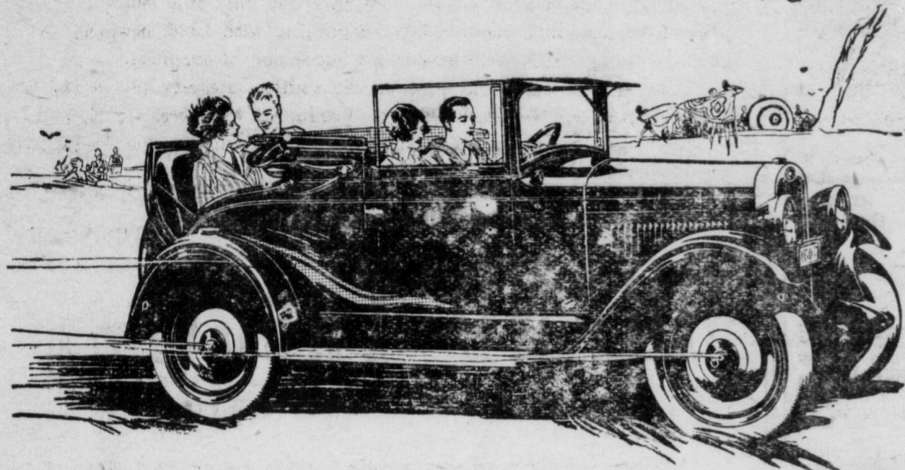




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THOUSANDS SEEK AID OF NEW MIRACLE MAN

Sleepy Mexican Hamlet Suddenly Becomes Famous.

Monterey, Mexico.—From a sleepy, obscure hamlet of less than 200 people, Espinazo, far removed from a railroad, on the border line of the states of Nuevo Leon and Coahuila,

has suddenly sprung into national fame. More than 10,000 people are living in tents and camping in the open around the town, all drawn there by the mysterious performances of Nino Fidenio, who is looked upon as a miraculous healer of all ailments of body and mind.

The excitement over his so-called divine power in the treatment of diseases has not only spread to all parts of northeastern Mexico but it has penetrated the Rio Grande border district of Texas. Pilgrims by the thousands arrive daily in all sorts of con-

veyances and on foot at this strange Mecca where they clamor to gain an audience with the lowly peon Fidenio, who, that he may relieve them of their physical or mental burdens and sufferings.

Rich and poor seek his aid. It is not unusual for whole families to wend their way to Espinazo in slow-moving ox carts, and swiftly passing them along the rough, worn road are men, women, and children in limousines and other high-priced automobiles, some of them coming from Monterey and other of the larger and more distant cities of the country. So large has the crowd become and with hundreds augmenting it daily that President Plutarco Elias Calles has been appealed to take cognizance of the situation with a view of remedying perilous health conditions that the thousands of afflicted people who have gathered in Espinazo have brought about.



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A ROLL OF HONOR BANK

Gov. Aaron Suenz of Nuevo Leon and Gen. J. A. Almanzan, commander of the military zone of that part of Mexico, have gone to the town and conferred with Fidenio with regard to the situation. It is declared that an epidemic of contagious diseases of various kinds is threatened among the pilgrims. Several hundred lepers are reported to be among the afflicted persons who have sought relief at the hands of Fidenio. Many smallpox cases have been carried into his presence. The death roll among the faithful believers of the healer's power has been so great that a cemetery was laid out in the town recently, and it is already filled with the dead.

Branded as Charlatan.
Comparatively little seems to be known about Nino Fidenio. He is thirty years old and first made his appearance in the little ranch village about three months ago. Among the employees of the ranch were several who were afflicted with paralysis, blindness, and other chronic disorders. Fidenio called these sufferers together and informed them that he would cure them of their ailments. At this scene he went through the performance of boiling various kinds of wild herbs in a great cauldron and then, while he chanted in a mysterious way, he threw a pailful of the brew upon the patients, telling them that they were healed. Strange to say, they were apparently cured of their diseases. The news of his apparently miraculous power spread quickly and he became the center of interest of the people for miles around.

The public health department of Mexico has pronounced him a charlatan, but the government authorities hesitate to prohibit him from carrying on his healing practices for fear that to do so would cause an uprising on the part of the thousands who believe in him. To keep order in the town a large force of federal troops is now located there.

