

NEWS and GOSSIP OF WASHINGTON

Washington Explorer Finds Strange Cave Men

WASHINGTON.—Caves hewn in the solid rocks of sugarloaf mountains, sometimes to the depth of 150 feet, large enough to hold from 1,500 to 2,000 people. Men who think nothing of running 40 and 50 miles a day without taking a drink of water.

People who never set eyes on fruits or vegetables. Towns of 5,000 to 6,000 inhabitants, in which there is not a building, the people living in holes in the earth.

A land of no shadows between 8 a. m. and 5 p. m. A nation in which women are never seen.

These are some of the wonders described by Frank Edward Johnson, the explorer and lecturer and contributing editor of the National Geographic Magazine, who arrived in Washington after an absence of almost two years, spent among the troglodyte tribes of southern Tunisia.

While in Tunisia Mr. Johnson conducted extensive researches among the buried Roman cities, and traced the old Roman highways, which have been hidden for centuries by the shifting sands of the Sahara.

"On the trip just concluded," said Mr. Johnson, "I came into a more intimate contact with the innermost lives of the peoples of the extreme southern Tunisia than ever before, and I had an unequalled opportunity to study them at closer range than any foreigner has ever enjoyed."

There are probably more than one hundred thousand of these people in a section hitherto supposed to be almost uninhabitable. They are pursuing an exceedingly primitive life.

All the troglodyte strongholds are difficult of approach. Their warriors could see the enemy approaching for many miles, unless they came by night, and then the zigzag path that led up to the great walls, worn smooth by centuries of hard use, with a surface like polished marble, was too dangerous, for a stumble meant sudden death on the rocks hundreds of feet below. It is difficult even for the mountain goats born and bred there."

Capital Folk Scramble for Rent-Free Houses

THERE'S a scramble on among several hundred Washingtonians for rent-free houses during the summer months in the city's most exclusive residential districts. Few people outside the capital realize that there are in this city scores of beautiful and costly homes which are turned over to caretakers, sometimes without rent, and with coal, gas and electric light bills paid.

Now is the season when these caretakers are the busiest. Those who have had these positions in the past are the most active and they besiege almost daily the various real estate offices in the city.

For this business is one of the hardest for real estate men to look after. In the first place they must be able to judge character "on the jump" and be able to pick men and women who would be capable and honest.

Then after selecting the names of applicants the agents have to investigate their standing and trustworthiness. In the selection of the tenants widows almost always have first choice. A good widow with children is always regarded as the best caretaker.

While the occupation of caretaker grew up originally when Washingtonians left the city for the summer it has extended to another branch now—that of furnished houses for sale or rent. For instance, if a public official who has lived here several years suddenly becomes a "lame duck" and moves "back to the farm" his Washington home is for sale. Often it is difficult to sell the place immediately or even to rent it. As a result a caretaker is selected. This party is given possession of the house, but is required to keep it in tip-top condition and to show it to prospective buyers.

Uncle Sam Needs Rifle Ranges for Civilians

WITH the probability that citizen soldiery may be called to national service, the national board for promotion of rifle practices of the war department has issued a statement explaining the need of rifle ranges for practice, which has been made possible by the present congress in providing for the free distribution of rifles and ammunition to civilian rifle clubs and school cadets.

"Again we are faced with the possibility of sending untrained youths from their homes to the battlefield," the statement says. "Recruits can be taught to march, drill, and take care of themselves in the field in a comparatively short period, but such is not the case with the care and effective use of the service arm. A long step in the right direction was taken by the present congress when it enacted a law, through a paragraph in the army appropriation bill, authority for the war department to issue rifles and ammunition free to certain civilians."

"It is a fundamental principle of national defense that citizens should be trained in the use of the service arm. Rifle instruction is the keynote of national defense of Switzerland. If we were to train our citizens in the same proportion as that small republic, we would have about 5,000,000 trained civilian expert riflemen."

