Democratic Watchman.

Bellefonte, Pa., April 25, 1930.

Desolation in Wake of Gigantic Gold Dredges

Automobile tourists through the northern part of California are liable to have their attention attracted to mountains of cobblestones frequently seen. Sometimes these piles are 50 or 60 feet high and several hundred feet long. They are never beautiful and they add nothing to the landscape. In fact, they are eyesores, but there is little prospect of their removal. These piles are the accumulation of the gold dredges, gigantic constructions which eat their way through the land and leave a trail of desolation. Farm lands and orchards are brought up by the operators and left in ruin, for the land is useless for any purpose whatever after the passage of the dredger. These machines cost about a quarter of a million dollars, but the cost of operation is very small. A large quantity of the earth must be treated to recover a small quantity of the yellow metal, but at that the business is very profitable. The stones taken from the soil are useful only to grind up for cement, but the piles standing today will offer crushed stone sufficient for the demands of the entire country for many years.—Washington Star.

Puzzle Presented to English Legal Minds

A barrister contributes to the Times, in a letter, an ingenious and apparently insoluble puzzle, which may be summarized thus: A says to B, I will teach you to be a barrister; half fee now, and the other half if you win your first case. B was taught, and called to the bar, but failed to do anything at all for two years. A then said to himself: If I sue him for the installment of my fee, and win the case, he will have to pay me; if I lose, then he has won his first case, and will therefore have to pay me. That seems unanswerable until we get B's view: If A wins, then I have lost my first case and need not pay him; and if he loses, then by the judgment of the court I need not pay him. So that is that; and there is no evident solution.—Weekly Scotsman.

Pacific Mystery

Easter island is called the "Unsolved Mystery of the Pacific" because of the scattered presence of hundreds of immense heads carved out of stone which are to be seen, some standing erect while others are down upon the ground. Their meaning is only conjectural and no one has ever offered any explanation which is generally accepted. Apparently Easter island was chosen as the graveyard for the chiefs of a large island archipelago which suddenly disappeared. The thousands of slaves who were kept at work carving out these images were left without food and fell upon each other until only a few remained. The story of all these events was never recorded and can be read only by inference.

Liberty Cap

In early Roman times, only freemen were permitted to wear caps. When a slave was manumitted, a small cap, usually of red felt, was placed on his head, and his name was registered in the city tribes. Several Roman commanders hoisted such caps on spears to indicate that all slaves who joined them should be free; and when Caesar was murdered, the conspirators marched forth in a body, with a cap elevated on a spear, in token of liberty.

In the French revolution, the liberty cap was adopted by the revolutionists as a badge of their freedom.

Plate and "Window Glass"

Glass is made in two ways. One by blowing, the other by rolling. The blown glass, known as "window glass," is not always uniform in section, may contain imperfections, bubbles, sand marks, streaks, warped surfaces and is graded accordingly.

Plate glass is free from the imperfection of warpage, objects seen through it are not distorted, it is more costly. Single-strength window glass may be used for small panes and storm sash. Light-weight plate glass one-eighth-inch thick is recommended for small windows.

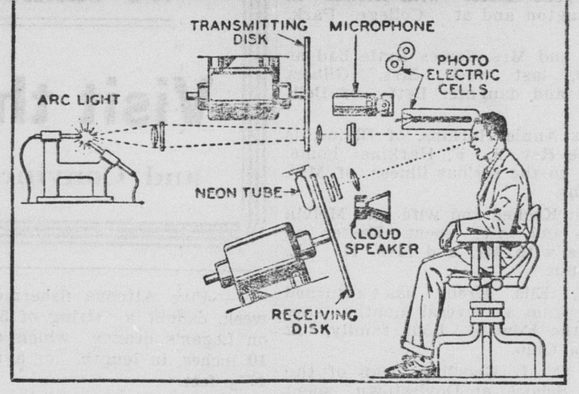
Indians' Poisoned Arrows

The bureau of ethnology says that the arrow poison used by the Indians was of vegetal and animal origin. Among the vegetal poisons there were the sap of the yucca angustifolia, a preparation of aconite, and a plant called mago, the milk of which was poison. Some tribes, such as the Shoshoni and Bannock Indians, secured a deer and caused it to be bitten by a rattlesnake. The deer was then killed and allowed to putrefy. Then the arrows were dipped into the putrid matter.

Desert Aster a Beauty

In Painted canyon is found the desert aster—superlative one of all western composites bearing the much-used name of "aster,"—lavender-rayed, with yellow center, and two or three inches across. And with enough irregularity to give it an air which we can only satisfactorily describe as chic. It is a perennial, with a low woody base, a generous annual growth of slender herbaceous branches, and a liberal dower of foliage.

