ADVENTUROUS AMERICANS

By

Elmo Scott Watson

Peter Pond, Pathmaker

THEY say that when Peter Pond was born to the wife of a Milford, Conn., shoemaker in 1740 he "arrived in a restless mood" and from that time until the end of his life he was constantly on the go. His father wanted him to "stick to the last" but the boy's restlessness led him into the British army at the age of 16. He served under Lord Howe, Sir William Johnson and General Amherst in Canada and there learned of the wealth of the country he was helping to conquer. It was furs and he was destined to become one of America's greatest fur traders.

After the French and Indian war was over, he went to sea and after a successful voyage to the West Indies returned to Milford to find his mother dead. So he took charge of his eight younger sisters and brothers until his father returned from a trading trip to Detroit.

When his father died Peter assumed his debts and in 1765 went to Detroit to engage in the Indian trade. He spent one winter at Michillimackinac, then "took another turn to ye West Indies." But he was soon back in the West—at Prairie du Chien and Green Bay, Wis.

About 1775 he gave up the trade in the Mississippi valley and went up into Canada. He is said to have been the first white man to reach the Peace river country and when the North West company was organized in 1784 he was one of the shareholders. He helped wrest the valuable Chipewayan trade away from the Hudson's Bay company and he inspired the famous exploring expedition of Alexander Mackenzie to the Pacific. Pond sold out his interests in the North West company in 1790 and is said to have died in poverty a few years later.

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A Dumas Hero

WHEN Irish-born Thomas Phelan died in Bremerton, Wash., in 1909, at the age of 72 it marked the passing of a character who might have stepped out of one of Dumas' novels. When he was 21 Phelan came to America, seeking adventure, and arrived in Kansas in time to take part in the border wars as a follower of John Brown of Osawatomie.

In Jackson county, Mo., he was captured by pro-slavery bushwhackers, who shot him and left him for dead. Upon recovering, he enlisted in the Union army, rose from sergeant to the rank of captain and served throughout the Civil war. Once he and several of his company were captured by Quantrill's guerrillas and sentenced to be shot. Their lives were saved by a Federal commander who threatened to hang an equal number of Southern sympathizers if they were harmed.

After the war, Phelan, with his sword-cane, was a picturesque figure on the streets of Kansas City where he became noted for his skill as a swordsman and his readiness to settle any quarrel on the duelling grounds with rapier or pistol. Then he enlisted in the fight for Irish freedom, joined the Fenians but quarreled with some of their leaders because of their terroristic methods. As a result, three "dynamiters" in 1885 attacked him in his office and almost slashed him to death with their daggers before he beat them off. After many months in the hospital he finally recovered from his wounds.

In 1894 Phelan won international fame when the French captain, Alfred Dreyfus, was courtmartialed and sentenced to Devil's Island. Phelan immediately denounced Count Esterhazy as the forger of the documents which convicted Dreyfus and challenged him to a duel. The charges of the Irish soldier of fortune were ridiculed but later events proved that he was right.

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'Thirty-Thirty' Jack

BACK in 1898, when Jack Pratt was 26 years old, he left the States for Alaska and settled near Wrangell. There was no monotony in his far-north life—he became a deep-sea diver, prospector, game hunter, "mountie," saloon-keeper and government agent. They called him "Thirty-Thirty" Jack after the rifle he carried instead of the usual six-shooter.

Up in Nome, for a while he went into partnership with Tex Rickard, the famous prize-fight promoter. Their business interests were centered solely in running a saloon, so instead of promoting fights, they were interested in stopping them. There, too, "Thirty-Thirty" knew many later notables including Rex Beach, Robert W. Service, Texas Guinan and Jack London.

A few months ago he made a trip to Chicago which was his first return to "civilization" in 38 years. He said he was disappointed, however, because, although 66 years old, he guesses he is still a pioneer at heart.

He returned to Wrangell and put on a big party to celebrate his "deliverance" from derby hats and other signs of formal living.

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How Snakes Crawl

A snake cannot cross anything smooth. It must have a rough surface to pull its body along by rhythmic contractions. It cannot crawl, for example, on smooth ice or glass—so if you are afraid of snakes, surround yourself with ice or glass and rest assured none will bother you.

