

**ORTOISE OR CARP**

**IS LONGEST LIVED.**

Current stories of long lived animals are discredited by Prof. A. D. Hancock, of University College, Dundee, Scotland, in a recent tabulation of the greatest recorded ages of all kinds of animals made for the British publication, the Wonders of Animal Life, now being issued in London, says The Boston Globe, or the elephant, usually supposed to outlive man, the longest authentic record which Prof. Hancock has found is 70 years. The maximum attested age for a whale is 40 years.

Only four creatures are regularly reported to live longer than man. These are the giant tortoise, for which a 50-year age is unquestionable and 200 years a probability; the German carp, which may live for 150 years; and the white headed vulture, for one of which there is a record of 118 years and the eagle, which has an attested record of 104 years. Four other birds, the crow, the parrot, the avian and the eider duck of the Arctic, may live about as long as long lived men or women, their maximum records being about 100 years each.

Two fish, the salmon and the shark, probably equal this record; and one variety of shellfish, the giant mussel, called Tridacna gigas, a sea anemone once lived in a zoological laboratory for 66 years. The insect record is held by a beetle found alive in a piece of wood which the insect must have entered 37 years before. Ant queens have been known to live for 13 years, but the longest lived flea is 8 months. The record louse is 7 weeks and the housefly, ignoring doubtful cases, lives only 34 days or less.

A toad is known to have lived for 36 years, an alligator for 40 and an eel for 60. The record for a goose is 57 years and for a hen 10 years. Lions and tigers live only about 25 years, but at least one domestic cat lived to be 40. The record age for dogs is 35 years; a horse has lived to be 40 and a cow 25.

The shortest animal lives are among the insects. While the winged male of the insect called stilyops may live, Prof. Hancock states, for only one to three hours, although the female lives for several days.

**TRAPPER PUZZLED OVER HABIT OF WILD GEESE.**

"Why do wild geese set up a terrible 24-hour-a-day racket flying about, when they are as quiet as they can be flying north?" is what Robert Nelson, sixty-four-year-old trapper, of Iron Mountain, Mich., wants to know. Nelson has learned the answer to almost every other woods question by experience during the 40 years in the woods, but that puzzled him. He claims he has checked them year after year and knows that they raise their voices while flying in one direction only.

About 30 years ago, says the Milwaukee Journal, Nelson came to Michigan and soon after settled in the upper peninsula. Bob has earned much from nature and books since he established himself in his shack.

"Ever see a deer kill a snake?" he asked. "Well, sir, I tell you it's a great sight. I was walking down the road one day when I heard the lamestest commotion; couldn't make out what it was. First I saw two fawns looking intently ahead of them. A step farther and there was a deer, leaping way in the air and coming down on all fours, her hoofs tearing into something. I looked closely and saw a huge pine snake writhing in the grass."

A man living in the woods for 40 years is bound to have some hair-raising experiences. The one stamped most on Nelson's mind is a charge by an angry mother bear, and he has his dog to blame for it. The "purrp," as he calls it, left him to chase a rabbit.

The trapper heard the dog utter a strange bark and went to it. There was the dog, while rolled up in front of him like a furry ball was a cub bear. Nelson bent over it, when he heard an angry snort and looked up in time to see an angered mother bear start a rush toward him.

"Well, I'm not Nurrmi or any of those other boys who break records," he grinned, "but, mister, I'm telling you that for five minutes I put ground under me. The bear gave up the chase after a while, but for a couple of minutes it looked like the bear was going to have minced trapper for supper."

**FIFTY SILK DRESSES GO TO COLLEGE LABORATORY.**

The relation between the price of a silk dress and its real value will be determined in the textile laboratories of the Pennsylvania State College.

Fifty silk dresses, ranging in price from \$2.95 to \$50, are being purchased and tested by the chemists working under the direction of Mrs. Pauline Berry Mack, assistant professor of chemistry. The dresses are the gift of an anonymous donor, the first shipment being received at the college recently. After the garments are rated for style, workmanship, and the amount of silk used in their construction, the material will be analyzed for percentage of mineral weighting, breaking strength, tearing strength, and resistance to perspiration.

All the Coolidges are not averse to holding office. Marcus Coolidge is a candidate for the Democratic nomination of Senator in Congress for Massachusetts.

**INVESTIGATION IS CONFESSION**

Some Senators will put in a busy summer.

Many investigations are planned. Senator Glass proposes turning the Federal Reserve system inside out, to show how the machinery works. In connection with this probable investigation, which many Senators advocate, chain banking and control of credit in relation to stock market speculation will be examined.

The most sensational investigation will be that of primary finances. Chairman Nye, of the committee in charge of this probe, says he will hunt for instances of "lavish, unfair and unlawful use of money" in securing nominations.

Close rival to this investigation in point of spectacular possibilities will be the investigation of postoffice leases. It may even rival the Teapot Dome scandal for unsavoriness. In St. Paul, Uncle Sam is alleged to have been paying \$129,000 rent on a building for which \$40,000 a year would have been a more proper figure.

Then, there will be investigations of the Shipping Board's sales to private operators, and of railroad-holding companies, alleged to exist for the purpose of thwarting control by the Interstate Commerce Commission.

Truly, an amazing list! At first blush it might seem that the Senate deserves praise for vigilance against abuses of the law and subversion of the public interest in the machinery of law whereby business is regulated.

But—what a belated vigilance! How come these occasions for investigations?

The Republican party has been in power through the Harding term, the Coolidge administration and more than a year of Hoover.

Since March 4, 1921, the G. O. P. has held the reins of government. We are now in the tenth year of an unbroken run of Republican dominance.

Power is inseparable from responsibility. The party that has opportunity must also have the credit or blame for the things, good or bad, that mark its incumbency.

