ADVENTUROUS AMERICANS

By

Elmo Scott Watson

Immortalized by a Dam

BONNEVILLE dam in the Columbia river perpetuates the memory of an adventurous explorer who was both a great success and a great failure. In 1832 French-born Capt. Benjamin Bonneville of the United States army obtained a leave of absence to engage in a fur trading expedition on condition that he explore the trans-Missouri West and obtain information concerning the Indians, the topography of the country and its economic possibilities. Two years later he set out at the head of a party of 110 men.

Commercially his venture was a complete failure. He built forts in such poor locations that the frontiersmen called them "Fort Nonsense." Some were so high in the mountains that they were cut off from the outside by the first snows of winter. But his expedition was successful in that he explored the route through South Pass for wagon trains and mapped the passage of the Columbia river through the Cascade mountains. Moreover he was an able military leader for he did not lose a single man during all his perilous journey through the Indian-infested wilderness.

After his return to the East he met Washington Irving at the home of John Jacob Astor and the result was the book "The Adventures of Captain Bonneville" by that famous writer. The book was a "best seller" of its time but it did not help Bonneville's reputation greatly. He had long overstayed his leave of absence and when President Jackson reinstated him as a captain in 1836 many people protested that Bonneville should have been dismissed from the service instead.

Bonneville proved them wrong by his conduct during the Mexican war, which won for him a citation for gallantry in action. In 1852 he became commandant at Fort Vancouver which stood 30 miles down the river from the dam that now bears his name. He was brevetted a brigadier general in 1869 and died in St. Louis in the spring of 1878.

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'A Message to Garcia'

OUT in California lives an 82-year-old retired army officer whose name was once on every American's lips. He is Col. Andrew Summers Rowan, the man who carried "a message to Garcia."

In 1898 war with Spain was imminent and President McKinley wanted to know if General Garcia, commander of the Cuban insurgents, would co-operate with the American forces if an army was sent there. The man chosen to find out was young Lieutenant Rowan.

Rowan proved that the confidence of his superiors was not misplaced. Making his way through the steaming, insect-infested jungle, drinking germ-filled water, living on such food as he could find and in constant danger of capture and execution by the Spaniards as a spy, Rowan found Garcia, got the information he sought and safely made an equally perilous return trip.

Rowan was taken to the White House where he received the thanks of the President and promoted to the rank of lieutenant-colonel of volunteers. But the thing which made him famous was an editorial, written by Elbert Hubbard, for his magazine, the Philistine, the following year. This editorial, published under the title of "A Message to Garcia," was translated into 20 languages, reprinted all over the world and is one of the best known pieces of English prose ever written.

As for the man who inspired it, not until 1922 did he receive public recognition from his country in the form of the Distinguished Service Cross for carrying the "message to Garcia."

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Death Valley Samaritan

LOU WESTCOTT BECK went into Death Valley to seek wealth but almost perished. He stayed there to devote his life to saving others.

Death Valley of the days before good roads and tourist facilities was well named. Hundreds of American adventurers never returned from it. A barren waste with trails that led nowhere, and alive only with crawling lizards and darting poisonous snakes, Death Valley was a treacherous trap baited to lure adventurers with promises of gold.

Beck became known as the "Good Samaritan of Death Valley," piling up rocks and putting signs on them directing prospectors to water holes. He went out searching for those who were known to be lost and guided them to safety.

For 13 years, aided only by Rufus, his Newfoundland dog, Beck braved the hardships of the Colorado and Mojave deserts, as well as Death Valley, and saved between 300 and 400 lives. In 1917, although warned not to by his dog, Beck drank from an infected spring and never recovered from the resulting illness.

Although comparatively unknown today, Lou Westcott Beck is probably one of the most self-sacrificing of all the great American adventurers.

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The 'Slogan King'

The late Sir Charles Higham of London was called the "Slogan King." As a youth he came to the United States and entered the advertising business. Later he returned to England to become the principal exponent there of American advertising methods.