Bubbles Scare Man-Eaters

Man-eating fish can be frightened away by bubbles, according to an underseas explorer.

Fun for the Whole Family

BIG TOP

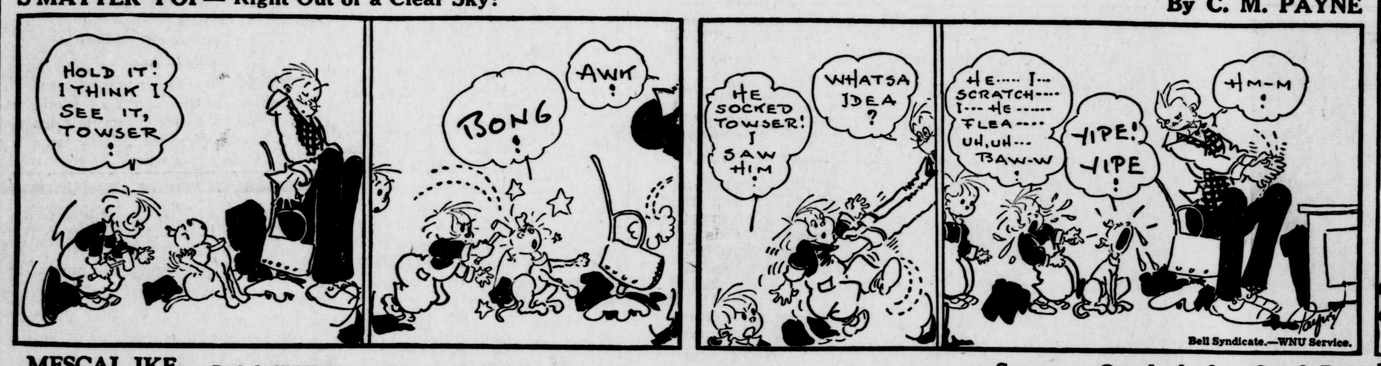
By ED WHEELAN

LALA PALOOZA —We Can Almost Hear the Wedding Bells

By RUBE GOLDBERG

S'MATTER POP— Right Out of a Clear Sky!

By C. M. PAYNE



MESCAL IKE

By S. L. HUNTLEY

Someone Overlooked a Good Bet

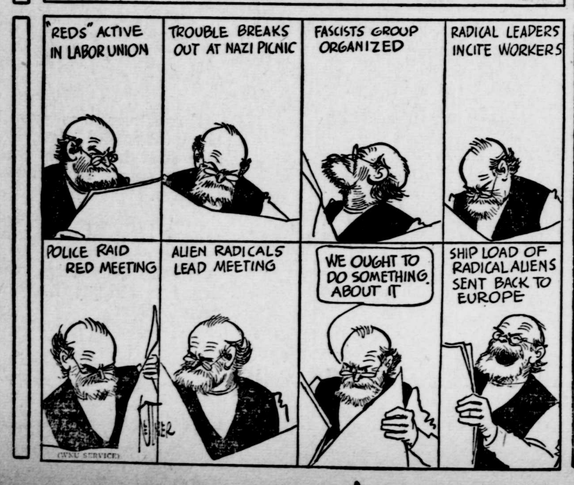
POP— Why There Are Wars

By J. MILLAR WATT

'KEEPING UP WITH THE JONESES' — Eddie Is All Set Now

By POP MOMAND

Cheerful News



AN OVERSIGHT

A correspondent sent the following extract from a friend's letter: "The natives of North Zululand have come to the conclusion that the white man is, after all, a fool. Recently a telephone squad was in that district, and the native's verdict was: "White man a fool. He puts up a wire fence; the cows can walk under it."

Being Polite

Little Greta came into the kitchen while mother was talking to the milkman. She just stood and stared.

Mother—Well, Greta, what do you say to the gentleman who brings you your nice milk every day?

Greta (shaking hands)—I am very glad to meet you. And how is your cow?—Koralle.

No Chance Yet

Teacher—Smith Minor, what do you know about Cleopatra?

Smith Minor—Nothing, sir. The film has not been to our cinema yet.—Moustique.

THE WORLD AT ITS WORST

By GLUYAS WILLIAMS

Col. Phillips Named Food Advisor To Byrd Antarctic Expedition

Prominent Food Executive Given Entire Responsibility For Provisioning Three Ships Soon To Leave On Polar Venture.

