

EEL-EATING CONTEST

Linear Measurements. Not Pounds, Count at Finish.

Winner, Five Feet Ten Inches in Height, Consumes Six Foot Ten Inches of Smoking Fish—All the Waitresses Alike.

New York.—Pie eating matches are more or less familiar. Eel eating contests are much less so, for the simple reason that while commonly the pie eating is done in public and for a wager the eel eating is privately done and for fun, though the loser may be required to pay for all the eels eaten.

There is a little club composed of half a dozen substantial men, all lovers of sea food, that owns a comfortable bungalow in a pleasant spot on the Long Island shore, in which its members most occasionally eat a sea food dinner. They do their own cooking and they all good cooks, with one or another of them notably able in some specialty. One is particularly good on chowder, others on fish and still others on eels. This club assembled in the bungalow lately for an eel dinner and incidentally for an eel eating contest.

Among the members acquainted with the eel in every aspect and among eel lovers generally he is considered as a qualified eel eater who can eat his own length in eels. But of course no man could eat his own length of big eels; the eels for such a test must not be more than half an inch in diameter, which is the standard size for eels to be eaten in eel eating contests. Such is also the size eel that pel lovers find most agreeable to the taste.

For this particular occasion the club commissioned an eel fisherman to gather eels in sufficient quantity and also those that should fill the requirements, being not more than half an inch in diameter and of uniform size. It took the fisherman three days to do this, though of course in that time he gathered also many larger eels which he could market. The eels for the club he selected by sifting his catch through a sieve with a half-inch mesh.

The club's cooking equipment includes two big frying pans 18 inches in diameter. Two members sat down before the fire with these big frying pans and fried eels, which were kept hot in an oven, and when the eels were all ready the club began to eat. In pie eating and some other similar contests there is usually set a time limit, the winner being the man who eats the greatest number of pies in a given time; but there is no time limit here. The members eat leisurely, for enjoyment, and then when all have finished the measurer measures up the bones which each man has preserved by himself at the table. One lot after another each man's eel bones are stretched out on the table, with the sections set end to end and snugly together, and then the measure of the string is taken.

On this occasion all the men had eaten more than their length of eels with one exception. This member, who stands five feet ten inches in height, had eaten of eels but five feet nine. Probably he could easily have eaten a section or two more and so have exceeded the recognized standard limit if he had only taken the trouble to keep a little closer mental note of his stacked up bones.

But there were other members who had exceeded the standard by considerable, including one man of the same height as the loser, namely, five feet ten, who had eaten six feet ten inches of eels, or one foot more than his own length. This probably constitutes the eel eating record.

MUCH SPEEDIER THAN CABLE

Young Frenchman Invents System of Wireless That Will Revolutionize France Methods.

Paris.—Julian Costantini, a young French scientist employed by the government at the Eiffel tower post, has invented a new system of wireless telegraphy which it is predicted, will revolutionize existing methods.

It is reported that he has found a way to dispense with the spark, thus simplifying wireless telegraphy so that instead of using, as at present, an alternator, transformer, self-induction coil, condenser, oscillator and antenna, only the first and last of these are necessary.

This new machine eliminates interference, it is claimed, and transmits and receives much faster than the present submarine cables, having capacity of 200 words a minute.

TO SEND WIFE TO SCHOOL

Husband of Thirteen-Year-Old Girl Warned He Cannot Divorce the Educator's Laws.

Philadelphia.—"You must send your wife to school until she is fourteen years old, or you will be arrested and fined," warned Magistrate Boyls after imposing a fine in the case of John Palania, whose wife, Annie, is only thirteen years of age.

The young wife said her father were arrested on a warrant charging them with failure to comply with the compulsory education law. When asked why she did not attend school, Mrs. Palania, who wore short dresses, said she had no time to go to school, as she had to get her husband's meals and look after other household duties.

GETS \$10,000 FOR KIND ACTS

Aged Woman's Son Repays Attention to His Mother While He Was Away.

Boulder, Colo.—A few little kindnesses done for an old lady several years ago were amply repaid when Miss Louise Madden, a seventeen-year-old girl who lives with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Madden, on a farm near here, received word that \$10,000 had been bequeathed to her in the will of George Hanson of Brooklyn, N. Y. Hanson, who was twenty-seven years old and rich, died in Brooklyn a month ago from the effects of fever contracted in Mexico.

Miss Madden, who came here with her parents nearly three years ago, formerly resided in a little suburb of Brooklyn, the principal residents of which were factory workers. At that time the aged mother of Hanson lived next door to the Maddens. Louise, then a small girl, helped the old lady in her household and performed various acts of kindness for her.