Unearth 1500 B. C. Village

A village of 1500 B. C., when native Britons were shifting from the Stone age to bronze tools, was unearthed in the Orkney islands.

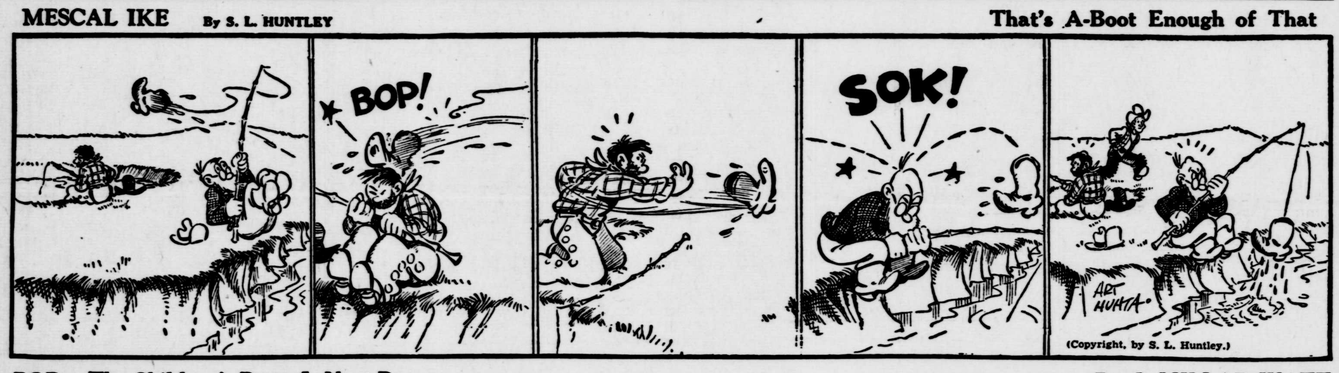
THE SUNNY SIDE OF LIFE

BIG TOP "Silk" Fowler, the ringmaster, demands that Alta, the elephant, be killed. By ED WHEELAN

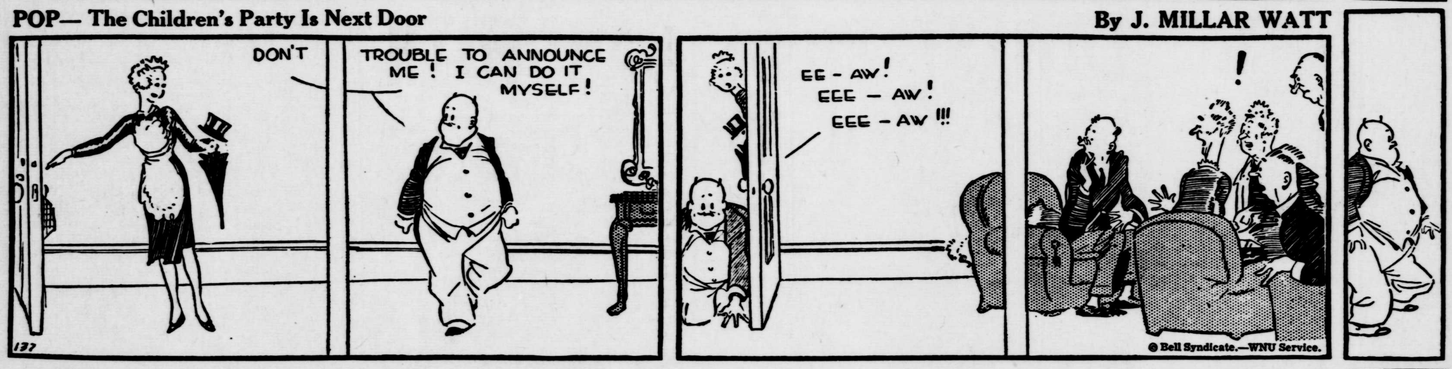
LALA PALOOZA —Asleep on the Job By RUBE GOLDBERG

S'MATTER POP—You Have to Know How to Equalize By C. M. PAYNE

MESCAL IKE By S. L. HUNTLEY That's A-Boot Enough of That



POP— The Children's Party Is Next Door By J. MILLAR WATT



'KEEPING UP WITH THE JONESES' — Anxious Days and Nights By POP MOMAND

Fly Swatting Time

HAD OTHER MOTIVES

"I trust we shall be able to make you feel quite at home," said the hotel manager to the visitor.

