

Hot One on the Fire Department



Residents of South Hempstead, L. I., had a good laugh at their fire department the other day. A blaze broke out right in the fire house and the building burned to the ground despite the gallant work of the department.

MILITARY PRISON IN NEED OF PRISONERS

Program of Model Institution Handicapped.

San Francisco.—Wanted, 212 prisoners. That's what Col. George McD. Weeks might advertise about his model prison out in San Francisco bay. He hasn't enough prisoners.

For Alcatraz, army disciplinary barracks out on an island within the city limits of San Francisco, is unique for many reasons: Out of its 388 prisoners, only one is there for life, only one prisoner has ever made a really successful getaway, and every man works eight hours a day and four hours on Saturday.

It's a place where there is running hot water and lavatory in every cell, steam heat, shower baths, library, picture show, and every facility for the prisoners.

Under new army regulations a post commander may keep at his post guardhouse any prisoner within certain bounds, and therefore only the worst cases are sent to Alcatraz. Last year the barracks returned 12 men to duty after accomplishing with these prisoners the aim of their imprisonment, discipline.

Navy Sprinter



Ken McKenzie, sprinter of the Indianapolis Naval Academy, warming up during his training for the Olympic tryouts. He hopes to land a berth on the American team.

Movable Motor to Boost Seaplane Speed Records

London.—Speeds of 500 miles an hour may soon be attained by the use of "movable" engines in racing seaplanes, according to the inventors of a new type of engine mounting for aircraft.

The mounting is an outgrowth of experiments connected with the design and construction of the British Schneider trophy racers which last autumn put up a world's record of 407.5 miles an hour.

In experiments the engine is mounted on a pivot permitting the engine and its propeller to be tilted upward to any desired angle within a range of nearly 45 degrees. The fact the engine and propeller can be tilted upwards so as to be well clear of the water has enabled the designers to shorten the undercarriage so that the wings of the airplane almost rests on the water. In this way the air resistance and weight of the undercarriage have been greatly reduced.

Farmers Reap Rewards From Woodland Crops

Washington.—Far-sighted farmers in northern states are reaping rewards from their timber crops, according to W. K. Williams, extension forester of the Agricultural department.

On some farms the woodlands on hillsides, along streams, or on the rougher, or poorer areas, have been kept in a productive condition, while on others good production has been reduced to practically nothing because of neglect, according to Williams. He also points out that dollars lost through holding idle woodlands is a

direct drain on the farmer's annual income and tends to retard living standards.

One Indiana farmer is reported to have built five farm buildings and supplied posts and cordwood for his farm and sold \$700 worth of products from a 20 acre tract acquired in 1900 for \$570. An Iowa farmer is said to have been furnished with fuel wood for 17 years from a two and one-half acre woodland, and also 16,000 board feet of construction timber. A New York farmer figured the annual profit from the woodland for the last 33 years at \$3.83 per acre.

Youthful Peers Await Maturity to Take Seats

London.—Britain has 32 peers who cannot take their seats in the house of lords because they are not of age. Many bearers of old titles are still playing with their blocks, among them being Lord Wraxhall, three, and Lord Montagu of Beaufort, five.

Lord Gainsborough is eight. Lord Haig, son of the late British army commander, is thirteen. The earl of Shrewsbury and Talbot, who is a pre-emptive earl in the peerages of both England and Scotland, is seventeen, as is Lord Gormanston, premier viscount of Scotland.

Barber Wins Razor Hartford, Conn.—Paul Composto, a member of the Master Barbers' association, was gratified when the judges of a prize razor contest awarded him the first honors. When he saw his prize he dropped it into the Connecticut river. It was a safety razor and blades.

CONGENIALITY

By THOMAS ARKLE CLARK
Emeritus Dean of Men,
University of Illinois.

Charlie Hunter, in "Behold This Dreamer," is imaginative, temperamental, ambitious to be a painter. He is married to the crude illiterate daughter of a brush maker who neither understands him nor does her father. They think him crazy, and have him examined and then confined in an asylum for the treatment of the mentally deranged. Here he finds congeniality, sympathy, and inspiration, to attain his ideals. He wins a prize on some futuristic crude work which he has done in the asylum, and is released to go back to his commonplace wife and her impossible, hypocritical father. The association with them is unbearable, and he finally goes back to his kindly, sympathetic and unbalanced friends where he may enjoy the freedom and the peace which is to help him accomplish his idealistic ambitions. He is not wholly certain who is crazy and who is sane, but he chooses the congenial environment.

Mrs. Culver was a woman who, but, no need to apologize for her ancestry. She had descended from the blue blood of New England. Since she had ruled her household, and had been proud to do so. Now she was alone; with the exception of herself, her family were married and moved away, or dead or indifferent to her. There was no one left to whom she could play the grand lady. She did not enjoy this isolation. It piqued her pride that there was no one left whom she could lord it over as she had been wont to do fifty years or more, and whose homage she could receive. The county hospital—or in common parlance, the poorhouse—would accept her as a "paying guest" as they say in some aristocratic though indigent communities, so she moved in, furnished her own room with the mahogany furniture and the old china which had come down to her from her ancestors, and resumed her position at the head of the table with the less fortunate pensioners as her slaves and devotees. The move scandalized her relatives to whose ears it came, but it furnished Mrs. Culver with a congenial clientele, and she was happy.

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An old Spanish fort, the original fortification protecting San Francisco, Alcatraz, which became a military prison in 1858, has on duty under arms only two men at a time, although within three minutes 180 persons can be armed to deal with any emergency.

Ranking high in importance in any consideration of the island is the kind of food the prisoners get. A sample menu consists of corn flakes and milk, fried breakfast bacon, hot cakes, syrup, bread, coffee, and butter for breakfast; rice, tomato, soup and crackers; fried beefsteak, fried onions, mashed potatoes, brown gravy, lettuce salad, french dressing, pickled beets, raisin pudding, bread and coffee for dinner; baked macaroni and cheese, dill pickles, doughnuts, bread, and coffee for supper.

(© 1932 Western Newspaper Union.)

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Those in productive capacities are allowed \$2 a month for their work. The balance of what their industry brings in goes into general welfare fund. A recent purchase of \$3,500 worth of talking picture projection machinery was made from this fund.

Among the features of the prison is its lighthouse, towering 214 feet above sea level. The light is visible 21 nautical miles. This light gives a flash for 5 of a second, and is off for 4.5 seconds. It is of 80,000 candle power.

Assignment to Alcatraz is considered one of the best to be had in the army by its officers and men according to Major Slack.

As for the prisoners, well, there's the words of the only lifer on the island, Joseph Sollwold, "Since I have to speak my life somewhere" this is about as good as any prison I'd ever care to be in."

The colonel thinks Alcatraz may be beautified by growing of grass on the birches brown slopes and cliffs. The men in the prison agree with him and have worked heartily to carry out his ideas.

The prisoners are dressed in black uniforms and black sailor caps made from war O. D. material dyed black. The prisoners have a complete tailor shop where their clothes are repaired and pressed, a shoe shop, plumbing shop, printing shop, typewriter repair shop and furniture shops. They also have a laundry which serves all the posts around the bay.

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POTPOURRI

Fireflies

There are several kinds of fireflies, the most common of which is the lightning bug. The lightning mechanism, usually situated on the sides of the abdomen, is composed of tissues to which are connected air tubes and nerves. The latter excrete the air tubes, which convey to the fatty tissue the oxygen from which is produced the light.

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