

# A FLIGHT FOR LIFE

The Story of a Rescue Trip in the Mountains of Alaska.

## BRAVE MEN AND SPEEDY DOGS

An Act of Heroism That Saved a Woman and Her Sick Husband From Death When Stranded on a Winter Night Amid the Snow Clad Peaks.

The hardships to which people are exposed in the far north give frequent occasion for the display of heroism. In the pages of "Trailing and Camping in Alaska" Mr. Addison M. Powell tells of the rescue of a woman and her husband who were stranded on the mountains in an Alaskan winter.

A dog team galloped up and stopped in front of the only pretense of a hotel in Valdez. The night was dark, and the northern winter nights always are when the moon is not shining. The dogs immediately lay down, almost exhausted from their long trip, and the two men were soon surrounded by inquiring friends. One of the two said: "What do you think, fellows? We passed a woman just this side of Sawmill Camp. She was pulling a sled, on which was her sick husband. We remonstrated against her crossing the glacier, but she replied that they might as well die up there as anywhere else, as it meant certain death to stop. Our dogs could pull only our outfit, and there wasn't grub enough for all, so we were compelled to leave them. They will be at the last timber tonight, and if somebody doesn't go to their rescue they will be dead by this time tomorrow."

A man stepped out from the crowd and said: "I'll go for one. Now, who else has a good dog team to splice in with mine?" "I'm your man!" answered another. It was 3 o'clock in the morning before they had made their selection of dogs and were ready to start on that hazardous trip. "We'll be on the first bench by daylight and have them here before midnight," said one as he straightened out the team for the sixty mile run. "Yea, boys! Stand in there, Leader! Mush, mush on, mush!" And with a yelp the dogs galloped away as if aware of the urgency of their mission. "Haw, Leader!" we heard as they turned the corner, and then they were gone. "There goes the best dog team in Alaska and driven by two of the best men on earth!" exclaimed a man as he re-entered the house.

The trail was easily followed, and soon the nine miles of level bench were passed. The speed slackened only when they were ascending the ridge, which they crossed by 11 that morning, and there it was seen that the sharp peaks were curling fine snow high in the air. "They are beginning to smoke!" exclaimed one of the men. "Yes; we must get back before night or it's all off," replied the other.

Down, down, the steep descent they plunged, and by 1 o'clock they were off the glacier and skipping over level ground. In a short time they discovered the unfortunate couple whom they had started out to rescue, and when they came up to them it was a pitiable scene that presented itself. The poor woman had become completely exhausted and had thrown herself down beside her helpless husband. She had evidently abandoned all hope and was weeping bitterly when she suddenly heard the yell of a driver and the barking of dogs. In a moment she passed from despair to hope. As the team galloped in a circle and stopped beside her with the dogs' heads pointed back toward the glacier she clapped her hands with joy. The dogs lay down and with their lolling tongues lapped the snow, while the drivers ate some crackers and jokingly encouraged the sick man and the tired woman. They bade her seat herself comfortably while they fastened the two sleds together. Soon they were bounding away again at the dogs' first speed.

When they recrossed the summit the whole range was "smoking," and the wind was sending the fine snow along the crust. It whipped their faces with a warning of what was coming, but the driver said: "Twenty miles to town, and it can never catch us!"

In Valdez every one was anxiously watching the trail. Many exclaimed, "They can't possibly be here before midnight!" but they were. As they rushed up to the crowd with a yell and a chorus of barks from the noble dogs they were met by eager, helping hands. The dogs acted as if they had understood why they were being petted, and again the woman wept for joy.

## THE CONTINGENT FEE.

The following pointed note was written by Daniel Webster in answer to a request that he take a certain case for a contingent fee: "I do not desire employment in professional matters, although I do sometimes engage in them. But I never engage on contingencies merely, for that would make me a mere party to a lawsuit."

## RESOURCEFUL.

Gibbs—Your wife seems to be a resourceful woman. Dibbs—Resourceful! Why, the other day she put in a pane of glass with chewing gum.—Boston Transcript.

Real coolness and self possession are the indispensable accompaniments of a great mind.—Dickens.

# Minute "Movies" of the News Right Off the Reel

New York women use seven and one-half tons of face powder daily.

Cherry stone with a green sprout an inch long was extracted from the nose of a York (Pa.) boy.

During 1912 10,291 passengers were carried on regular passenger service dirigible balloons in Germany. Not one was killed or injured.

Young women members of the Women's Homestead association of Boston have voted to carry canes and whistles as protection against masher.

New St. Paul directory contains 2,400 Johnsons, 400 of whom have the initial A. The Olsons are second, and the Smiths have dropped to third place.

Slit trousers for men will soon be the fashion, predicts a Pittsburgh tailor. The slits will likely go to the knee, necessitating long stockings, preferably silk.