BELL SCIENTISTS TEST TWO-WAY TELEVISION



Two-way television is now an actuality, from an experimental standpoint. The American Telephone and Telegraph Company demonstrated recently in New York City a system of two-way television to supplement two-way telephone conversations, thus permitting the talking parties to see as well as hear each other.

Above at the left is an interior of a booth used in the demonstration. In the lower part of the opening is an image of the person at the distant end of the wire. From a point above it, the scanning beam is directed on the face of the speaker and the reflected light is picked up by photo-electric cells visible through the glass plates at the sides and top. The microphone and loud speakers are shielded by a screen.

Upper right, Walter S. Gifford (seated), president of the A. T. and T. Co., ready for his first television-telephone conversation, receives technical details about the apparatus from Dr. H. E. Ives, of the Bell Telephone Laboratories.

The diagram to the right illustrates how the two-way television system operates. A beam of light from an arc is thrown by the scanning disc on the speaker's face, and reflected light is picked up by the photo-electric cells and transmitted electrically to the distant end. The incoming image is seen by means of the lower scanning disc and a neon tube.

Mr. Gifford pointed out that while substantial progress has been made on the technical side, general use of television on a commercial basis is not expected to be available for a long time to come.

Lessening Aversion to Formal Music Lessons

Children's aversion to music lessons, entailing long hours of practice for many months, can be overcome by making them familiar at an early age with musical toys, according to Frank H. Richardson, M. D., in Woman's Home Companion.

"Many families have found the approach to a real appreciation and love of music is made easier by having the simpler musical instruments around where they can be picked up and played casually even before formal lessons have begun," says Doctor Richardson. "Such simple things as the fife, flageolet and piccolo; the banjo, mandolin or even the humble ukulele; the xylophone or bells will often tempt not only the child but also the guest in the home.

"Improvised ensembles prove delightful ways of teaching children good-fellowship and freeing them from the embarrassment so overpowering in children whose only contact with strangers has been formal.

"Many a child who would have been repelled at first by the technical difficulties of the violin or piano, has come happily to these more difficult musical instruments by way of their humbler and more easily mastered brothers in the musical family."

Proud Boast Is Old

The germ of the idea of the sun never setting on the dominions of a particular ruler is found in Herodotus, Book VII, Chapter 8. The boast was a common one with the Spaniards in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth centuries and is frequently alluded to in the literature of other countries. It does not seem to be recorded who first used the expression the sun never sets upon the British empire. John Wilson, who wrote under the pen name of Christopher North (1786-1854), in his Noctes Ambrosianae, No. 20, April, 1829, says, "His majesty's dominions on which the sun never sets." This appears to be the first use of the expression in English literature.

Veneered for Strength

When you consider veneered furniture you usually consider it as a cheap and economical method of using expensive woods. But strength, as much as economy, is the motive, points out the American Architect, citing the famous desk used by Napoleon as an example. The desk accompanied the Corsican conqueror to the ends of Europe, packed on muleback or jolted over the country on artillery caissons. But now, more than 125 years old, it is on exhibition at Fontainebleau in perfect condition.

Bi-Lingualism in Finland

Before Finland was seized by Russia in 1808 to become a grand-duchy under the czars, it belonged to Sweden. Swedish remained the sole official language until 1883 when Finnish was given equal rights. Today both languages are on an equal footing, but Swedish is the commercial language of the maritime towns, including Helsingfors, the capital, where it is the mother tongue of a large portion of the population.

Sweetness of a Good Life

As shrubs which are cut down with the morning dew upon them do for a long time after retain their fragrancy, so the good actions of a wise man perfume his mind and leave a rich scent behind them. So that joy is, as it were, watered with these essences and owes its flourishing to them.—Plutarch.

"Ornery" Long Employed To Express Contempt

"Ornery" and "onery" are corrupted forms of "ordinary." They are dialect or colloquial terms meaning insignificant, low, mean, contemptible, and they express a higher degree of contempt and disapprobation than "ordinary" does. "Ornary" as a contraction of "ordinary" was a common provincialism in England in the time of the Stuarts, although it is now nearly obsolete. We find the phrase "uppon ornarie time," in the Easthampton records as late as 1679. In Ireland and the United States this form persists in the still more corrupted forms or "ornery" and "onery," which were brought to the American colonies and perpetuated largely by Irish and Scotch-Irish immigrants, who settled in the South and West. This explains the fact that "ornery" and "onery" are generally regarded as southerisms or westernisms. In 1830 the New York Constellation published the following as a southern expression: "You ornery fellow! Do you pretend to call me to account for my language?"—Pathfinder Magazine.