GIBRALTAR STRAIT BALKS SWIMMERS

Channel Conquerors Find Going Too Rough.

Washington.—The channel swimming fad has struck a snag—at Gibraltar.

The English channel and the Catalina channel, off California, have been traversed, and Manhattan Island has been circumnavigated. Yet the Strait of Gibraltar, less than a dozen miles across, has defied swimmers.

Gibraltar, contrary to popular belief, is not Europe's nearest point to Africa, the National Geographic society points out. It is eight miles north of the nearest crossing. The fortified rock and town occupy a peninsula about six miles across the Bay of Algebras from the neck of land on whose tip nestles the sleepy town of Tarifa.

Tunnel Is Proposed.

Frequent ferries ply between Gibraltar and Tangier, diagonally across the strait. They will continue to link the continents until a tunnel is bored under the strait. One has been proposed and the estimated cost of such a project is some \$80,000,000. Such a tunnel would afford Spanish railroad connections with the new line from Fez to Tangier. One then might, in sleeping cars, reverse the crossing that Hannibal made with elephants.

Travelers who complain of the English channel crossing would have even rougher going on the French steamers between southern France and Tangier. An entering surface current from the Atlantic churns against a strong undercurrent flowing out from the Mediterranean, to the discomfort of passengers and defeat, so far, of swimmers.

From Gibraltar, on clear days, one can see Sierra Bullones, the "Gibraltar" of the African side. These promontories were the pillars of Hercules of the ancients.

A ferry passenger at Gibraltar soon gets a clear view of the 400-foot rock which for two centuries, has been England's Mediterranean sentinel. Across the gulf the tiny white houses of Algebras dot the shore. Then, as the boat swings out into the strait, ruined Moorish castles and the houses of Tarifa, flanked by vast orange groves, appear. To the south rise African peaks where Barbary pirates signaled for attacks upon ships as they sought to enter or emerge from the Mediterranean.

World's Ships Pass Here.

The ferry is a good place to get a panorama of the flags of the world; for there is a procession of ships constantly passing this "neck of the bottle" which focuses the shipping of the Western world, of the inland sea's own busy ports and the numerous trans-Mediterranean cargoes which pass both the strait and the Suez canal.

Tangier, southern landing place for the ferry, reveals a new world after a brief trip. Lofty minarets flank huge domed mosques, silently proclaiming that the city still is Moslem, while its narrow streets, often sheltered so that the blazing sun finds only a slit, are crowded with turbaned Moors whose long, white burnouses drape their stalwart bodies from head to heel.

Semaphore With "Ears"

Success for Autoists

Baltimore, Md.—A traffic semaphore with "ears" has been pronounced a success by Inspector George E. Lurz, head of the city's traffic police, after a test in actual traffic recently.

Installed at the corner of Falls road and Belvedere avenue, the signal in normal position shows a green light to traffic on Fall road, a through highway. A motorist wishing to cross the main highway stops at a line in the road ten feet from the intersection and sounds his horn. Microphones tuned to pick up the sound from this spot reverse the signal for 18 seconds to allow him to pass.

The purpose is to avoid the delays caused by automatic lights at times when there is no traffic on a cross street. The new signal was invented by Charles Adler, Jr., a Baltimore electrical engineer.

Bans Heroic Records

on Soldiers' Graves

Washington.—Headstones marking the graves of members of the American expeditionary force who died in France, Secretary Davis of the War department has ruled, shall be marked in such a manner as to accord equal honor to all. Suggestions for including such inscriptions as "killed in action" or "died of wounds" have been rejected by the secretary and all headstones will bear only the name, rank organization and date of death.

"The thought must not be overlooked," the secretary said in his ruling, "that all of our men went overseas with the same cause in their hearts, will give their lives. Whether they died in the front lines or from disease, caused by exposure, they made the sacrifice for the preservation of one and the same ideal and should be accorded equal honor."

CLING TO CUSTOMS OF CENTURIES AGO

Tyrolese Recall Memories of Hannibal's Campaigns.

