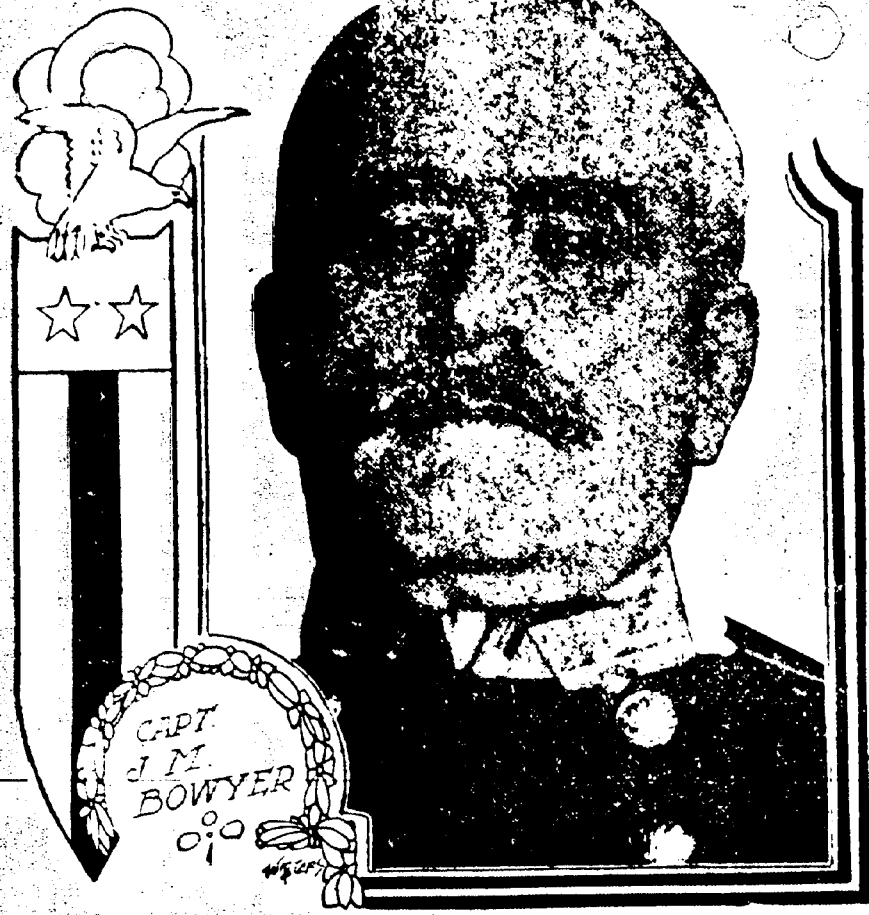


POPULAR NAVAL OFFICER



Capt. John M. Bowyer, commander of the battleship Illinois, one of the vessels of the Pacific fleet.

TIES STEER IN JIFFY

MILTON BEALER OF OKLAHOMA BREAKS WORLD'S RECORD.

Ox Is Chased, Lassoed, Thrown and Bound in One-Third of a Minute Before Crowd of Ten Thousand Persons.

Enid, Okla.—Before 10,000 persons, Milton Bealer of Ninnekah, Okla., broke the world's record for lassoing and roping a wild steer the other day. Bealer's time was 20 seconds flat. The former champion was W. E. Carroll of Mangum, Okla., who had a record of 21 1/2 seconds. Carroll witnessed Bealer's great feat and declared him the world's champion.

Thirty steers from the Panhandle of Texas specially imported for this occasion were the objects of the lasso. They came from a 20,000-acre ranch and were as wild as the plains of the southwest could produce. Twelve widely known cowboy ropers participated in the contest, each mounted on his own pony.

When one of the range steers was released from the corral he was chased across the field until he came in front of the judges' stand, and, if then running at a high rate of speed, a flag was dropped and the fleet-footed pony, with his rider swinging a lariat, dashed down the field after the steer.

The time made by Bealer appears incredible in view of what he had to do. His pony ran 100 yards before the lasso fell over the steer's giant horns. That moment the pony turned, digging his hoofs into the ground, braced himself and waited.

The rushing steer reached the limit of the rope and turned a complete somersault, landing on his side with a thud. Unable to use his head, the steer could not rise.

