

FRANK LLOYD'S "WELLS FARGO"

By STUART N. LAKE

CHAPTER I

The jerk that stopped the little train all but hurled young Ramsay McKay through the open door of the baggage car. Before he had recovered balance he was yelling his urge for speed across the heads of the crowd.

"Hi, Bart! Hurry up with that ice." And, by the time Bart had the pair of horses and spring wagon alongside the car, Ramsay had rolled a dozen kegs to the doorway, ready for transfer.

"What in tarnation would Ramsay McKay be wantin' with a wagonload of ice?" one bystander asked another. "And, what's his danged hurry?"

"Dunno about the ice," the other answered, "but he's workin' for Henry Wells and Will Fargo and hurry's what them fellows aim to do."

There were plenty of onlookers—men, women and children—to share curiosity over Ramsay McKay's activity that morning. For, in the Fall of 1843, arrival of the daily train in the hustling village of Batavia was still the sight of the century, and high moment in the lives of upstate New Yorkers who gathered to marvel at the snorting wood-burner locomotive with its towering stack and array of mysterious levers in the open cab. The newfangled contraption, it was said, could speed at forty miles an hour when unencumbered with a load, and had been known to make twelve miles an hour when hauling the baggage car and two passenger coaches.

Some day the railroad would build through to Buffalo but as long as Batavia was its Western terminal, local citizenry regarded it as a personal possession and tramped by scores to view its performance. Furthermore, at least one day each week brought young Ramsay McKay with letters and packages for the villagers and the larger consignments which he transferred to wagons and hauled by team to the city of Buffalo.

As the two expressmen labored over the kegs, Ramsay continued to urge greater speed.

"Got to make Buffalo by one o'clock," he reminded his helper.

"That'll be movin'," Bart commented. "When did you leave New York?"

"Tuesday," Ramsay replied. "Boat to Albany, trains to Schenectady, Utica, Syracuse and Auburn; wagon to Geneva."

where I caught this hojack, and here I am."

"Je—hos—phat! Four hundred and fifty miles in four days!"

"I've set a record, I guess," Ramsay admitted with a degree of pride.

Meanwhile attention of the onlookers had been attracted by activities of two of their better known fellow citizens.

"What's the postmaster and the marshall arguin' about?" one asked the station agent.

"Postmaster wants Ramsay arrested," that worthy replied. "Claims he's usurpin' gov'ment rights and competin' with the United States mail."

"That don't make sense. 'Twasn't until Henry Wells began to bring letters through here we ever got any the same year they were written, and he only charges six cents where the gov'ment charges twenty-five. Yup, there goes the marshall, but I'll bet it's what's in them kegs that's the trouble. What is in 'em, anyway?"

"Don't know," the agent answered.

Ramsay McKay now left to Bart the further stowing of the Buffalo consignments and jumped to the ground with his letters and packages for Batavia delivery. Most of the consignees Ramsay knew by sight and could call by name, and as his better than six feet of handsome young manhood rose well above the crowd he lost little time in making his deliveries and collecting the fees for service. From the running fire of greetings and comments it was evident that Ramsay was a prime favorite in Batavia.

"That's all today, folks," he concluded. "Anyone got anything for Buffalo?"

Ramsay was in the driver's seat of his wagon when the postmaster and marshall stepped up beside the wheel.

"Come down from there, Ramsay McKay," the postmaster ordered. "you're under arrest."

"What for," Ramsay demanded. "And by whose authority?"

"My authority," the postmaster answered testily. "I'm supposed to be postmaster of this town. But, here you come in

with a couple of dozen letters and collect for 'em, while I only get three. You're competin' with the gov'ment mail service; that's what for!"

The postmaster turned on the hesitant marshall.

"You goin' to do your duty?" he insisted.

"Better come down, Ramsay," the reluctant peace officer suggested, and put a foot on the wheel-hub.

"No passengers," Ramsay warned him. "And they're waitin' for these kegs in Buffalo."

As the marshall reached for the hand-rail Ramsay chirruped to his horses and cracked the whiplash above their ears. The wagon was off down the road and the marshall tumbled into the dust.

Twenty miles out of Batavia, Ramsay checked his watch against a landmark to discover that his unusually heavy load had slowed him below schedule time. His team was in good shape; the last five miles into Buffalo was level goin, so he'd let them run for it.

Just two men in the world, he thought, knew how important it was that he reach Buffalo before one o'clock. The two were himself and Henry Wells, and Henry Wells was in Buffalo waiting.

In the light of subsequent events, however, it is doubtful that even Henry Wells could have suspected the extent to which a broken wheel, just around a bend in the road, was to shift the course of destiny.

Ruff Gets Public Post For Anniversary

Rev. G. Elson Rug, pastor of the Lutheran Church at Schuylkill Haven and former pastor of St. Paul's Church, Shavertown, has been appointed chairman of publicity for the nation-wide anniversary appeal of the church. A former newspaperman, Rev. Mr. Rug has been drafted frequently to take charge of various publicity programs.