Girl stenographer in Chicago shipped as a waitress on Lake Michigan for the summer. Unaccustomed to rules of the sea, she disobeyed the head waitress, was locked up for mutiny and isn't out of trouble yet.

## CHESTNUT TREES FREE FROM BLIGHT IN ASIA.

Harvard Arboretum Points Way to Escape Scourge in This Country.

Salvation from the blight which is killing off American chestnut trees may come from Asia, according to the report of the Arnold arboretum of Harvard university. The arboretum authorities say they have found that the fatal disease which is now ravaging the American trees will not attack the species from Japan and China, and the obvious thing to do would be to import young chestnut trees from the orient to take the place of those that are dying here.

Several improved forms of the Japanese chestnut—which gives an especially large and desirable nut—have long been cultivated in the United States. But it does not grow well in New England and the east, the climate of the middle states seeming better to agree with it. China provides the most favorable tree for the eastern states.

"Unless the ravages of the disease can be checked," says the report, "it is to China that we must turn for a tree to replace the native chestnut in New England. Fortunately the common chestnut of northern and central China is a tree of good promise here. Raised in the arboretum from nuts found in Peking by Professor Sargent in 1903, the plants have grown without any check or injury and are now forming tall, straight stems and narrow heads. They flowered and produced a few fruits last year, and they are now coming into bloom again and look as if they would soon become productive."

## WOULD FLY BY MAN POWER.

French Inventors Hope to Discard Motors in Airships.

French aviators and inventors continue to devote much time and thought to the construction of a machine which will permit man to fly entirely by his own exertion. No motor or other outside power enters into the making of these small machines, called "aviettes," the fundamental idea being to propel them by human force alone.

The results so far have not been strikingly successful, but high hopes

are entertained of several new "aviettes" now under course of construction. The formula followed by these inventors was obtained by M. Magnan, director of a French technical school, who after years of study declares he has succeeded in translating the principles of bird flight into mechanics.

By applying his formula to the measurements of a bird M. Magnan obtained the following dimensions for an "aviette" of the monoplane variety, whose maximum weight, including the pilot, should not be more than 440 pounds; wing surface, 32.67 square feet; weight of wings, 34.45 pounds; spread of wings, 16 feet; width of wings, 3.63 feet; length of tail, 4.28 feet; length over all, 10 feet.

## STAGE ILLUSIONS.

Not the Least of These Are the Baskets on the Boards.

Nothing is so deceptive as the stage meal, although the art of the property man makes such repasts appear deliciously appetizing.

A favorite stage substitute for meat is sponge cake, which cut into the shape of cutlets or steaks and judiciously browned with sauce, presents a most genuine appearance. The advantage of such material is that it is easy for the actors to consume and does not present any difficulties to the carver.

Cutlets composed of soft toast are also popular in stage culinary circles, and when decorated with dainty paper frills and parsley look quite the real thing.

Do not let your mouth water at the sight of those dainty slices of ham reposing on lettuce leaves on the baron's festive board. Ham is invariably represented on the stage by strips of linoleum, the reddish under side of which makes a convincing substitute for the real article. As to the surrounding lettuce, that is generally represented by white leaves from the humble cabbage.

The larger and more impressive the stage edible, the greater the fake. Huge pies which when cut produce a cloud of realistic steam are absolutely unobtainable. The crust is merely colored paper mache, which incloses a dish of hot water and sometimes a few boiled potatoes, which supply the necessary steam. The big sirloin of beef, which apparently weighs pounds, has about six ounces of entable meat about it. The joint is a wooden affair, over which a few thin slices of genuine beef are placed, giving the impression of a really fine piece of meat.

Were you to obtain a peep behind the scenes just before a banquet scene was to be staged you would find a number of stage hands busily slicing up tomatoes and bananas. You would see those slices being laid out on plates surrounded with parsley or white cabbage leaves. Under the glare of the limelight this dish assumes an astonishing resemblance to lobster salad, and in similar fashion sliced banana is a general substitute for fish, entrees and hors d'oeuvre.

One of the most astonishing illusions with regard to stage food, however, is where soup is concerned. This is invariably sawdust, which when ladled out of a tureen has all the appearance of a thick liquid.

No banquet would be complete without a turkey. A loaf of bread delicately browned and decorated with pegs covered with browned dough, saves the management the expense of running up a poultry bill. Moreover, the comedians can with comparative safety sling this asset to the feast about the stage without damage to life or property.—Philadelphia Ledger.

## THE GOVERNMENT PRINTER.

When it comes to printing your Uncle Samuel takes first rank among the nations. He has a \$15,000,000 printing office that is the best equipped in the world. Although certain private publishing houses in this country exceed the 1,000,000 copies of printed matter sent out weekly from the United States government printing office, no

plant approaches the multitude of different publications that it prints and mails. Over a thousand publications are issued from the presses in the course of a year, appearing daily, weekly, monthly, annually or at irregular intervals. For the purpose of mailing them more than a thousand different mailing lists must be kept in the file room.—New York Sun.