Bealer was not on the pony. The very moment he saw the lariat land well over the steer's horns he slid from the pony's back and ran toward the roped beast. With six feet of rope he tied all four feet of the steer together in such a manner that they could not be freed, jumped on the beast, raised his hand and removed his hat as a signal to the judges and the spectators that he was through.

All this done in the third part of a single minute. Milton Bealer is just past 22 years old. He has spent his life on a ranch.

BIRTHPLACE OF G. O. P.

Plans Are Made to Preserve Historic Schoolhouse in Wisconsin.

Ripon, Wis.—The Commercial club has decided to purchase the old schoolhouse in which the Republican party had its birth. President R. C. Hughes of Ripon college offered a site for the building on the college campus. This has been accepted and possession will be taken in a short time.

The persons who owned the building offered it to the Ripon Historical society at what seemed to that association to be an unreasonable figure. An offer from outside men who, it was understood, intended remodeling the structure, hastened action on the part of the citizens of Ripon, who have determined not to permit the desecration of the historical building.

If the trustees of Ripon college sanction the recommendation of President Hughes, the building will be removed to the college campus, where it will be preserved and used as a museum for Wisconsin relics.

Mountain of Stone Fish.

Alpena, Ark.—A low mountain of petrified fish, covering an area of over two miles square, has been discovered on the ranch of Joe Irving, 15 miles south of here. The fish are perfectly preserved in stone. Some are of large size. The place where the fish are found is nearly 5,000 feet above the sea level.

SMOKED A PIPE 100 YEARS.

Negro Woman of Kansas Says She Is 125 Years Old.

Kansas City, Kan.—At the foot of Lafayette avenue lives a negro woman who says she is 125 years old—and that she can prove it. Mrs. Nancy Gordon is her name. She was born near Alexandria, Va., about 1782. She was the slave of Mathias Boone, a wealthy cotton planter of that vicinity, who was an officer in the continental war.

"I was sold, the first time," Mrs. Gordon said the other day, "to satisfy a sheriff's warrant. My master's daughter, Ellen, was married to a young planter, William Gillis, and I was given to them as a dowry. My new master was a spendthrift. That's why I was sold at a sheriff's sale to John Gordon of Vicksburg, Miss., a cotton-grower. I was put to work weaving cotton cloth. I was married soon after I went to Mr. Gordon's home. We had nine children, but all except two are dead."

Mrs. Gordon lived with the Gordon family until after the civil war. Then she moved to a little truck patch in Warren county, Mississippi. She, with her son, moved to Kansas City, Kan., 14 years ago. She is wrinkled and rheumatic, but still retains all her faculties. She is an ardent Methodist, and expounds its doctrines to all who will listen.

Mrs. Gordon, while telling the story of her life, drew from her apron pocket a clay pipe, filled it with tobacco, and, lighting it with a piece of paper which she had tucked to a live coal in her fire, said: "Well, boy, I've told you enough. Go 'way and let me smoke. I've smoked a pipe for more than 100 years, and I can't stop it."

HAS UNIQUE GIFT FOR FLEET.

Inmate of Hospital Knitting Flag for Admiral Evans.

Tacoma, Wash.—L. L. Martin, a well-to-do grocer in San Francisco, was put out of business by the big fire. He came north seeking work, finally becoming a street car conductor here. Four months ago, in a fog collision on Pacific avenue, he had one leg broken in 22 places and the other in five. Surgeons determined to save his limbs rather than amputate. They were incased in plaster casts. For four months Martin has been in a cot in the Fannie Paddock hospital awaiting the knitting of his shattered bones.

Years ago, while living on a farm in Walla Walla, Martin was taught knitting by an aged woman. For several weeks he spent his time in the hospital knitting wristlets, robes for baby buggies and other small articles, which were purchased by street railway employes. With the money thus earned Martin bought a supply of red, white and blue yarn and began the manufacture of a large American flag, which is now nearly complete. Not until this week did he announce the purpose of his work. He desires to present the flag by Admiral Evans on the arrival of the battleship fleet at San Francisco. He will be able to leave the hospital in six weeks on crutches, and will probably journey to San Francisco and personally present his patriotic gift to the American navy.

Stubborn Pa Goes to Jail.

