

# Where Andree Perished



Wellman's Map, Showing Frithjof Nansen Land, Where Andree's Body Was Found.

(Prepared by the National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C.)  
**FRITHJOF NANSEN LAND** (formerly Franz Josef Land) has, after a third of a century, given up the body of August Andree, believed to have been lost forever in the Arctic ice.

The Swedish explorer disappeared in his balloon in 1897, north of Spitzbergen close to the place at which Nobille's dirigible later disappeared. Explorers were at first hopeful that he had drifted eastward to Franz Josef Land. Walter Wellman, assisted by the National Geographic Society, led an expedition to Franz Josef Land the following year and thought it likely that he would find Andree at Cape Flora, on one of the southernmost of the islands which was known by Andree to be a headquarters and a frequent point of call for explorers. Andree was not at Cape Flora, however, and no trace of him or his balloon was ever found in Franz Josef Land until a few weeks ago.

Although the islands are desolate and ice-mantled and have never been inhabited, it is possible for men to exist there, even through the winter, as the history of Arctic exploration proves. The land was discovered accidentally in 1873 by an Austro-Hungarian expedition bent on finding the northeast passage. Their ship, caught in the ice, drifted to the southern extremity of the island group, and the crew wintered in her fast in the ice.

In 1881 a British party of 25, its ship crushed, wintered on shore, living partly on bear and walrus meat. Wellman and his companions spent the winter of 1898-99 on shore, and the Zeigler expedition wintered over in 1904-5.

### Group of Many Islands.

Its Austro-Hungarian discoverer named the land "Franz Josef Land" under the impression that it was a large land mass, perhaps even of continental size. Later exploration disclosed that it is a group of many islands. Thirty of these are ten miles or more in length and the remainder—scores of them—are small. Several of the islands are as much as 50 miles long. The group lies slightly farther north than Spitzbergen, and its center is as far east of King's bay as New York is east of Detroit. It is as far north of the Murman coast of Russia and the northern coast of Norway as Chicago is north of New Orleans. It is about the same distance from the North pole.

The land's name was recently changed to Frithjof Nansen Land by a vote of the Russian Association of Science. The island group's new name is appropriate because the islands were the scene of one of the most dramatic episodes in the life of the late Frithjof Nansen. The land which has been named for him literally saved his life and preserved him for the valuable humanitarian career that reached a climax when he, in cooperation with Herbert Hoover, saved the lives of millions of famine-stricken Russians.

Nansen took a small party on board the specially constructed vessel Fram and entered the ice floes off northern Siberia in 1893 with the hope of drifting with the ice across the North pole. They drifted for 35 months, locked in the ice, without sighting land and without a single contact with the world. Nansen and his crew were believed to be lost.

When Nansen found that the Fram was not drifting toward the pole, he determined to dash, with a single companion, over the ice to the top of the world. Johansen was picked to go with him. They took three sledges, 22 dogs and two kayaks (Eskimo canoes). They did not attain their objective, but they made a new "farthest north," 88 degrees and 12 minutes, just 228 miles south of the pole. From their northernmost point the two men turned south and began one of the longest marches ever made over Arctic ice. Finally they were reduced to two dogs.

After many days they reached Eva

island, one of the outlying islands of what is now Frithjof Nansen Land. Building a stone hut, they lived on the isolated island through the winter, subsisting chiefly on bear meat. Next spring they started south for the main islands of the group. Nansen's kayak was attacked by a huge walrus that drove its tusks through the fragile craft, but Nansen scrambled out on a cake of ice as the tiny boat filled with water, and they made their way to the southern islands.

There they met, to their great joy, Frederick Jackson, leader of an English expedition. Although Jackson had met Nansen years before, he failed, for the moment, to recognize in the bearded, black-skinned, sooty-haired wanderer the famous blond Norwegian explorer. Nansen and Johansen came home on the English party's whaler; the Fram arrived a few days later. Nansen, who had been given up for dead, received a tremendous welcome.

The sea between northern Spitzbergen and northern Frithjof Nansen Land is usually packed with an almost unbroken expanse of ice so that navigation northward is seldom possible. Even the narrower channels between the Frithjof Nansen islands are eternally frozen, but the larger channels become ice free in summer. Between southern Spitzbergen and the southern islands there is often open water in summer. Farther south, however, the ice is usually packed, and this floating barrier must be traversed by ships steaming from Russia and Norway to Frithjof Nansen Land.

Because of its far northern position, and the greater distance the Arctic arm of the Gulf stream must flow to reach it, Frithjof Nansen Land is marked by Arctic conditions to a greater extent than Spitzbergen. It has been called the world's "most characteristic polar land." Most of the islands are plateaus less than 1,000 feet high, covered with domes of ice. At some points the black basalt crags that form the edges of the plateaus protrude from the white ice and snow. Coastal lowlands are of small extent save on two or three of the westernmost islands.