Got Something From Nothing

The resourcefulness of the archeological explorer enables him to do some wonderful things in the field that savor almost of the magical. Mr. Woolley, working at Ur of the Chaldees, for instance had his attention called to the presence of two small and cleanly cut holes in the ground which were so very much alike that he thought they might mean something. So the work of excavation in that particular spot was halted while a thin mixture of plaster of paris was made and this was poured into the holes and allowed to set. When the cast was finally uncovered it was found that they had secured the lines of a Sumerian harp which had been shaped of wood which had long since decayed and disappeared. The cast was perfect in all its details and comprised a valuable specimen.

On the Menu

The portly gentleman who had been engaged to sing in the musical program following a dinner at a large restaurant was loking very enraged. He was scanning the list of musical items, and, to his consternation, his name had been omitted!

Approaching one of the organizers he brandished the program furiously, and demanded the reason of the omission. The young fellow whom he approached glanced down at the card, then laughed nervously. "Aren't you Signor Jelly, the singer?" he asked.

"Yes," was the reply.

"Well—er—your name being 'Jelly,'" said the young chap, "it appears to have been put on the menu by mistake."—Montreal Star.

French Superstitions

To a considerable extent, the French peasants still attach credence to the evil eye, to witches, to were-wolves and to other weird medieval superstitions, in spite of years of persistent effort to eradicate these primitive beliefs. In many remote villages of Normandy and Brittany belief in heathen deities also survives. Sacred trees are the object of midnight worship, when young girls gather to dance in the moonlight, as in the days of Druidical heathenism. Healers and medicine men abound in the rural districts and certain animals still are treated with reverential awe. Cases involving superstition are constantly coming to the attention of the French courts.

Denver Man Drew His First Sketch on Bar.

Denver, Colo.—Twenty years ago a bearded and rugged Westerner took a stub pencil from his pocket, leaned over the counter of a frontier saloon, and reproduced from memory a scene he had witnessed years before in a theater in Cincinnati.

It was Michael Edward O'Brien, standing alone inspired by his first creative mood, while laughter and the fumes of whisky filled the room.

In a little while the sketch was finished—even to the bridge across the Thames. His comrades crowded around, praising his work, though they didn't understand.

Encouraged by Wife.

Today, "Viewing the Oaks," painted by O'Brien, hangs in the Denver Art museum among an exhibit of the work of native Colorado artists. It was the first picture of the exhibit to be sold.

Behind that picture lies the story of an ordinary hod carrier with a family to support, who never shirked his responsibility and never became discouraged.

Those few words of approbation which his comrades had spoken to him of his drawing on the bar spurred him on. His wife encouraged him, although she was busy with the house hold.

At nights the hod carrier, noted for feats of strength when he was a young man, would go to his home in Denver's most unpretentious residential district and for hours then his work-worn hands would yield to the imaginative power of his inner self.

Paints From Memory.

Because he was forced to work at night many of the tints were not what they should be, and daylight found his work done in vain. He worked on them, however, until they were perfected.

O'Brien never had an education for a background. He paints mostly from memory, which fact, it is said, is responsible for the unusual degree of imaginativeness found in his pictures. Occasionally, his wife says, he goes off to the mountains, but always tears up his sketches when he comes back and paints his scenes from memory.

A few of his pictures have been sold, and these funds have been a genuine relief from the poverty that dogged him for so long.

Museum officials are making an effort to have a special exhibit of his work in recognition for this latest picture, "Viewing the Oaks."

Old Sioux Chief Tells Story of Custer Fight

Washington.—An aged Sioux war chief, survivor of Custer's last stand, gave a new version of that famous battle between the white man and the red.

Iron White Man, seventy-one, head nigh and body erect, turned back to his youth to tell of the "massacre." He was seventeen then.

The old warrior came here in the cause of the Sioux who have sued the government for $600,000,000 in payment for Indian lands taken over for white settlement.

He told his story of the fight:

"One day an old man and a boy, they were Indians, were chased and the boy was killed by Custer's soldiers.

"The soldiers began to shoot on the camp's women and children who were swimming in the creek. Immediately after this the warriors all got their ponies, mounted and they went against the soldiers and the end was that all the soldiers were killed."

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Corn Chop	2.25
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Stock Salt	1.00
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Charcoal	3.00
Dried Buttermilk	9.50
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Pratt's Poultry Worm Powder	10.00
Pratt's Poultry Regulator	9.00
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Cod Liver Oil, bulk gal.	1.30
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White Plymouth Rocks	12.00
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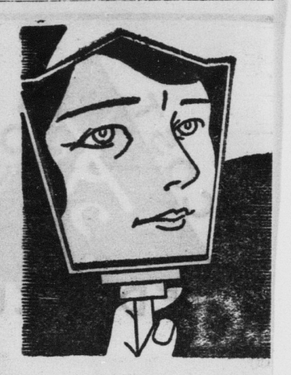

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