Doylston, Pa.—Rather than pay the fine imposed upon him for violating the compulsory school attendance law by not sending his child to school, Christian Hartner of Plumstead is going to the Bucks county jail to serve two days.

When arrested he declared he would never pay the fine. When told by the justice that he would have to go to jail if he did not, Hartner exclaimed: "All right, I'll go to jail, but you'll never get the money for such a fool law, and when I get out I'll move out of the state." The school directors plan to prosecute every delinquent in order to get the state appropriation.

LAW DEFEATS OLD LOVE.

Guardian of Old Doctor Refuses to Allow Wedding with Aged Sweetheart.

Kokomo, Ind.—Barriers of the law balked the work of Cupid, who had kept alive the fire of love for 50 years in the hearts of an aged couple who were to have been married here the other day.

Mrs. Sarah St. Clair, 66 years old, of Lancaster, Pa., was the prospective bride.

Dr. Alexander C. Freeman, 77 years old, of this city, was the man who had hoped to make the sweetheart of his boyhood days his wife.

Some days ago Mrs. St. Clair came here for the culmination of the romance which started more than half a century ago. She was informed that her venerable sweetheart was under care of a legal guardian, who refused to consent to the match.

Tearfully the aged woman laid aside the wedding dress which was made in the far away Pennsylvania home and wrote an appeal to the courts to allow the marriage. She says that she will wait here, be it days, weeks or months, until every obstacle is overcome and she can wed the doctor.

The story of the aged couple's love is like the skein of tangled romance taken from one of Ouida's novels.

When young they lived in the same Pennsylvania town. She was the belle of the village, he the beau. He courted her from childhood, and when the girl blossomed into womanhood they were betrothed. Then a quarrel occurred. It was sharp and bitter as a summer squall, and he left the town. She vowed they would never meet again. Each went their various ways and both married.

Years after chance brought the couple together. The old love that still smoldered broke out anew and the autumn betrothal, that was later thwarted, occurred.

HAS LINCOLN FARM IN IOWA.

German Farmer Owns Property Once Held by Great American.

Webster City, Ia.—It has recently developed that Abraham Lincoln for a brief time called Iowa his home, having entered a tract of homestead land in what is now Crawford county.

Judge Church of Jefferson, in his reading, learned that owing to services in the Black Hawk war, Abraham Lincoln became entitled to land scrip, good for entry upon a tract in township 84, range 39, Iowa. This is in Crawford county, and Judge Church addressed a letter to Clerk of the Courts Paul, asking for further information. He had the following letter in reply:

"Denison, Ia.—Dear Sir and Brother: Your letter regarding the land formerly owned by Abraham Lincoln in this county is at hand. Our lamented president located on the north half, northeast quarter and southeast quarter section 18, township 84, range 39, in Goodrich township, containing 120 acres of land.

"This tract of land is now the property of Peter F. Jepsen, a retired German farmer residing at Denison, who often speaks of the fact that he is the owner of the land that formerly belonged to President Lincoln. Fraternalty yours, Frank Paul."

BARS LOVERS FROM CHAPEL.

President's Order Makes Couples Change Trysting Places.

Alma, Mich.—At a special meeting of all the men of the college, President Bruski declared that hereafter at the college chapel, which has always been the trysting place of the college lovers, no co-eds will be allowed to linger. The president slammed the cover with a good heavy bang, declaring that the low standing of certain capable students demanded less sparkling.

The leap-year craze has fallen upon the Alma co-eds and the men have willingly given over to the fair sex the privileges that heretofore the stronger half have kept for themselves.

When Prof. J. Q. Adams gave an illustrated lecture on English parliament the other evening, the "two hours in the dark" advertisement that was posted appealed to the maidens, who one by one landed a man.

Coach Harper was held up in the dining-room after dinner by a boy of girls asking permission to go with the young men to his hall, and after persistent ones had kept him at his phone all the afternoon giving permissions, he collapsed.

FARM PRODUCTS \$1,091,000,000.

Seventeen States West of Mississippi Show 15 Per Cent. Increase.

Omaha, Neb.—A statistical bureau here has issued a statement compiled from government reports showing the value of products of the farm in 17 states west of the Mississippi in 1907 to have been \$1,091,000,000. Corn leads in production, being valued at nearly \$500,000,000. Winter wheat is next, valued at \$200,000,000, and domestic hay was valued at only \$2,000,000 less. Rye, oats, barley and potatoes follow in order. The report indicates an increase of 15 per cent. over the previous year and this increase is credited to irrigation.