Hanson at that time was in Mexico prospecting. He struck it rich, but contracted a severe fever in the southern country. He sold his mining claims for a large sum and returned to his mother in Brooklyn.

In the meantime the Maddens had moved west. When her son returned Mrs. Hanson told him of the kindness shown her. He was so well pleased that he determined to remember Miss Madden in his will.

Miss Madden was too modest to discuss her good fortune when interviewed. She hesitatingly admitted that the sum was far in excess of the amount of money she had hoped to amass during her entire life.

"I really never did anything worth mentioning for Mrs. Hanson," she said. "We were neighbors and I used to help her a little because she was old and sick."

According to the will Miss Madden does not receive the principal until she becomes of age. During the five years she is forced to wait she will receive the interest.

FEW EARN LIVING AT 70

Chicagoans Tell College That 1,550,000 Americans Are Old-Age Victims.

Chicago.—You have one chance in 10,000 of supporting yourself when you are three score and ten, according to information which was imparted to Professor Charles R. Henderson's class in sociology at the University of Chicago.

Supt. William U. Graves of the James C. King Home for Old Men, made the statement in a lecture on "The Broken Family."

"Only one man in 10,000 is self-supporting at the age of seventy years, according to the statistics," said Mr. Graves. "In the United States there are approximately 1,550,000 former wage earners, sixty-five years and older, dependent on public and private charity, at a cost of \$220,000,000 a year. There are about 300,000 old people in benevolent institutions and homes in this country. It costs about \$50,000,000 a year to care for them."

"Old age seems to be an individual thing to each person reaching it. It is difficult to state that a person is old at sixty or sixty-five or seventy or beyond that."

KAISER'S GUARDS CHEATED

A Secret Court-Martial at Potsdam Grows Out of a Shooting Competition.

Berlin.—The entire sixth company of the First Foot Guards, including Captain Van Schlich, 11 non-commissioned officers and 110 men, was court-martialled in secret at Potsdam on the charge of cheating in a shooting competition in August for the coveted Kaiser prize.

The Prussian army conditions for the shooting competition limited each man to 30 rounds, but officers of another regiment saw the men of the First Foot Guard company taking extra cartridges from their boots. A prompt investigation showed that the men carried 1,700 illicit cartridges.

The First Foot Guards is one of the crack regiments in the German army. All of the emperor's sons served in it.

PLUGS HIS NOSTRILS TO DIE

Pennsylvania Weaver Swallows False Teeth in Committing Suicide.

Harrisburg, Pa.—John Arnold, a weaver, twenty-six years old, died at his boarding-house here with his nostrils plugged full of tobacco and his false teeth stuck in his throat. An empty vial that had contained poison was found at the side of his bed.

Arnold was living when found and told the keeper of the house that his false teeth had stuck in his throat. She tried to get them out, but the man was dying and her fingers were badly bitten when she tried to reach the plate. No reason is known for Arnold to commit suicide.

AS ON THE SPANISH MAIN

Three Stowaways Were Shot in a Mutiny on a Gulf Liner—Fight Was Fierce.

Tampa, Fla.—Details of the mutiny aboard the steamer Brunswick of the Gulf & Southern line, in which one Spanish stowaway was killed and two wounded, were received here by wireless from Captain Avery.

Four Spanish seamen were found in the chain box of the Brunswick early Monday and imprisoned in the hold. Later, according to the captain's message, they escaped with the assistance of Peter Isalas, member of the crew. The boatswain ordered them back into the hold. When they refused to obey he attempted to force them and a fierce encounter ensued. Others of the crew came up and the boatswain snatched a revolver from Captain Avery and opened fire.

Juan Malade, leader of the stowaways, was killed at the first shot. Juan Laramalero fell with a bullet wound in his chest and Jose Martinez was wounded slightly.

Isalas and Lorenzo Balserio, the uninjured stowaway, were put in irons and the ship turned back to Fort Dade to meet the tug Resolute, which had been summoned by wireless. The prisoners refused to board the tug and Captain Avery steamed to the fort, where the men were turned over to a military guard.

In a statement Isalas says that the stowaways did not understand English. He said they were suffocating in the hold and forced their way out for self-preservation.

UNCOVER ANCIENT CEMETERY

Excavating for a Wine Cellar an Italian Makes a Discovery of Historical Value.