Cambridge, Maryland—First official action by Rear Admiral Richard E. Byrd, following his designation by President Roosevelt as head of the important new United States Government colonization expedition to the Antarctic, was the appointment of Colonel Albanus Phillips, president of the Phillips Packing Company, this city, as Food Counselor of the expedition.

Immediately following the announcement from the White House in Washington that President Roosevelt had named Admiral Byrd to command the expedition which will stake out American claims to a vast area of the Antarctic continent, the latter wired Colonel Phillips:

"I was today appointed to command the United States Government Antarctic Expedition. The first thing I am going to do is appoint you food counselor for the undertaking—a position of utmost importance and responsibility, for which your nearly fifty years of experience in foods so eminently fits you. I sincerely hope you can honor the expedition by accepting this designation. The warmest personal regards."

The telegram announcing his appointment was delivered to Colonel Phillips when he returned from a week-end cruise on Chesapeake Bay, and he immediately wired his acceptance to Admiral Byrd. An early conference will be arranged between Admiral Byrd and Colonel Phillips to discuss plans for provisioning the three ships, headed by Admiral Byrd's flagship, Bear of Oakland, which will make the trip to Antarctica.

The appointment of Colonel Phillips is regarded as a highly signficant tribute to his many years of successful experience as a leader in the food field. The food company he heads packs over fifty varieties of canned foods now marketed from coast to coast and in numerous foreign countries.

Human Sacrifice Practiced

Revival of human sacrifice in Swaziland, South Africa, was seen in the trial at Hlatikulu of three natives for murder. The rite was held in connection with the funeral ceremonies for the son of a chief. Another son, one of the accused, summoned his followers to ambush the first man who should pass a certain spot near the river. Toward sunset Sikota, a native, strolling past, was set upon and stabbed to death. The blood of the victim was collected and given to a witch doctor, who anointed a selected member of the tribe with it. The anointed native completed the funeral rites.

Poland Is Center

Geographically, Poland is in the exact center of Europe and is easily accessible by all main line routes. It is a country in which the old and the new are in complete harmony. Lovely old cities, rich in relics of ancient glories, bygone rites and ceremonies, festivals and pageantry, folklore and traditions, exist side by side with modern airways reaching all over Europe, swift and comfortable trains, one of the world's most powerful broadcasting stations, good roads and, virtually everywhere, excellent hotels.

Distinguished Cross

The Distinguished Service Cross is bestowed upon personnel in the military service who distinguished themselves by extraordinary heroism in military operations against an armed enemy. There have been 6,350 awards of this decoration made, including 119 Oak Leaf Clusters. Of this decoration 16 awards were made, including one Oak Leaf Cluster, for heroism performed in the World war.

Ventriloquism Mechanism

The essential mechanism of ventriloquism consists in taking a full breath, then keeping the muscles of the chest and neck fixed, and speaking with the mouth almost closed, and the lips and lower jaw as motionless as possible while air is very slowly expired through a narrow glottis. No air must escape through the nose.

Bass Feeding

To feed bass in a large pond on his farm, J. W. Wilson of Abbs Valley, Virginia, attaches a torch to a pole and extends it out over the water. Attracted by the light, insects hover too close to the flame, singe their wings and fall into the water. The bass do the rest.

Mountaineer Host in Poland

Zakopane, the mountain-walled capital of the High Tatras in Poland, has 200,000 visitors a year, 50,000 of whom stay at least two weeks, not only in its 200 hotels and pensions, but in the picturesque chalets of the costumed mountaineers.

Stockholm Restaurant

In midair several stories above the street in Stockholm, Sweden, is the Ny Katerinahiss, a restaurant that hangs "by its toes" beneath a sky bridge. Both the meal and the extraordinary view are worth the small charges on the menu.

Women Load Coal

Native women are employed to coal ships at Bridgetown, Barbados, in the British West Indies. The happy, carefree dusky maidens balance heavy loads of coal upon their heads as they swarm over the wharves.

McKinley's Ancestral Home

President McKinley's ancestral home is now on the tourist map of Europe and is found at Conagher, near Derrock in Ireland's Antrim. It is but a cottage of one living room.