If the Federal Reserve system has been abused; if buying and selling of votes has flourished; if postoffice leases are unfair to the people; if the railroads have built up holding

companies through which law can be sidestepped; if ships have been sold at less than bargain prices—whose fault is it?

This flock of investigations may be praised only by the short-sighted as a credit to the Republican party. To those who look beneath the surface, they constitute a damning indictment against the spirit of government which has ruled in Republican councils.

With "prosperity" and prohibition keeping the President awake nights, and these numerous confessions that things have gone wrong haunting the minds of Republican legislators eager for re-election, the people may well question whether the time has not come for a big-scale turnover.—Editorial in the Philadelphia Record.

**'PASSION PLAY' LIFE OF SMALL BAVARIAN VILLAGE.**

The Passion play, a dramatization of the sufferings in the life of Christ, takes place in the little village of Oberammergau, nestling in the Bavarian Alps. And this play has been going on every ten years since the plague of 1633. During that year the citizens of Oberammergau vowed that they would enact the piece every ten years as a thanksgiving offering for having been delivered of the plague.

The original text and arrangements were probably made by the monks of Ettal. The music was composed by Rochus Dedler, schoolmaster of the parish in 1814. The production is given in the open air and stands are constructed to accommodate 5,000 spectators. Seven hundred actors are employed in the play, all native villagers. The proceeds go for the public good after the expenses have been defrayed and a small remuneration made to each actor.

The play is a stupendous manifestation of religious worship and the moral character of each actor is considered as well as his histrionic ability. The principal parts are hereditary. The whole village lives for this production. The inhabitants spend their time at fashioning crucifixes, rosaries and images of the saints to sell to the tourists who flow through their quiet little city year by year.

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**IRIS LONG A FIGURE IN MYTH AND HISTORY**

From earliest times the iris has figured prominently in song and story, says Nature Magazine of Washington. In the annals of Greek mythology one reads frequently of Iris, goddess of the rainbow, and, the word "iris" is Greek for "rainbow."

History has it that the golden device which was on the flag of royal France, as far back as the Fifth century until the downfall of Louis Philippe in 1848, was modeled after the iris.

It is said that when Louis the Seventh of France joined the expedition of the Crusaders in 1147, he adopted the iris as his emblem, and that is how it came to be known as "Fleur de-Lis" or "flower de Lois," Lois being the manner in which the early kings Louis signed their name. Later in English the name changed to flower-de-luce, and finally, to flower-de-lis.

Indeed, even prior to the time of these French kings, the Etruscians, who were a civilized people long before the foundation of Rome, employed the iris as a motif in ornament. The Egyptian sphinxes have a part in the story, for the iris appeared constantly in their head-dresses. Particularly sacred to the Virgin Mary in Catholic countries. It appears again and again in the religious pictures of the early masters.

From the shores of the northern oceans to the balmy seas, the iris blooms in a multitude of types and a maze of brilliant coloring that makes one dream of the splendor of the Babylon of long ago.

Certain varieties of this lovely flower revel in bogs, some decorate

the edge of deserts, others display their pretty flowers in lands with definite dry seasons, while herds of them flourish with average conditions of climate and soil. Central and southern Europe and China are the centers of the original location of the iris, but it thrives on American soil as freely as any native plant.

**'FISTIC ART' HAD ORIGIN IN DAYS OF BARBARISM.**

Although boxing as a science is relatively modern, it was in the blazing sun of Italy and Greece, in the great amphitheatres of long ago, where barbarian captives fought and died to tickle the fancy of the populace that boxing as a sport was born. That these people must have developed a skillful school of boxing during the period in which the cestus was used is certain, but unfortunately little is known either of the style of fighting or of the personal attributes of the boxer by which comparison can be made between those long-dead champions and the modern wielder of the padded glove. The nearest connecting link is the famous Greek statue chiseled in time-defying marble known as "The Boxer." This, at least, affords a study in character.

During the early part of the Eighteenth century in England boxing was about as inhuman a sport as one can imagine. The middle of the century, fortunately, saw the dawn of a new day for the boxer, for at this time Jack Broughton, a young English champion, invented boxing gloves and originated a code of rules prohibiting much of the former savagery of the sport, on which many of the future rules have been based.

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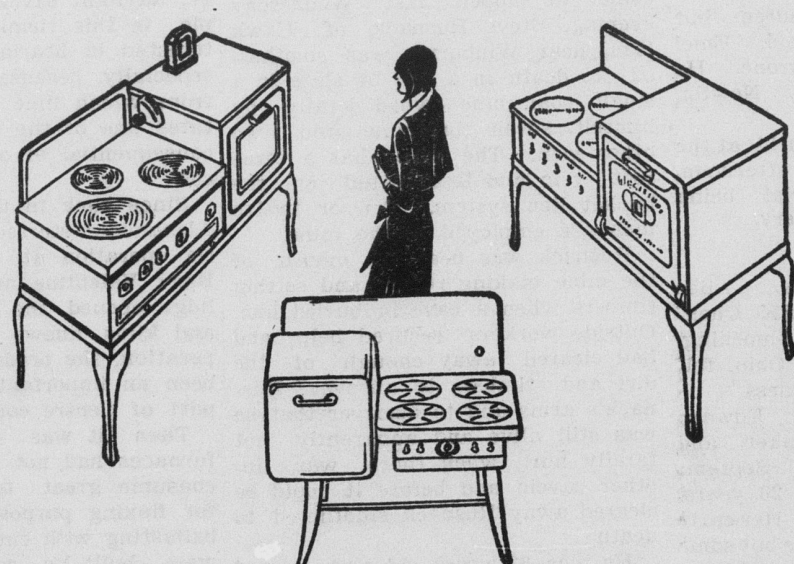
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