

Have You a "Double"?



Which is Lindy?

By ELMO SCLTT WATSON
TAKE a look at the top two pictures shown above and answer the question, "Which is Lindy?" Now check your answer with this: The famous aviator is shown in picture No. 1. The young man in picture No. 2 who so closely resembles the "Lone Eagle" is Diedrick Ramke, twenty-three years old, who was graduated from Louisiana State university last year. Not only is he "Lindy's" double in appearance but also in courage, for despite the fact that he is stone blind it could not hinder him from his determination to get an education and as a result he ranked third in a class of 221 and was elected valedictorian by his fellow-seniors.

Now take a look at the lower two pictures shown above and answer the question, "Which is Buffalo Bill?" Whether you answer "No. 3" or "No. 4," you will be wrong for neither is a picture of the famous scout, Indian fighter and Wild West showman. Despite the fact that both resemble Colonel Cody so strongly as to be able to pass for him among most people. No. 3 is Col. C. L. Alexander of Hastings, Neb., an old-time stage-coach driver and contemporary of Cody's. No. 4 is James Beitel, Civil war veteran who is spending his last days in the State Soldiers' and Sailors' home at Sandusky, Ohio. Several years ago Beitel attracted considerable attention by his claim that he was a friend of Cody's and that he often substituted for Buffalo Bill in the arena during Cody's Wild West show career.

Interesting as are the above cases there's nothing especially remarkable about them for scientists tell us that every one of us has a double—somewhere. The only reason why that fact is not more commonly known is that our path, or the path of our friends who are likely to notice the striking resemblance, doesn't always happen to cross the path of our double so we don't know of his existence.

To account for such doubles, Doctor van Bemmelen, a professor at the University of Groning, Holland, has advanced the theory that they are blood relations, though the family connection is often remote. In many instances of striking resemblance Doctor van Bemmelen established a common ancestry. He calculates that, going back eight generations, a man has 256 ancestors, and in 30 generations 1,000,000! Hence, there would not be enough forebears to "go around" unless many of us have the same ancestors in common.

But perhaps the most interesting case of a double in which Lindbergh is concerned is the striking resemblance between him and another transatlantic flyer, almost as famous as he. Only here it's a case of a man and woman being doubles, for this example of some one who "looks like Lindy" is Miss Amelia Earhart, sometimes referred to as "Lady Lindy."

Following Lindbergh's rise to fame and her own interest in aviation, Miss Earhart's friends often commented on her resemblance to the international hero of the air, and this may have acted as a stimulus to follow his flight.

If there is some connection between ambition to be like some one else and a physical resemblance between those two, then it may account for the unusual likeness that has been found to exist between Jack Dempsey, former heavyweight champion, and Max Schmelling, the Germany heavyweight. But how can this be applied to account for the resemblance between Senator Royal S. Copeland of New York and Senator Hiram Johnson of California. Did Mr. Copeland have an ambition to be like Mr. Johnson or vice-versa? Or does the fact that they are in the same calling, i. e. being a United States senator, have something to do with it?

Almost every famous man, it would seem, has a double, and some of them have more than one. Sir Charles E. Madden, former commander of the British fleet, is declared to be a "perfect double" for King George V of England, as is Sir Henry Whitehead, British textile manufacturer, who resembles the English monarch so closely that, arriving in New York some months ago, he had difficulty



Which is Buffalo Bill?

convincing shipnews reporters that he wasn't the king incognito.

A half block away from the roar of the Grand Central terminal in New York city, a man who is a "dead ringer" for Thomas A. Edison wears a porter's badge and pushes a baggage truck. A humble moujik was the double of the late Czar Nicholas of Russia, and a petty swindler of Count Leo Tolstoy, the great novelist. A delicatessen dealer, a dentist and even a chimney-sweep have been mistaken for former Kaiser Wilhelm of Germany.