## Who Would 'a' Benn 'Er!

Some hundred years ago a small boy, one of four brothers, heard a visitor say to his mother, "What a pity one of your boys had not been a girl." Dropping his game, so the story runs in Woman's Work in America, he called out: "Well, I'd like to know who'd 'a' benn 'er! I wouldn't 'a' benn 'er; Ed wouldn't 'a' benn 'er; Joe wouldn't 'a' benn 'er; Jim wouldn't 'a' benn 'er, and I'd like to know who would 'a' benn 'er."

## Campaign Material.

Political Boss—Well, did you discover anything in Stump's past life that we can use against him? Detective—Not a thing. All he ever did before he came here was to sell awnings. Political Boss—Why, that's just what we want! We'll say that he has been mixed up in some decidedly shady transactions.—Judge.

## Hasty Conclusion.

Beautiful Maiden—You think I'm an angel, Geoffrey, but some day perhaps you will find out that I am an exceedingly trivial, ill-natured, commonplace mortal. Disconsolate Lover (with trembling eagerness)—Then you do intend to marry me, do you, Lillian?—Chicago Tribune.

## Expensive.

"She says she thinks she could learn to love me." "Yet you do not look happy." "It is going to be expensive. Had her at the theater last night, with a little supper afterward. The first lesson cost me \$25."—Kansas City Journal.

## Turned Down.

Young Man (whispering to Jeweler)—That engagement ring I bought of you yesterday—Jeweler—What's the matter with it? Didn't it fit? Young Man (cautiously)—Sh! It didn't have a chance. Gimme studs for it.—London Telegraph.

## Bamboos as Water Pitchers.

In the Hawaiian Islands the natives carry their supply of water about with them in long bamboo tubes, the joints of which have been knocked out. Girls may be seen making their way to nearby springs with the family "water jug." They patiently fill the long hollow in the bamboo with water, blocking up the end with a wooden plug. This is then carried to the hut and lasts the family for several days, keeping cool and sweet in this novel receptacle. The larger bamboo trunks are used in the same way as receptacles for storing various household commodities.—World Wide Magazine.

## RESCUE CAGE FOR MINES.

Designed For Use When Regular Equipment Has Been Damaged.

A hoisting cage, designed for use primarily in mine rescue work, has been invented by George S. Rice, chief mining engineer of the United States bureau of mines. The cage is the result of difficulties encountered by the bureau's rescuers in mine disasters where the regular hoisting equipment has been so damaged or disarranged that it could not be used.

The new cage, which Mr. Rice has developed, is collapsible, and it is the opinion of officials of the bureau of mines that it will greatly facilitate mine rescue work. One cage already has been installed on one of the bureau's rescue cars, and it was used to great advantage at the recent Banner (Ala.) mine disaster. Other cars are to be similarly outfitted.

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Nov. 12, 1912.

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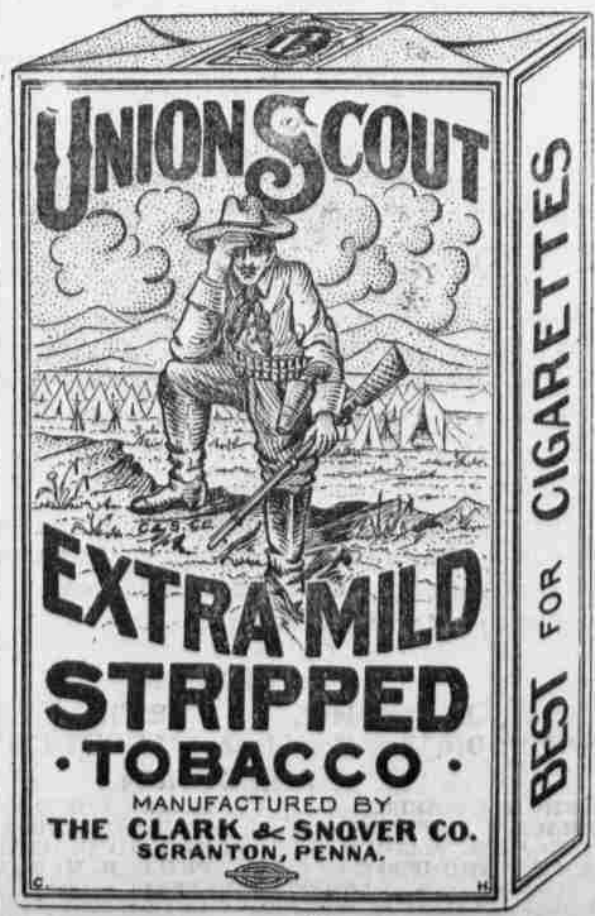
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