"Fresh" Eggs to Be Fresh.

Washington—Secretary of Agriculture Wilson has started a crusade to prevent the shipping and sale of cold storage eggs as "fresh." The secretary says the people of New York and Chicago have been imposed on so long that they don't know a real fresh egg from those taken out of cold storage.

ANCIENT CITY FOUND

DESERTED VILLAGE LOCATED IN OLD MEXICO.

Situated on a High Cliff Surrounded by Large Natural Cave—Old Adobe Houses Still in Good State of Preservation.

El Paso, Tex.—Prof. A. H. Blackiston, archeologist and possessor of the largest private collection of Mexican antiquities in the Smithsonian institution in Washington, has returned to this city, after what he announces is the most important of his discoveries in Mexico. He says he has discovered remains of people of prehistoric America and that these people complete the link between the Mound Builders on the north and the Mayas on the south.

Prof. Blackiston brings back some of the most valuable acquisitions to ancient American relics, among them the largest stone ax ever found and stalks of maize and cornish brush 800 years old, found in a perfect state of preservation built in the adobe walls of the new found city.

The site of the discovery is across the continental divide from the scene of the Casas Grandian ruins, which have been the source of most extensive studies by archeologists in Mexico in the last decade. In an almost impassible wilderness 30 miles west of Des Cabezos, in a land never before trod by the foot of a white man, the ancient city was found. Two months ago the deserted city was located by an Indian guide, and the fact was reported to Prof. Blackiston, who is conducting a government expedition station in the Rio Grande valley and who immediately investigated, with the most surprising results.

The village was found situated on a precipitous cliff, in part surrounded by a large natural cave, 1,500 feet above the Baviage river, which flows in the deep valley below. Here were discovered the ruins of hundreds of adobe houses, all but a few in a good state of preservation. The quality of pottery found in these houses is superior to that made by the Toltecs and the Aztecs.

The Casas Grandes Indians and the tribes just discovered occupy a peculiar position in the relations of ancient tribes of the western hemisphere," said Mr. Blackiston. "Additional facts just obtained show that these tribes formed a connecting link between the tribes of the north and the south. The Mayas, Toltecs and Aztecs form the southern group and the Pueblos and Mound Builders the northern. The Casas Grandians formed an intermediate group. Their ruins and culture symbols show influences common to both of the groups named."

Prof. Blackiston says that the idols of the new found group resemble those of the Indians of the south. Symbols on the pottery made by them are also similar.

On the other hand, their buildings are like those of the Pueblos. The sun sign used was the same as that used by both the Aztecs and the Mound Builders. This is also the sun sign used by the ancient Egyptians, which in this respect tends to connect them with the ancients of the eastern hemisphere. The water sign of the Casas Grandians and those of the new found race is the same as that used by the Chinese. The winged serpent of the Casas Grandians is like the same symbol of the north and south tribes. The remains of temples of the Casas Grandians show sun worship, and the tribe just discovered evidently worshipped in the same way.

With the exception of the long guide up to two months ago no man of civilization had ever set foot on the ruins. Proof of this is furnished in the fact that the ruins stand today without the sign of molestation of the hand of man, white or red. The doors of the houses stand sealed as they were left when their occupants departed never to return. On the still mountain, almost inaccessible to man or beast, the ancient village stands, the doors blocked with stones that have never been rolled away by curious hands, ruins of the ancient ladders lying still close to the cliff of the precipitous height, disturbed in no way but by the elements.

Quartette of Dogs Sings.

Malden, Mass.—A dog quartette that sings "Way Down on the Suwanee River," with a pretty good semblance of tune, was the star feature of a social at the Bethlehem Methodist church the other night.

The dogs are owned by Rev. R. A. Sheridan, the pastor, and he says he trained them himself. The basso is a bulldog. A little terrier takes the soprano, while two hounds sing the tenor and contralto. Dr. Sheridan says he picked them out of hundreds of dogs because of their fondness for music, and that it was not much work to teach them. The singing was a qualified success.

Box of Coins in Roof.