Rome.—An ancient Christian cemetery has accidentally been discovered in the neighborhood of the remains of the Church of the Holy Apostles at Spoleto, in the province of Perugia. The church, one of the first Christian temples erected in that part of Italy contained the bones of many who suffered martyrdom under the Flavian emperors, but had not been used as a place of burial for more than 15 centuries.

Since modern times, having been little more than a ruin, it passed as private property into the family of the Sinibaldi, of whom the present head, the Italian deputy of that name, decided to enlarge the extensive basement for use as a cellar for storing wine, he being a wine grower on a large scale.

Excavations had hardly begun a few days ago, when one of the workmen struck a solid block of stone about three feet below the surface and this proved to be the cover of an ancient sarcophagus of unusual size.

Twenty-one sarcophagi with massive covers in monolith were unearthed, all belonging to the third or fourth century, A. D. They were opened in the presence of a group of public officials and archaeologists from different parts of Italy, and each was found to contain a skeleton in a perfect state of preservation.

RARE BLACK WOLF KILLED

Animal Is So Young as to Indicate Presence of Others in the Vicinity.

Chico, Cal.—William Lewis of Paradise, near here, claims the distinction of killing the first black wolf ever encountered in this portion of the state. He met the animal late at night on the main road leading into Paradise and was especially attracted by its glaring eyes and howling.

Its fur is of the finest texture and the animal itself was apparently young, indicating that there was a family of the species located in the thick forests of the Paradise-Magalla section.

Many barnyard robberies of late are now laid to the door of the unusual animal that more or less inhabits the mountainous regions of cold climates as in Canada and the far north.

SPIRITUAL GLAND IS FOUND

Noted European Physician Locates Most Mysterious Organ in Human Body.

Philadelphia.—Announcement that he has discovered and partly classified the function of the pineal gland, the most mysterious organ of the human body, and heretofore believed functionless, was made by Professor L. Von Frank Hochwart, the noted European neurologist, in a lecture before a clinic of students at the University of Pennsylvania hospital.

Professor Hochwart said he had found the organ to be immediately related to the passions. He also hinted that if anything may ever be learned regarding the origin of what is commonly known as spiritual impulse the mystery surrounding the pineal gland will be entirely cleared away.

THIS BOY SHOULD BE LUCKY

Seventh Son of Seventh Son of Seventh Son Born to Pennsylvania Letter Carrier.

Pittsburgh, Pa.—A seventh son of a seventh son of a seventh son was born to Mr. and Mrs. David Geiger, Mr. Geiger, a letter carrier of the Braddock postoffice, was a seventh son of his father, who was a seventh son also. Mr. Geiger appears to be fated to sevens. He was born January 27, 1870, and he is mail carrier No. 7 at the postoffice.

MUST HAVE BEEN DRUNK

Seemed Only Plausible Explanation of Conduct of Man on New York Train.

At Matavan the New York bound train, pretty well filled with passengers, took on a number more, among them a family of eight—stout mother, stout aunt and six children. The children ranged in age from a baby in arms to a youngster of eight or nine years. There were few vacant seats in the car into which this family party trailed, and the stout mother, with her youngest in her arms, and the stout aunt, carrying a large bundle, managed to squeeze into two unoccupied places, leaving the children to shift for themselves.

Along toward the middle of the car sat a small, shabby, kind-faced man who, observing that the five children were standing about unsteadily in the car aisle, arose smilingly and went to their rescue. With much difficulty he succeeded in finding seats for the youngsters, giving up his own place to two of them and standing in the aisle himself.

"Funny about that man takin' so much trouble gettin' the children seats," observed the stout mother to the stout aunt.

"Yes," was the reply; "I've been looking at him. I guess he must be drunk."

HOW THEY DO IN RUSSIA

Sixty-Seven Persons Are Tried Behind Closed Doors and Given Prison Sentences.

"They do things in a strange way in Russia," says a letter in the Russische Korrespondenz from a correspondent in Warsaw. "Behind closed doors sixty-seven members of the Polish Socialist party were tried. After a session of ten days it became known that ten of the accused were dismissed, twenty-five of the remaining fifty-seven were sentenced to deportation and prison sentences were pronounced against the remaining thirty-two in terms ranging from seventeen years to two years eight months. In all, 279 years of prison service was dealt out, to say nothing of the twenty-five unfortunates who were deported. And all this behind closed doors."