Lincoln had a double in Colonel Elmer Loomis of Girard, Kan., whose presence on the streets used to send school children home declaring that they had seen Abraham Lincoln in the flesh.

He served in the Civil war and always appeared on the streets in a high silk hat and long coat, similar to that worn by the President. His friends had often commented upon his likeness to Lincoln.

"Out in Girard, where I lived for more than forty years," said Colonel Loomis once, "they called me 'Honest Abe!' They sent me for three terms to the Kansas legislature and I am proud of my resemblance to Lincoln. I try to live as Lincoln did."

An actor who took the part of Lincoln in a play of some years back was a double of the Great Emancipator. Impressed by his own impersonation, he began to delude himself with the idea that he actually was Lincoln. He grew a full beard, he assumed the Lincolnian mannerism of dress, gait, speech and personal habits and in time he seemed to believe that his appearance ought to have been greeted with the respect due so important a personage. So painstakingly did he imitate Lincoln that a cynical friend finally remarked: "That actor will never be satisfied until some one assassinates him!"

The uncertainty about the death of John Wilkes Booth, assassin of Lincoln, made many people believe he was still alive when one of his doubles appeared. Booth, after his flight from Washington, was trapped by soldiers in a barn at Bowling Green. The barn was set afire and several shots were fired into it. The charred body of a man, presumed to be Booth, was afterward found, but it was beyond identification.

One of the posers who fired into that barn was Lieut. William Allen, and he may have been Booth's executioner. Some years later Lieutenant Allen was passing the stage door of a London theater in a cab just as Edwin Booth, brother of the slain assassin, emerged. The actor caught sight of the face peering from the cab window.

"Wilkes!" he shouted. "Wilkes!" Lieutenant Allen was a double for John Wilkes Booth! But he passed on and never declared himself. For years Edwin Booth believed his brother to be still alive.

There were several known doubles of President Roosevelt, L. M. Garfield, a manufacturer of Xenia, Ohio, used to be mistaken for Teddy and camber often refused his fare, saying they were repaid by the honor of driving him about, while in Chicago, when T. R. was scheduled to be in the city, newspaper men besieged Garfield in the hotel, insisting he was the President.

In Florence, Italy, Pietro Cassini, a

woodcutter, used to put on spectacles of the kind worn by Colonel Roosevelt and delight American tourists with his imitation of Teddy's grin. He did not speak a word of English. The colonel's most conspicuous double was F. G. Huddleston, general manager of a mining company at Los Angeles, Calif. His travels in the western states caused many, even former Rough Riders, to think he was T. R. Incognito, as he had the same keen eyes, prominent nose, heavy jaws, wore his mustache in a similar manner and had many personal characteristics of the colonel.

Thomas Merton, a newspaper man of Canton and Pittsburgh, who reported McKinley's "front-porch" campaign in 1896, was often photographed as the candidate, and many of the daily and weekly magazines carried snapshots of McKinley which were really reproductions of Merton's face and figure taken with the tacit consent of McKinley, who once remarked that they were "just as lifelike and often better-looking than the real article."

Five hundred persons, all of whom knew Merton personally, saw him do his first posing of this sort. A famous publication which had always prided itself upon the accuracy of its pictures sent a corps of men to Canton in the early days of the campaign to get up a big pictorial issue. They arrived on Saturday afternoon, only to learn that the candidate was not feeling well. While bewailing this delay, the leader of the picture corps saw Merton passing and captured him by main force.

"I want you to get up on the porch and pose as Mr. McKinley," he shouted.

The newspaper men thought the fellow was crazy when he began to take off his Prince Albert coat. In a few minutes, Merton, dressed in the silk hat and coat, mounted the steps of the McKinley home and, while the future President was slumbering inside, he posed for pictures which afterward became famous. Mr. McKinley, when told of the incident the next day, laughed heartily and later declared that they were among the best he had ever had taken.

