hospital, and operated on by a skilled physician. After the bandages were taken off, the child slowly opened his eyes. For a moment he stood in silent wonder, as if a new world had suddenly unfolded before him.

"Willie, can you see me?" questioned his anxious mother. Instantly he rushed into his mother's arms, exclaiming: "Moms, is this heaven?"

There is this unique distinction between baby hares and baby rabbits; the former are born with their eyes open, the latter are born blind.

In remote parts of Brazil hunters come by their monkey in the following strange manner: They make tiny boots for the animals and fill them with pitch. When they reach monkeyland they set the shoes at the foot of a tree, take off their own shoes, put them on again, and then retire a little way to await results. Just as soon as the hunters are out of sight the monkeys begin to ape them. The boots stick to their feet, they can't climb and are easily captured.

John Newton almost starved himself to death in his zeal to mortify the body, yet he was the skipper of a slave ship and carried on the business of stealing and selling human beings!

Believing that it is wrong to defile the earth the parsons of Bombay, India, hurry their dead into towers of silence. There are six in all. Five stand close together, while the sixth is reserved for criminals. These towers are made of granite blocks, plastered over with a white cement.

A narrow bridge leads from the ground to a small door in the



Scout News and Notices

Season's Greetings from Canada's 125,466 Boy Scouts. Thank you, too, for your interest and support during 1951.

Pride of place next to the Royal Family in the Grand Hall at Madame Tussaud's, the famous wax works in London, has been given to the newly-finished figure of Lord Rowallan, Chief Scout of the British Commonwealth.

Hon. R. F. McWilliams, Manitoba's Lieutenant Governor, recently presented King's Scout certificates to 63 Scouts from various communities in Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario, at a colorful ceremony in Winnipeg.

Children of naval personnel are enthusiastic members of two of Canada's newest Wolf Cub Packs, one at H.M.C.S. Shearwater, the Naval Air Station at Dartmouth, N.S., has 53 Cubs under the leadership of a Petty Officer and two Able Seamen; at H.M.C.S. Cornwallis, the Naval training station at Deep Brooke, N.S., a Cub Pack is under the leadership of another Petty Officer.

"Indaba" is a Zulu word meaning "A meeting for discussion." British Scouts will be hosts for the first world Scout Leaders' Indaba which will be held at Gilwell Park,

lower through which the corpse is taken and placed on a parapet, which is exposed to the weather and the vultures. When the bearers of the dead depart, the vultures take over.

Only the duly appointed bearers of the dead may enter the buildings, and mourners and priests alike, must not approach nearer than ten or fifteen yards. Two weeks after a burial has taken place the bearers again return to the towers, and with a tongs place the dry and well-picked bones in a separate chamber. This chamber is filled with chemicals, to kill any impurities that may arise. Furnished with underground passages, it is supposed to connect with the other world thus offering an easy and convenient transit to the regions of the blessed.

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Essex, from July 15 to 24, 1952. Invitations have been sent to 97 countries, including Canada, and it is expected that 3,500 Scout Leaders will attend.

More than 140 Hamilton, Ontario, Boy Scouts took part in a practice workout of that city's District Citizenship Emergency Corps recently, when the main Hamilton Y.M.C.A. was subject of a simulated "bomb" hit.

Working together with Red Cross Disaster Committee members, police and firemen, Scouts served on mobile radio station units, as stretcher bearers, mobile canteen staff, at base hospitals and emergency supply stations, and as "casualties".

Lord Rowallan, Chief Scout of the British Commonwealth, is to carry out a tour of the Caribbean, Bermuda and the Bahamas at the beginning of next year.

He will fly from London on January 29 and will time his arrival at Kingston, Jamaica, to coincide with the First Caribbean Jamboree, March 15 to 17. Canada is sending two troops of 25 King's Scouts each to the Jamboree.

New Member Induction Service

A very large group of parents and new junior members attended a New Member Induction Service and reception at the Y.M.C.A. on Tuesday evening, Dec. 11th. This pleasing function was arranged by a new committee known as the Assimilation committee, and the purpose of this function was to acquaint the new members with the aims and purposes of the Association to which they now belong.

Representatives of clubs and groups in the "Y" took part in welcoming the group, and each told something about the aims and objects of his or her own particular club or activity. Mr. Earl Taylor was chairman for the evening, and the meeting opened with a worship service conducted by Rev. James Davison.

Mr. Roy Cudmore, President of the Y.M.C.A. Board, welcomed the group on behalf of the Board, and Mr. Ralph Rupert gave a

short resume of the history and purpose of the Y.M.C.A.

The following representatives of various groups then spoke briefly, outlining the type of Club and explaining the club emblem: Senior Y's Mens Club, President Ray Barrett; Centennial Y's Mens Club; Phalanx Fraternity, President Harold Dobson; Phial Sororities, Mrs. Ralph Manning and Miss Evelyn Stewart; Senior Hi-Y, Miss Jean Diamond and Mr. Briar Chandler; Jr. Hi-Y, Miss Margaret Jardine and Frank Mellish; Gra-Y Clubs, Miss Phyllis Cutcliffe; Y's Menettes, President Mrs. F. Osborne; Ladies Auxiliary, President Mrs. A. Howatt; So-Ed Program, President Fred Norton; Holland Cove Camp, Mr. Fred Gamble.

The new members were formally received by Mr. Roy Cudmore, Mr. K.M. Martin, and Mr. D.N. Bell. Benediction was pronounced by Rev. Mr. Davison, following which refreshments were served, and a social half-hour was enjoyed. The members enjoyed a sing song of camp songs led by Mr. Ivan Robinson, who was pianist for the evening.

MAPLE LEAF SCHOOL

Report for month of November. Grade X.—1. Angus MacDonaid. Grade IX.—1. Erma Murphy; 2. Grace Murphy. Grade VIII.—1. Catherine Milligan; 2. Leona Hutchinson. Grade VII.—1. Bernard Noye. Grade VI.—1. Joan MacDonald; 2. Ida Phillips; 3. Kathleen Williams. Grade V.—1. Vernon Milligan; 2. Jean Noye; 3. Barbara Hutchinson. Grade IV.—1. Stanley MacDonald; 2. Trudy Murphy; 3. Lowell Hutchinson. Grade III.—1. Gerald Hutchinson; 2. Shirley Noye; 3. Malcolm Williams. Grade II.—1. George Murphy; 2. Sterling Bridges. Grade I. A.—1. Eleanor Hutchinson. Grade I. B.—1. Alfred Bridges. Grade I. C.—1. Hughie Bridges; 2. Henry Bridges. Grade I. D.—1. Myrtle Noye; 2. Carl Hutchinson. Teacher—Muriel B. Wall.



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