Britain's Strange Sect

The Jezreelites of Gillingham, in Kent, England, have once more been brought prominently before the public in the old country. The founder of this strange sect, which is but little known in these days, was a certain James White, a private in the Sixteenth regiment, who, on his conversion, took the name of "James Jezreel." White gathered enthusiasts round him and, like the early Christians, the Jezreelites had all things in common. It was a principle of the sect that its members were the first portion of the 144,000, twice told, who shall receive Christ when he appears to reign on earth. Shortly after the foundation of the sect, "Jezreel" and his followers commenced to build a huge temple, intended to hold 20,000 people, near Chatham. "Jezreel" died in 1885, and the work was never completed, but the temple—tenantless and bare—survives today as a memento of one of the maddest of modern dreams.

Wanted It Anyhow.

There recently sought the services of a dentist a quaint young Swede, who, at the urgent insistence of his newly-acquired wife, came to "get his mouth fixed."

There were a number of teeth too far gone to be filled. Accordingly, these were extracted, and then the dentist made an appointment with the Swede for further sittings, when the filling would be done. Instead of leaving the office Olaf hung about expectantly.

"Is there something more you want done?" finally asked the dentist. "Well, I dunno," said Olaf, looking doubtfully at the ceiling. "I tank maybe I like leedle gas. My meessle tole me I hev to take some for my toots. Eef she don' hort too moch I tank maybe I better hov about twantty-fiv cents wort."

Small Clue to Crime.

A mysterious St. Petersburg crime has just been solved by means of a trousers button. Some days ago the police found the bodies of a well-to-do couple named Andrejeff lying near the Ninekaja railway station, bearing unmistakable evidence of having been stabbed to death. The wife was known in the district on account of the valuable jewelry she used to wear, and the jewelry was missing when her body was found. No clue to the identity of the murderers could be found except a trousers button, which was lying near the bodies, but as this button was similar to those used for a certain uniform a search was instituted. This led to the discovery of a man in the One Hundred and Forty-sixth Infantry regiment whose trousers were minus a button, and on being accused of the crime he immediately confessed.

Humbug Spreading Out.

"Once upon a 'me," writes an American woman from Munich, "the humbug was looked upon as a strictly American product. With its habitat in the land of Uncle Sam, the echo of its 'hum' might sometimes reach beyond the sea, but the bug itself, it was supposed, could never live and thrive except in the country which had produced the wooden nutmeg. Cardiff giant and the army of worthless mine promoters. But the humbug has become an institution in Germany, and some American tourists who climb mountains incautiously will realize the fact when the adjectives which they took home as proof of their deeds is discovered to be a sham, made in this city, with intent to deceive."

Called the Bluff.

"So you advertised for your lost purse, pretending that the person who found it was recognized?" "Yes." "How did the bluff work?" "Didn't work at all. Next day this ad. appeared in the same paper: The recognized gentleman who picked up the purse on Boylston street requests the loser to call at his house."—Boston Transcript.

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MATTER FOR CAREFUL INQUIRY

Japanese Minister's Diffidence in Presence of Emperor is Cause of Funny Break.

The late emperor of Japan was regarded with the greatest veneration by his subjects, and this attitude of awful reverence was maintained also by his ministers, in spite of the fact that affairs of state made it necessary for them to see him and converse with him very frequently.

One of these ministers, the Marquis Matsugata, used to experience agonies of nervousness every time he had an audience of his sovereign, and he was never able to say anything distinct in reply to him except the set phrase, "I shall have careful investigation made, your majesty."

This generally brought him safely through a short audience, but one day, unfortunately, the emperor condescended to discuss the marquis' more private affairs.

"How many children have you?" the emperor asked. "I shall have careful investigation made, your majesty."

The story loses nothing from the fact that the marquis had a very large family indeed.

HOTEL MODERNITY IN CHINA

Hostelry in Shanghai Is Equipped With Baths, Radiators and Open Plumbing.

The opening of the new Chinese hotel in Shanghai, the Mong Yuen Lee Tzar, was celebrated recently by a banquet, the New York Sun states. The Mong Yuen Lee Tzar is the most up-to-date Chinese hotel in China. It is built of red brick with dark wood trimmings and is airy and sanitary. The building surrounds an open court with balconies around at each floor, so that there are no inside rooms. The hotel is equipped with open plumbing throughout, steam radiators in each room, electric lights and fans. Some of the rooms have private bathrooms connecting and all are furnished in semi-foreign style. The hotel is four stories high and has 82 rooms, including the suites, comprising a bedroom, sitting room and bathroom. The building covers a row and a half of land, which cost 30,000 taels. The entire property furnished cost \$80,000.

Bees Like Mineral Water.