Sordoni Buys Cow From Col. Reynolds

A purebred Guernsey cow, Goodleigh Larabel Hulda 368705, was sold recently by Col. Dorrance Reynolds of Goodleigh Farm to Senator A. J. Sordoni for his farm at Alderson. Goodleigh also sold recently another purebred Guernsey, Goodleigh Commander Huldin 253668, to D. P. Everline of Wellersburg. Colonel Reynolds' herd is one of the finest in the state and has high ranking in the American Guernsey Cattle Club.

As Ramsay's team took a turn on the dead run, headon in front of him was a disabled carriage down on a rear axle. Beside the wreck stood a coachman. In the carriage two women stood up and screamed in horrified helplessness before Ramsay's onrushing horses.

(To be Continued)

HAVE LONG RECORD

Several bull associations in Pennsylvania have been in continuous operation for 10 to 15 years. The cooperative use of sires in bull associations has been proved practical and sound, according to Penn State dairymen. Similar results may be expected by other dairymen planning to improve their herds in this way.

RADIOS

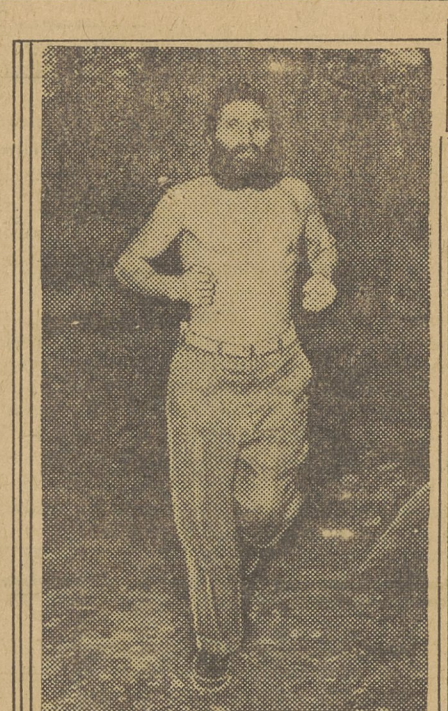
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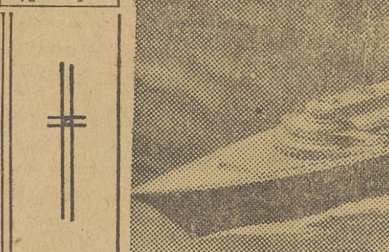
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PHOTO-FLASHES of the Week

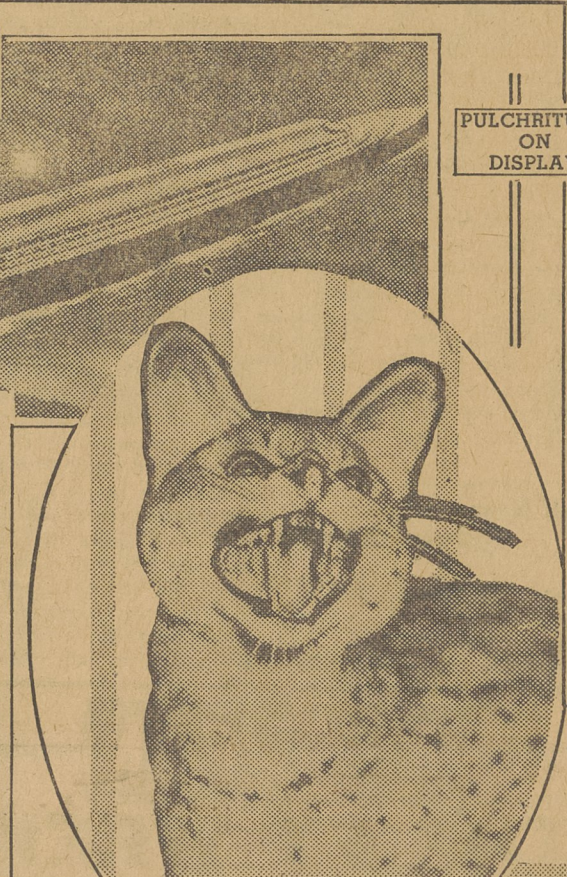


71 Years Old: Goes for 5-mile Walk—Goliath Messich, 71 years old and a native of Persia, as he started on a 5-mile walk in Bronx Park, N. Y.

Future Streamlined Liner—A design for a funnel-less liner which would be 1,350 feet long and whose speed would enable an ocean crossing in 3 1/2 days.