### Vegetation and Animal Life.

The vegetation of the few snow-free spots is scant, consisting only of lichens, mosses, and several grasses. The animal life, too, is meager—for the most part, a few polar bears and fewer foxes on land; walrus and seals in the water. The bird life is the richest. Great flocks of little auks, doves, and other birds frequent the islands from March to September. There are no reindeer or hares.

One important item for castaways, is the existence of considerable quantities of driftwood along the shores of the inter-island channels. This is evidently wood cast out into the Arctic ocean by the great northward flowing rivers of Siberia such as the Obi and the Yenisei.

Not only has former Franz Josef Land become a memorial in its entirety. Because it is divided, and subdivided, into numerous islands, large and small, with numerous channels and capes and headlands, it has demanded innumerable names.

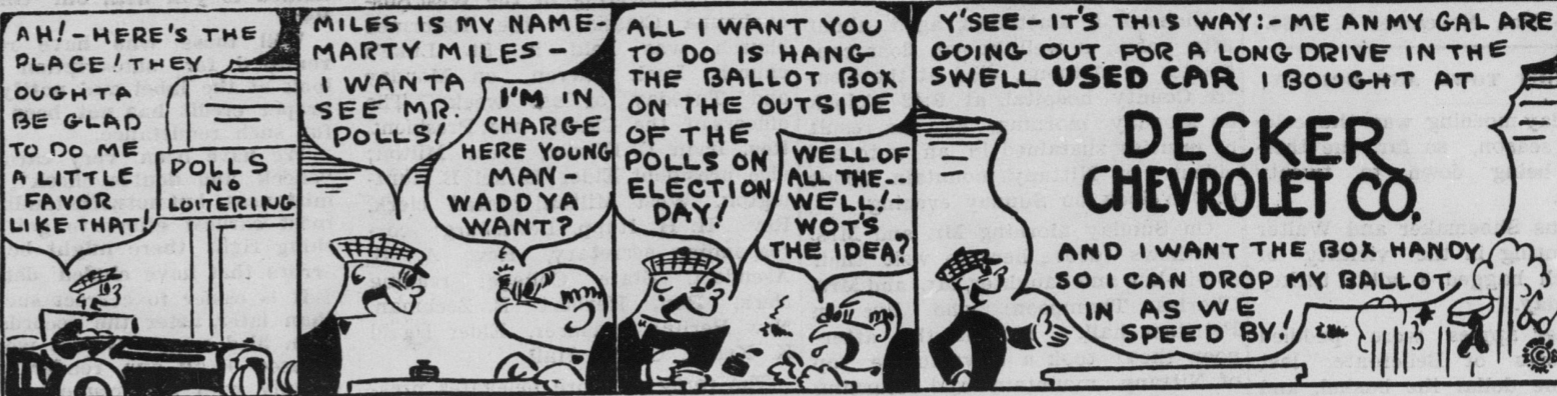
The history of exploration in the islands by men of various nationalities is in large part written on the map: British Channel, Alexandra Island, Harmsworth Straits, Cambridge Bay, Witczek Island, Wayprecht Sea, Crown Prince Rudolf Land, Pierpont Morgan Strait, Vanderbilt Sound, Graham Bell Island, Whitney Sea. Austrians, English, Americans, Norwegians and Italians have had a hand in seeking out the secrets of this icy island group.

One of the latest explorations in Frithjof Nansen Land before the expedition which found Andree's body this summer was in 1925 by a British party which carried into the region the first modern radio equipment. The party constantly checked its time by radio signals from the Eiffel tower, Paris, and listened to music and announcements from London and other stations.

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### Birmingham Man Learns How to Avoid Old Age

"I got fooled by a headline recently," said Banks Talmadge, "for in looking over a magazine I saw 'How to Avoid Old Age,' and while I am not yet worried over the matter, yet I registered attention. Among other ways to keep from getting old it advised: 'Never stop, look or listen at railroad crossings when driving a car; always race with locomotives to crossings, as it gives engineers a thrill; always pass the car ahead of you on a curve; or a hill; always drive as fast as you can on wet, slippery roads and be sure to lock your brakes when skidding, as you can often turn your car clean around; always drive fast out of alleys, for if you do it often enough you may have the good luck to run down a traffic policeman; always speed, and demand half of the road, the middle half, just show the other fellow you know your rights and are ready to die for them; always drive fast in traffic, if a new driver, as it is the easiest way to have an accident.'" — Birmingham News.

### World's Iodine Supply Gathered From the Sea

The commercial supply of iodine is almost entirely obtained from seaweeds. In some of the latter—particularly the giant kelp, known to science as *Macrocystis*, meaning "big bulb"—the concentration of iodine is extraordinary. That marine plant, enormous in size, anchored to the sea bottom by a stem hundreds of feet long, with a vast floating frond of leaves, contains over one-fourth of 1 per cent of iodine.

