Hyrax, Odd Little Animal, Is About Size of Rabbit

The hyrax or coney, an animal about the size of the rabbit, is rodent-like in general appearance, having long front teeth and pointed muzzle. However, it does not have the usual five toes and strong claws of the other members of the gnawing family and anatomically resembles more closely the elephant and rhinoceros than any other species living, says Nature Magazine of Washington.

The toenails are short and rounded like those of the huge pachyderms. The large front teeth, at first glance resembling the strong gnawing teeth of the squirrel, are not flat and chisel-shaped, but instead are three-sided and pointed like the fangs of the great cats. These upper teeth grow throughout the animal's life as do elephants' tusks.

In structure, the seven cheek teeth of both jaws resemble those of the rhinoceros and its extinct relative, the palaeothere.

Speed of Animals, Birds, Fish

For centuries man has been trying to assess the speeds of animals, birds, and fishes. According to tables the fastest speeds in the kingdom of Nature, says a writer in Pearson's Weekly, are: Canvas-back duck, 72 miles per hour; golden plover and teal 70 miles per hour; blackcock and swift, 68 miles per hour; pheasant and grouse, 60 miles per hour; merlin and wild goose, 55 miles per hour; homing pigeon, 55 miles per hour. The gazelle, the reed buck and the cheetah are given as the fastest animals, all being able to run at 60 miles per hour; while buffaloes, ostriches, jackals, and giraffes are listed in the 35 mile per hour class. The lion seems to be one of the slowest. He is only assessed at 30 miles per hour, the same speed as the wild pig. The fastest fish is the tuna, at 45 miles per hour, followed by the pike with 15 miles per hour. Trout and salmon can only do 12 miles per hour.

700,000 Words by Signs

The human arm, which includes forearm, wrist and fingers, can produce about 700,000 distinct signs, according to scientists. Sign language is, therefore, far richer and more expressive than human speech. Further, states a writer in Pearson's Weekly, it is very simple and it has no language barrier to overcome. Experts consider that it is the best possible foundation for building up a real universal language, particularly because signs have been a natural means of communication since prehistoric times.

Return Lightning Explained

Return lightning is described as a quite small electrical discharge that takes place here and there from objects on the earth's surface directly with lightning flashes. This discharge is quite insignificant to the main flash, but is powerful enough to cause explosions, to start fires and even take life.—Rocky Mountain Herald.

Capture of French Cseyable

The French privateer Cseyable was captured twice by U. S. sailors between 1798 and 1799 and recaptured once by the French.

All Under Suspicion

Even the helpful and unselfish man is under suspicion of trying to get more than his share of heavenly reward hereafter.

Wall With 88 Towers

Segovia, high in the Spanish Guadarrama Mountains, is surrounded by a Roman wall with 96 towers.

Beaver's Tail Use

Contrary to general belief, beavers do not use their flat tails in their extensive building operations

Scottish Highland's High Point

Ben Nevis, 4,409 feet above sea level, is the highest point in the Scottish Highlands.

Executioner, Also Doctor

Executioners often played the role of doctor also during the Seventeenth century.

Oldest Art Club

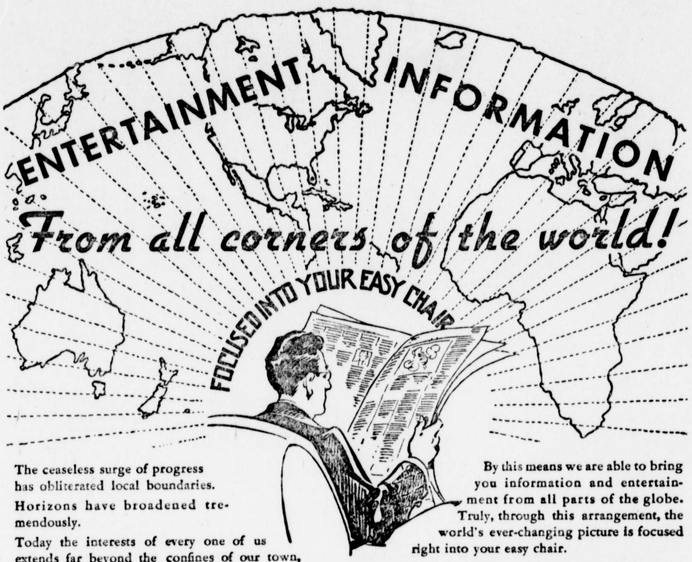
The Boston Art Club, founded in 1824, is the oldest in the United States.

Holland Below Sea Level

Almost the whole of the western part of Holland is actually below sea level.

Canadian, Indian Name

The name Canada is from the Huron Indian word for village.



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You'll never find a more mirthful comic strip than "Finney of the Force," a merry series of drawings depicting the troubles of a traffic cop. O'Loughlin has pictured the typical Irish policeman perfectly in this strip . . . Finney is one of the most lovable characters you'll ever meet.

S. L. HUNTLEY

There's never a dull moment at Cactus Center when this artist draws his popular "Mescal Ike" comic strip. Huntley has risen from the ranks of cartoonists to stand today as a leader in the field. The nation's greatest newspapers find his "Mescal Ike" very popular with readers.

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Years of experience as a Washington correspondent make Bruckart especially capable of reporting national capital news. Not only is his information reliable, but his articles are spicy and completely readable . . . a perfect resume of events and gossip from Washington.

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