Hazleton, Pa.—The congregation of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, which holds the distinction of being the first Tyrolese organization of its kind to be formed in America and which, with intense national pride, styles itself Tyrolese even though the Trentino now is part of Italy, has just dedicated a handsome chapel at its parish cemetery. Made of marble and perched on the slope that commands the burial grounds, the building makes an impressive appearance when viewed from the Hazleton-Allentown-Philadelphia State highway.

The celebration of All Souls' day at the cemetery also is a possibility now that this consecrated structure has been put into use and this arrangement is considered quite desirable. The building also will be used for services at times that this stormy section of the state makes outdoor conditions intolerable and grave digging sometimes out of the question. Services can be held at the chapel and the burial can be effected later.

Rev. Lewis Luehl is the pastor of the congregation of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and has a devoted flock. To the student of history, when he meets and knows the Tyrolese, comes a light on the accounts of Hannibal's campaigns, with their story of aid given the Carthaginian in his campaigns against Rome. The auxiliaries came from the hills, where the inveterate enemies of the republic lived.

Among the Tyrolese are found names like Annabale, which is Hannibal with the "H" missing. Annalcare also is to be found, and the name of the favorite general of Hannibal, Hamilcar, is recalled. Alacare is encountered, and Alaric's name thus is found preserved in a people's traditions, after the expiration of many centuries. Naturally, the Tyrolese who kept their national entry in those days of the Roman empire wish to keep it still and they are not disposed to accept the designation of Italian citizens, if unnaturalized, but still call themselves Tyrolese.

Day Steals From Night, but It's Slow Pilfering

London.—Old Grandmother Earth is getting just a little teeny-weeny bit more sunshine in her life as Old Father Time clicks off the revolving centuries. It isn't a great deal, in the sunshine and daylight measurements as reckoned by puny man, but in her time it may amount to quite a lot.

Sir Frank Dyson, astronomer-royal at Greenwich observatory, has calculated that the days are lengthening at the rate of something like one second in every thousand centuries.

In a lecture on "The Observation of the Solar Eclipse," Sir Frank explained how the eclipse in Nivech in 753 B. C., enabled astronomers to discover that the speed of the rotation of the earth was gradually being reduced.

Halley's calculations of the eclipse in Nivech showed that that city should have been some hundreds of miles outside the zone of observation. To make his calculation fit the facts, he suggested that the month was getting longer, and subsequent work had shown that the movement of the tides was lengthening the day by a thousandth part of a second each century.

Find Ancient Tracks Across Grand Canyon

Washington.—New finds of fossil footprints in the rocks of the Grand Canyon of Arizona, but this time on the north rim, 14 miles from the site of previous discoveries on the south rim, are reported by Dr. Charles W. Gilmore of the United States National museum and Glenn F. Sturdevant, government naturalist of Grand Canyon National park.

Stabs bearing the foot imprints of small reptiles or salamanderlike amphibians were found at two levels, one in the Coconino and one in the Supai formation. These correspond with two of the three formations on the other side of the canyon in which tracks have been found during the last few years, but further exploration and examination of specimens will have to be carried on before it can be determined whether the levels match up exactly and whether the tracks represent the same kinds of feet.

The fossil footprints from the south side of the canyon thus far discovered represent 36 species, distributed among 23 genera.

Wife Shaves Man as Husband Talks Politics

Paris.—Francois Albert, who was senator from the Vienne department and minister of education in a recent cabinet, is preparing his candidacy for the April general elections. His opponent is a Socialist and a barber. M. Albert called on him the other day while the barber was shaving a customer.

"Glad to see you, Monsieur Albert," said he, "of course we have lots of things to talk about."

Then he called to his wife who was in the kitchen:

"Marie, come out here and finish this customer."

Marie dropped her preparations for the evening meal, grabbed the brush and the razor and shaved the customer while her husband and the other candidate talked politics.

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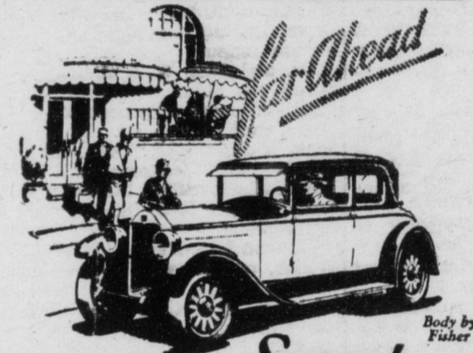
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