Those giant seaweeds are ideal carriers of iodine for human uses. Medicinal extracts made from them are already standardized, and have proved most valuable. But the kelps, vastly abundant, should yield valuable food products. They contain all the worth-while minerals that the ocean holds in solution, and may be regarded as marine vegetables neglected through ignorance.

### Holding Old Age at Bay

There is no other joy in life like mental and bodily activity, like keeping up a live interest in the world of thought and things. Old age is practically held at bay as long as one can keep the currents of his life moving. It seems as if one never could get to the end of all the delightful things there are to know, and to observe, and to speculate about in the world. Nature is always young, and there is no greater felicity than to share in her youth. I still find each day too short for all the thoughts I want to think, all the walks I want to take, all the books I want to read, and all the friends I want to see.—John Burroughs in "The Summit of the Years" (above 70).

### Significant Number

Forty is a number that has long been regarded as peculiarly significant. The idea may have originated with readers of the Bible, who noticed that Moses was 40 days on the mount, Elijah was fed 40 days by the ravens, the rain of the flood fell 40 days, another 40 days elapsed before Noah opened the window of the ark, 40 days was the period of embalming, Jonah gave Ninevah 40 days to repent, the Lord fasted 40 days, and He was seen 40 days after His resurrection. Old English law also featured many 40-day periods.

### Artistic Book Decoration

The term "forage painting" used in book binding is a corruption of the words "fore edge," used to describe the delicate painting or decoration applied to the extreme front edges of the book. When the book was closed, only blotches or masses of colors showed, but when the leaves of the book were partially spread delicate tracery, artistic designs and sometimes elaborate pictures were revealed. Samuel Mearne, book binder to King Charles II of England, is credited with originating this form of decoration.

### WHY Week Length Is Not Universal Throughout World

Where did man get his week and what decided its length? Like so many things, says the San Francisco Chronicle, it came from the Romans, but it did not originate in Rome. During the reign of Theodosius the seven-day week came into use, and Rome imagined that it was Egyptian, but in truth it came from the Jews, who believed that God made the world in six days and rested on the seventh.

Christianity was just beginning to creep across the world in those days, but masses of people were still pagan, and they accepted the seven-day week as a moon week. Each day was dedicated to one of the planets, Sun day, Moon day, Mars day, Mercury day, Jove day, Venus day and Saturn day. The Anglo-Saxon forefathers refused to call the days after foreign gods and renamed them after their own divinities, Tiw, Woden, Thor, Frigg and Seterne.

The word "week" comes from the German "wikon," meaning change or succession, and the length of this succession of days is usually decided by the moon or the market. In places where a market is held every third day the week is three days long; in districts where a market is held every eighth day there is an eight day week. Persia, Java, Celebes, Malaysia and New Guinea have five-day weeks. The Mayseas of South America have a three-day week. The Chibchas have a four-day week. African weeks vary from three to eight days.

### Why Dinner Jacket Is Known as Tuxedo Coat

"Tuxedo" is derived from an Algonquin Indian word for "wolf," and means literally, in the Algonquin tongue, "he had a round foot." The Algonquins gave the name to a branch of their tribe which lived in New Jersey. Some of this territory fell eventually into the possession of a group of wealthy New Yorkers and was developed as a residence district, which, in honor of the tribe, they named Tuxedo Park. Estates were established there and it became a center of fashion. The men adopted what is now known as the "tuxedo coat" as a dinner jacket, and the fashion spread to other communities, the name "tuxedo" being used because of its trade value.

### Why "Q" Is Superfluous

"Q," always pronounced "k," is never used in regularly formed English words except when it is followed by "u." It is therefore a superfluous letter. This usage is a holdover from the ancient alphabets. We borrowed the combination from the Latin along with the letters. In the earliest Greek alphabets there was a letter corresponding to "q" and before it was dispensed with entirely it survived in combinations of "q" and "u." The Romans borrowed it and in Latin "q" was always followed by "u." There was no "q" in Anglo-Saxon, the Normans being responsible for its introduction into English. Most of the words containing "qu" are of Latin or French origin.—Pathfinder.

### Why Fur Farms Are Growing

Fur farming is winning its way into the ranks of important businesses in this country. It is estimated that there are now more than 5,000 fur farms in the United States, with an aggregate investment of more than \$20,000,000. This tremendous total is exclusive of the large areas of muskrat marshes, operated privately or by states, as fur farms.

Federal officials are aiding in the establishment and development of these farms and making particular study of diseases of wild animals and proper diet and correlated questions.

### Why Coins Are Milled

The edges of coins are reeded or corrugated to prevent fraudulent removal of metal and also to protect them from wear. Nickels and 1-cent pieces do not wear so rapidly and the metal in them has little intrinsic value. Therefore, only gold and silver coins are made with reeded edges. All coins, however, are milled; namely, they are made with a raised border to protect the face itself from wear.—Pathfinder Magazine.

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