President Wilson enjoyed the luxury of several facial counterparts. A tremendous commotion was caused in New York city in the spring of 1916, when one of them, Deputy Fire Commissioner W. Holden Weeks of New York, dropped dead in the street. Grief-stricken crowds with bared heads blocked the thoroughfare. So pronounced was the resemblance to President Wilson that police had difficulty in convincing the people of their error.

Another Wilson double was a New York man named Fleming who, it is said, was refused a life insurance policy during the World war because his strong resemblance to the President made him a possible target for an assassin's bullet and therefore a poor "risk." The familiar features of Calvin Coolidge have a replica in those of Charles Hitz, a Philadelphia waiter whose resemblance to the former Chief Executive was so marked as to give him a chance to play the part of the President in a motion picture, and friends of George McKelvey, an attorney in Ohio, declare that he is the "very image" of the present head of the nation, Herbert Hoover.

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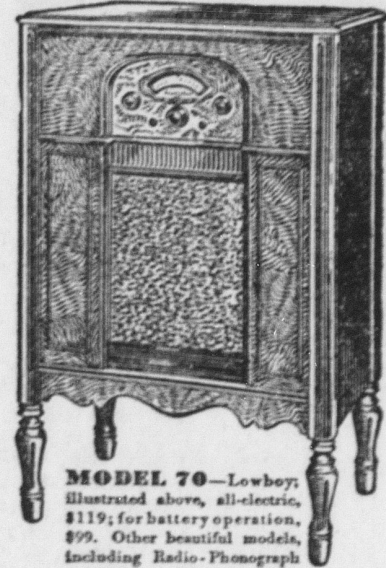
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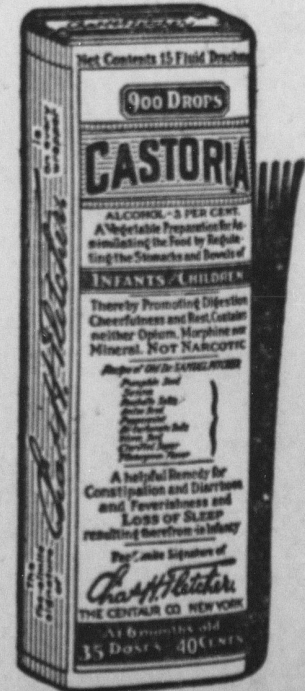
Oklahoma Snakes Live Up to Bad Reputation

Out in Oklahoma, says a writer in the Washington Star, the snakes have learned to climb poles, but they have not learned not to monkey with the current, for several have met their fate by establishing a short circuit with their bodies. Incidentally, this puts the station out of commission, to the great inconvenience of the patrons whose establishments are held up until the damage is located and repaired. A blacksnake crawled to the top of the Mehan tap station and, wrapping around the steelwork, stuck his head out until it came in contact with a lightning arrester, causing a short circuit and sudden death to the snake. At the same time Morrison, Glencoe, Stillwater, Perkins, Ripley, Mehan and the Mehan oil fields were cut off from electric service until the damage could be repaired. A six-foot bullsnake caused a fuse to blow out in the substation of the company near Choctaw, Okla. Interrupting service on the power line from Harrah to Jones. The bullsnake was found on the line, which was strung on the top of the 30-foot poles.

Refused to "Mothe." Chicks
 Franklin Heckling, twelve years old, discovered a crow's nest with five eggs in it at Ludlow, Maine. He took out three of the eggs and replaced them with hen eggs. When the crow returned, she threw out the two crow eggs and sat on the three hen eggs, and after they were hatched Mrs. Crow sat on a lily and refused to acknowledge the parentage of the chicks. The lad took the chicks out and placed them with another mother, who accepted the responsibility.

They Don't Live Long
 Bird Fancier—That bird won't fly. All he wants to do is sit down.
 Sweet Young Thing—Oh, it must be one of those stool pigeons!—Union Pacific Bulletin.

Great leisure furnishes the time for too much criticism.



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