For the tenth successive autumn a mineral water factory at Cardiff, Wales, was recently invaded by bees, which came in huge companies. All through the week the cloud of bees increased in dimension, and at the end of the week the "avalanche" was a record. The firm has consulted local beekeepers and experts, but so one can say where the bees come from, although beekeepers in the neighboring suburbs state that they have lost large numbers. Bee experts say they may come from many miles around. The remarkable thing is that although this one particular factory has been honored by these armies of visitors for ten years two mineral water factories quite near at hand have been left severely alone. Another curious thing is that the bees come every morning as soon as day breaks and depart when the sun goes down. They do not deliberately sting, but some employes have been stung through catching hold of some utensil upon which bees have fastened.

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WEDDING TRIPS IN THE AIR

Aeroplane Honeymoons Preferable in Some Ways to Those of Ordinary Sort.

There is much to be said in favor of aeroplane weddings, but we shall say only a little of it on a day like this, remarks the Newark News. Let us indicate briefly a few salient features of this new social institution.

The aeroplane wedding solves the problem of the getaway. When the happy couple depart in an airship their loving friends cannot scare the horses into running away and breaking the bride's neck.

Nor is it possible for them to throw high enough to blacken the bridegroom's eyes with old shoes. The newly-wedded pair are, in fact, in a position to bombard the wedding guests if they so desire.

A five-pound boot dropped on a wedding guest from a height of 250 feet ought to bring him a tremendous amount of good luck, according to the traditions of wedding festivity. An aeroplane honeymoon ought to be fascinating. Imagine sailing along all day without having to stand the "boid," bad gaze of a patent leather drummer in the seat across the aisle. Fancy being too far up in the clouds to hear the ribald whistle of the young loafers at the railway station.

But airship honeymoons are as sure to come to an end as the other kind. In a careless moment the bridegroom will say: "You do very nicely at the levers, my dear, but your figure eights are nothing like mother used to make."

A new form of wedding announcement will have to be prepared for the society reporters, in part as follows: "Mr. and Mrs. Winger left immediately after the ceremony for an extended aviation tour in France. If they return they will reside at 28 Laurel road."

Aeroplane marriages are highly dangerous, perhaps, but all kinds are, for that matter.

To Restore Chartreuse Monastery.

Tourists in all parts of the world will be interested to learn that the famous Grande Chartreuse monastery, which has been sadly neglected of recent years, is to be repaired and restored by the French authorities. Every year it is visited free by 60,000 tourists, and if a small entrance fee were charged the monastery could be kept in good condition. The Grande Chartreuse was founded by St. Bruno in 1084, and in 1132 it was completely destroyed by an avalanche, but was reconstructed soon after. Between the fourteenth and seventeenth centuries it was destroyed by fire eight times, and rebuilt on the same site. The last fire took place in 1576, when the famous monastery was reconstructed as it remains today, practically no change having been made during the last 236 years. It is a venerable monument of French religious architecture, situated in a picturesque site midst the Dauphiny Alps.

To Raze Historic House.

Having purchased the historic house at Van Cortlandville, near Peekskill, Walter S. Hamilton of Nyack will raze the edifice and replace it with a fine modern home.

During the Revolutionary war the old building was a popular wayside inn, being a regular stopping place for parties of Washington's troops as they went up and down the Hudson river. And the general himself often visited the place for rest and refreshment.

Polite for the Pastor's Benefit.

Little Mary was not especially noted for her table manners so that on several occasions she had dined on the kitchen cabinet when there was company in the house. But the dinner prepared for the new minister was entirely too tempting to be passed over lightly, so she resorted to all kinds of promises for the privilege of coming to the table.

True to her word, Mary was on her very best behavior, but she did so want a second piece of cake and the plate was over by the minister, entirely out of her reach. After giving the matter considerable thought she folded her hands meekly and exclaimed: "Mr. Blair, please pass the cake for Jesus' sake!"—Kansas City Star.

Truth About Old Age.

George F. Baer, the famous Philadelphia railroad man, said on his seventieth birthday: "I agree with Professor Metchnikoff about the wisdom of the old. Professor Oster made it fashionable to decry gray hairs, but my experience has been that the old not only possess wisdom, but they seek it also.

With a smile, Mr. Baer added: "The only people who think they are too old to learn are those who really are too young."

She Admitted It.

Little Ella's father was an eminent author, and one day while he was at luncheon the little girl occupied a chair in his study. Shortly a caller was ushered in, and with a pleasant smile inquired: "I suppose you assist your father in entertaining callers?" "Yes, sir," replied Ella, gravely. "Please be seated."—Harper's Bazar.