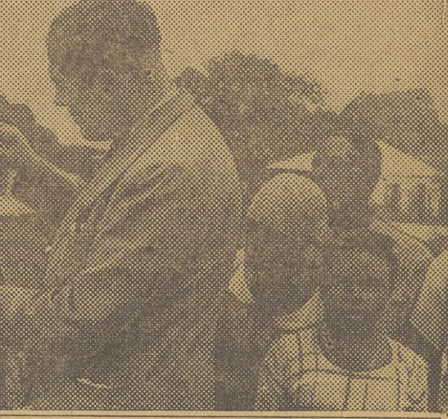
Rules On Strikes—Trenton, N. J.—Vice-Chancellor Maia Leon Berry, who recently ruled that a strike is terminated when the places of the strikers are filled and the employer's business is being conducted normally.



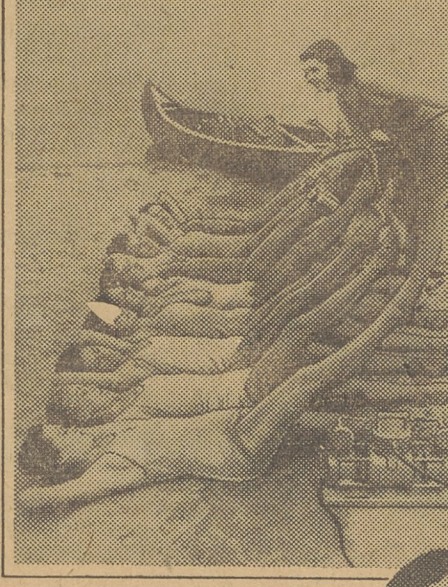
Zoo Greeting—This African Wild Cat shows strong disapproval as the photographer snaps his picture.



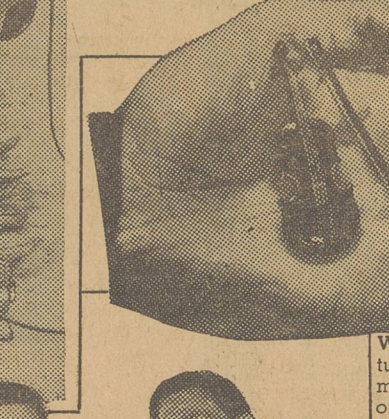
(Left) Miss Los Angeles, 1937 Model—Miss Claire James of Los Angeles, who represented that city in the annual Mardi Gras at Venice, Calif., where she competed for the title of "Miss California." (Right) Miss Mitzi Jehlein, in a striking pose as a modern Diana, displays the latest in beach wear for 1938.



Murder in the Tropics—That's what Quentin Reynolds, above, associate editor of Collier's reports is going on in Haiti where he went as the first American reporter to investigate rumors of wholesale slaughter. He charges that 10,000 Haitians have been killed by soldiers of the neighboring Dominican Republic. He is shown examining evidence of attacks.



Getting a Winter Sun Tan—Glendale, Calif.—These bathing beauties basking on the beach speed up the work of Old Sol with the aid of a spray sun-tan solution.



World's Smallest Violin—And it actually plays! This remarkable violin, made by a celebrated manufacturer of Vienna is only two and a half inches in length. It has a perfect tone and is identical in every way to a normal sized violin. Its truthness of sound is considered remarkable.



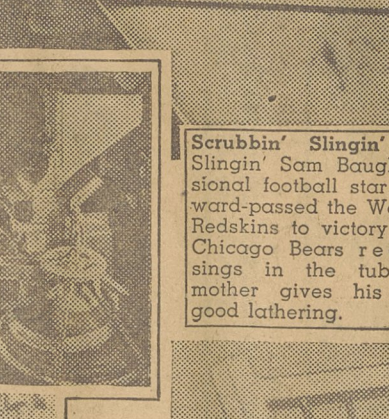
Scrubbin' Slingin' Sam—Slingin' Sam Baugh, professional football star who forward-passed the Washington Redskins to victory over the Chicago Bears recently, sings in the tub as his mother gives his back a good lathering.



Milkman Now Cream of Pro Pitchers—Jim Turner, 31-year-old "rookie" recently named as the National League's most effective hurler for 1937.



Honors Industry—Mrs. Anna Steese Richardson, associate editor and director of the Consumer Division of the Woman's Home Companion, who states that American business, all the way from farm to factory to retail store, has made the United States the best country on earth in which to live. She gives American industrial research, which protects the consumer and develops new and improved products, a large share of the credit for our fortunate position as compared with other nations.



A few rows of lacy crochet worked on to the edge of this neck-kerchief and you have a new and delightful accessory. The crochet is done in tatting cotton and will give many a dress new character.



Simone Simon relaxes in a two-piece play suit of linen striped in navy and white.



Discovers Ancient Tear-Jar—A tear-jar used by the Phoenicians in 1000 B.C. to express sorrow on the death of a close friend or relative was found in the catacombs of the ancient city of Rabat on the Island of Mahra by Albert Muscat of Detroit, Mich.

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MISC.—New Metal Lathe, Wood Elevator Doors, Window Grilles, Marble, Tile Coping, Metal Parking Signs, Plywood, Steel Steps, Tanks, Lockers, Metal Toilet Paper and Paper Towel Containers, 50 Army Cots, Slate Steps.

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