Rising Sun, Md.—While removing an old cedar roof that has been on the dwelling of Mrs. James Watson of Fallstown, Hartford county, since its erection, in 1794, the contractors, Kerr & Colder, found between the roofing and plaster a tin box of copper and silver coins valued at several hundred dollars.

According to the dates the coins were placed there when the house was built. The shingles, though worn on exposed edges, were found under the lapping, and many of the wrought-iron nails were in good condition.

MAN MUST WEAR A GAG.

Court Makes Order and Red Bandana Is Used Effectively.

Tacoma, Wash.—"Stuttering" Smith is the first man in the court records of this city compelled to wear a gag in his mouth when he appears on the street. The police here know of no other like case in any other city. Smith has given the police of Tacoma a great deal of trouble. Years ago he made his home here for ten years. Then the police made life such a burden for him that he left. Recently he came back and the police have been after him every few days. The man claims to have an affliction that physicians who have examined him say is probably without parallel. It is an involuntary movement of the vocal organs that compels him to utter words and sentences that he claims are not in his mind. Smith's chief offense is vulgar expressions, used, apparently in an involuntary manner, in the presence of women. The man is wealthy, and whenever brought up in court, secures counsel and makes a hard fight.

Judge Aronson ordered that whenever he appeared on the street or in public places he should wear a gag in his mouth, preventing him from talking.

Shortly after being discharged by the court Smith had a large handkerchief tied tightly over his mouth by a policeman and was given his freedom. Only when he is in the seclusion of his own room is Smith permitted to take the gag off.

HOW HOT IS THE SUN?

Temperature Said to Be Nearly 10,000 Degrees Fahrenheit.

Paris.—A discussion as to how hot the sun is has been carried on between French scientists. Prof. Milochau, the physicist, says:

"We have seen that by applying Stefan's law to the numbers given by various observers for the solar constant, we find that the sun's temperature is between 5,800 degrees and 7,000 degrees. Wilson and Gray in 1902 made a direct measure of this temperature by means of the thermoelectric pile and obtained 5,573 degrees, and measurements made with the pyrheliometric telescope lead to the figures 5,853 degrees. There is yet a third method of evaluating the solar temperature, it consists in an application of the physical law of radiation known as the law of displacement. The product of the wave length corresponding the maximum of intensity in the spectrum emitted by the body, multiplied by its temperature, is a constant quantity which has been found by experiment to be 2,900. Now the maximum of energy in the solar spectrum is found near the wave length 5, which would make the temperature 5,800 degrees.

"The agreement of the results reached by these various methods is certainly not due simply to chance, and we may assert that the effective temperature of the sun is nearly 5,400 degrees C. (9,700 degrees F.)"

BIG MEN WRITE TO INVALID.

Autograph Letters to a Shut-In Include Bryan's and Cannon's.

Allentown, Pa.—Harold B. Stabler of 34 North Thirteenth street, who has been confined to his bed for nearly a year, and to break the monotony of his confinement is gathering autographs, has received the following from William J. Bryan, who writes:

"My Dear Sir: Your favor at hand. I am very glad to write you a word, and give you my autograph. Those who are favored with good health ought to be grateful enough to spare a moment's time occasionally for those less fortunate, and I assure you that it gives me pleasure to comply with your request."

Joseph G. Cannon writes from the speaker's room at Washington as follows:

"My Dear Sir: I have your favor of the 10th inst., and I think you are entitled to much credit for your splendid demeanor in the face of adversity."

The French ambassador, M. Jusserand, expresses his sympathy as follows:

"It gives me great pleasure to send you my autograph, with my compliments for your manly disposition, and my best wishes for your complete and speedy recovery."

Made Ill by Proposal.

Storm Lake, Ia.—Too many proposals and too much notoriety following a leap year proposition of marriage, published in her own paper, have borne down heavily upon Miss Elizabeth Sohn, editress of the Storm Lake Vidette.

She is ill in bed of nervous prostration at her home here, and her friends are extremely anxious over her condition.

As a result of her odd announcement that she would be willing to drive double with a strong man, who could help her run her paper and attend to the political end of the game, Miss Sohn received 300 acceptances.

Stork Beats the Reaper.

Dallas, Tex.—The stork is beating the grim reaper at the rate of more than three to one in Texas. Official vital statistics for January show 4,548 births and 1,395 deaths. At this rate the births for the 12 months of 1908 will exceed the deaths by 37,836.

