

HISTORY OF AIR PIONEERS LIKE FICTION STORY

Adventures, Hazards Rival Those of Early Rail Builders.

By Scripps-Howard Newspaper Alliance
WASHINGTON, March 6.—Adventures and hardships encountered by railroad builders of the past century have nothing on the airway builders of today.

Men of the airways division of the department of commerce, who build and tend light and radio beacons for the airways through the Rocky mountains, can furnish tales as thrilling as any novel.

For instance, the story of Donner Summit radio beacon, near the California-Nevada line.

Material for this beacon had to be hauled through blizzards by dog team, with the wind blowing sometimes seventy miles an hour, and the snow drifting over the path.

Lighted by Beacons

Donner Summit is 7,135 feet above the sea level, and is two and a half miles up the mountain side from the nearest highway.

It is solid rock and holes had to be blasted in the rock for the radio masts.

Sometimes on Donner Pass the wind blows seventy miles an hour, the snow has been known to drift fifty-eight feet deep and stays on the ground seven months out of the year.

Peaks around Donner Summit rise to 10,000 feet and airplanes flying the Reno-San Francisco route must go over the top in bad weather. But today they are guided by three radio range beacons, as well as numerous beacon lights.

Infested With Snakes

Almost as difficult as Donner Summit were the radio stations at Pleasant Valley, Nev., and Strevell, Ida. The radio station and emergency landing field at Pleasant Valley is sixty miles from the nearest settlement, and all material for the beacons and buildings had to be hauled over snow-covered mountain trails by truck.

Furthermore, the place is infested with rattlesnakes, and even after the stations were completed the keepers often found snakes in their houses.

Plans Polar Flight

By NEA Service
LENINGRAD, March 6.—Dr. Hugo Eckener, famous Zeppelin pilot, will command a trial flight from this city to North Land on the edge of the Arctic circle some time in July, it has been announced. It is understood that a crew of fifty and a party of fifteen will be on board the dirigible 127 C when it makes the trip. Scientists and aviation experts will study conditions in the Arctic.

Mail Planes Fast

By NEA Service
WASHINGTON, March 6.—The average speed of the United States air mail planes last year was 122 miles an hour compared with 33 miles by train. Mail is now sent by plane at four times the speed of trains at just a little more cost.

DEADLINE TIME FOR VAMPIRES IS NEAR

Saturday Noon Is Closing Hour in Times-Circle 'Dracula' Contest.

way a good many of the submitted drawings show creatures that no one connected with the editorial staff of The Times ever saw or heard about before.

This contest was inspired by the picture "Dracula," which opens a special engagement at the Circle theater today. It is the strange story of a "vampire" with a lot of love affairs on his hands.

If you haven't sent in your drawing yet, hurry. Do it right now. At this late hour you'd better bring it in. Be sure that you do not fold it. All drawings should be received flat.

Then watch The Times for the winners and "publication" of the strange "as of vampires."

Prize winners will be announced just as soon as the judges get over their first "fright" caused by a look at the pile of "vampires."

Some one once said that "there is nothing new under the sun." But he didn't say anything about the moon or dark nights. And as "vampires" live only at night—well, any-

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