"Don't trouble yourself," he replied. "I don't want to feel at home. That's why I came here!"

Best He Could Do

Plain Woman (wishing to have her portrait painted) to artist—Do you guarantee satisfaction?

"No, madam," was the reply, "I only paint likenesses." — Stray Stories.

Without Feeling

Willie—My history teacher is the meanest man I know.

Father—How is that?

Willie—He borrows my pen-knife to sharpen his pencil to give me bad marks.

Too Friendly

"Every time I want you, you're engaged on the phone, Miss Blank!"

"They were business calls, sir."

"Well, don't address my clients as darling in the future."

HIGH FLY By GLUYAS WILLIAMS

A Little Bit Humorous

EARLY FILIAL FIDELITY

One of the clerks at the employment agency was a bit of a wit, and he was preparing to gain a laugh at the expense of the next in line.

"Where were you born?" he asked the man, a Scotchman.

"Glasca'," was the reply.

"Glasgow! Whatever for?" continued the funny one.

"I wanted to be near mother," said the other with devastating meekness.

Call the Union!

A little girl had been to church for the first time. When she returned home her mother asked her what she thought of church.

"I like it very much," she said, "but there was one thing I didn't think was fair."

"What was that, dear?" asked her mother.

"Why, one man did all the work and then another man came around and got all the money."

ASSOCIATION

Mr. Jones (viewing Niagara)—What a stupendous sight!

Mrs. Jones—Robert, are you sure you turned off the water in the bath room before we left home?

His Middle Name

Teacher—What is your name, young man?

New Boy—Tommy Jones.

"And what is your other name—your middle name?"

"Don't, miss."

"Don't? Are you sure that is your middle name?"

"Well, they're always calling me Tommy Don't at home."—Stray Stories.

And Licenses?

"We were out on the steppes of Siberia in our sleigh," related the "woman's club" explorer. "Suddenly we heard an awful yowling—and soon, looking back, we could see the dark muzzles of bloodthirsty wolves!"

"Gracious!" gasped a sweet young thing. "How fortunate for you they had on their muzzles!"

Two Good Reasons

"You never read the weather predictions?"

"Nope. I skip 'em for two reasons. One is that there's no use o' worrying about what you can't help, an' the other is that you never can rely on a prophecy till after it's come true, an' then it's too late to make any difference."

No Danger

Teacher—Jimmy, is it true that your mother has diphtheria?

Jimmy—Yes, ma'am.

"But don't you know you mustn't come to school? You might get it from your mother and then give it to the whole class."

"No, ma'am; it's only my stepmother, an' she never gives me nothin'!"

Annoying

Aged Patient—I'm very much concerned. I've got into the habit of talking to myself.

Doctor—That's nothing. Many elderly people do. I do.

Patient—That's different. The trouble with me is that I'm such a confounded bore!

FAST FELLOW

"Frank's car is a speedy one—why does he say it is slow?"

"Because it can't keep up with him, I suppose."

That Snore

Smith—My wife and I suffer from alternate insomnia.

Brown — Alternate insomnia! What is that?

Smith—Whichever gets to sleep first keeps the other awake all night.

Can't Help It

"Is your father always as glum as this?"

"By no means. He laughs twice a year—spring and autumn—when the women's new hats come in."—Philadelphia Bulletin.

The Real Peril

Old Lady (to parachutist)—I really don't know how you can hang from that silk thing. The suspense must be terrible.

Parachutist—No, mum; it's when the suspense ain't there that it's terrible.

Dancing Toe to Toe

First Frat Man—When you asked Doris to dance, did she accept quickly?

Second Frat Man—Did she! She was on my feet in an instant.