It also is argued that the census of 1910 will credit Texas with a population of close to 5,000,000. The excess of births over deaths and the influx of immigration for ten years from 1900 to 1910 is conservatively estimated at 1,500,000.

FOOLED BY BAD COIN

AUTOMATIC STAMP VENDER LOOTED WITH LEAD DIMES.

Secret Service Man Takes Hand In Test of the Device at Washington and It Is Shown to Be Incompetent.

Washington.—Four of the new stamp-vending machines standing in front of the post office department, which the government is trying "at the inventor's expense," were convicted the other day of receiving counterfeit money.

The machines yielded more than one dollar's worth of good stamps and postcards, and received in exchange only a variegated assortment of near-money ranging all the way from lead slugs to bogus pennies and dimes which might deceive every one but the most expert money handlers.

This was the third test to which the machines have been subjected within a week. Chief Wilke of the secret service designated one of his agents, George F. Foster, to take part in the effort to defeat the "automatic thinking machine" furnished for use in the test a whole pocketful of "pennies" which had passed through a number of banks only to be used as counterfeits at the subtreasury, and a number of lead slugs, made in carefully stamped series to simulate Uncle Sam's smallest extant silver pieces the "dime."

On one previous test of the machines 99 cents' worth of stamps and post cards had been obtained for a "dollar's worth" of lead slugs. Another time the manipulation was equally successful with plugged dimes, "good Canadian dimes" and other coins of similar character. An amusing incident occurred in connection with the first experiment when a man who was standing near on the post office steps, became suspicious at seeing an apparent stranger stuffing coins into the slot machine in rapid succession. The man was a post office watchman.

Having exhausted his store of counterfeits, the experimenter gathered up the stamps and turned away, only to be encountered by the watchman, who demanded an explanation. The tell-tale glass front of the machines exposed to full view the "phony" money which had been foisted upon the machines. It was only after the man had accompanied the suspect to the office of Chief Clerk Travis and heard the confession of intentional duplicity and saw the surrender of the practically pilfered stamps that the watchman was satisfied.

Before making a similar test Secret Service Agent Foster visited the office of Third Assistant Postmaster General Lawshe and the latter accompanied him to witness the prospective downfall of the machines. On the way Postmaster Barnes, Assistant Postmaster Davis and Chief Clerk Travis joined the party.

As a preliminary all four machines were entirely cleared of accumulated coin of the realm. Of the four, one penny machine is a purveyor of post cards and another, accepting coins of the same denomination, gives forth a one-cent stamp for each copper inserted in the slot.

The postcard machine failed signally to detect the fraudulent nature of the coins carried by the party of investigators, but if the automatic vender was human it might draw considerable satisfaction from the knowledge that even the secret service representative could be sure most of the coins were counterfeit only because they were plainly marked for identification.

It was said that the "dime" machines, one of which sells five two-cent stamps and the other two five-cent stamps, were protected by a system of magnets so that iron and steel slugs would be refused, but the magnets had no effect upon the lead pieces, and it willingly gave its store in exchange for bits of lead of the same size and weight as dimes.

WIFE BETRAYED HERSELF.

With Hand Dipped in Salt Water She Talked in Sleep.

Trenton, N. J.—"An old sea captain once told me that if I would put the hand of a sleeping person in salt water that person would answer truthfully any questions that I might ask them. I tried it with my wife. She answered all my questions and gave me the proof that I needed to bring my divorce suit."

This was the startling statement that caused Vice-Chancellor Walker to reserve decision in the divorce suit of Richard Tague of South Amboy, brought on statutory grounds.

Tague appeared as his own counsel and when asked by Vice-Chancellor Walker how he obtained the names of the men with whom he charged his wife with improper conduct, he exploited the salt water method. Tague said that eight days after the marriage he found in his wife's possession a letter from another man.

Mrs. Tague filed a cross-suit, naming a co-respondent, but this phase of the case was not brought out.

Woman 29, Adopts Boy of 46. Lowell, Mass.—Miss Wilhelmina Crawford, 29 years old, has adopted in court as her son James Butler, who is 46. She is well-to-do and says that Butler's parents died when he was a boy. He was brought up in her father's family and she got to entertain such a motherly feeling for him that she determined to have him as a son.