"A serious handicap to the proper development of this movement is the lack of rifle ranges. With the growth of cities and the increasing value of land generally rifle ranges have been swept away. Therefore, unless the issue of rifles and ammunition is followed by the construction of ranges where civilians can practice such issue will not accomplish the results desired by the government."

Varied Lot of Plants Grown by the Government

IN CONNECTION with its investigations, the Smithsonian institution undertook some years ago the collecting of a series of cactuses. Not only herbarium specimens, but many examples of living plants were secured.

The problem of the care of these living plants while under observation was solved through the co-operation of the department of agriculture, which assigned special greenhouse No. 7, at Fourteenth and B streets northwest, for housing them. Today a veritable desert flourish in it, filled with all kinds of strange desert plants, especially cactuses from North and South America, of which there are perhaps in the neighborhood of five thousand specimens.

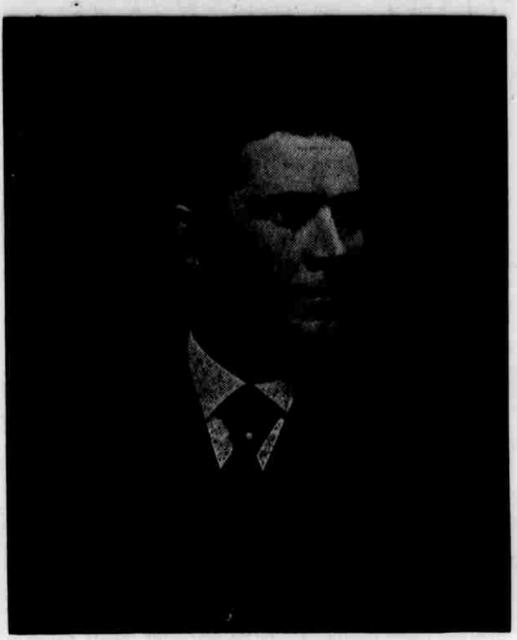
The collection has much to attract the ordinary visitor. No such collection in Europe has so many unique and rare species. Each pot contains a label which gives the key number to record books giving the history of each plant. The collection contains about twenty-five species of the night-blooming cereus, several plants of the so-called bishop's cap, and some striking specimens of Turk's head cactus.

The photographer of the National museum makes photographs of the flowering plants when any special features are to be noted, thousands of these cuttings being distributed by the department to the various botanical institutions throughout the world.

The collection is directly under the charge of E. M. Byrnes, superintendent of gardens and grounds.

Air Plants on the Wires. Telephone troubles in the tropics are largely due to the wires becoming covered with air plants. In Porto Rico the humidity of the atmosphere is so great that the plants continue to grow until they are detached by the winds.

Really Not Much Difference. Miriam—"Now you are out here at Lonesomehurst, you must fairly revel in fresh vegetables, dear!" Millicent (rapturously)—"We do. Would you believe it? (Impressively) We can buy them almost as cheaply here as we could in the hot city!"—Puck.



WILLIAM L. O'CONNELL, Choice of Thousands of Democrats for Mayor.

LEADING CLUBS

- Following are the locations of the leading self-sustaining clubs of Chicago: Apollo Club, 302 S. Michigan ave. Builders', 412-418 Chamber of Commerce building. Calumet, Michigan ave. and 20th st. Caxton, Tenth floor, Fine Arts bldg. Chicago Athletic Association, 12 S. Michigan ave. Chicago Architectural, 39 West Adams street. Chicago Automobile, 321 Plymouth court. Chicago Club, Michigan ave. and Van Buren street. Chicago Cycling, 1615, 37 East Van Buren street. Chicago Yacht, foot of Monroe st. City Club, 315 Plymouth court. CMA Dwellers, 216 S. Michigan ave. Colonial Club of Chicago, 4445 Grand boulevard. Columbia Yacht, foot of Randolph street. Elks, 174 W. Washington st. Englewood, 6323 Harvard avenue. Edgewater Country, 5658 Winthrop avenue. Farragut Yacht Club, foot of 33d st. Germania Maaennerchor, 106 Germania place. Hamilton, 20 S. Dearborn st. Illinois, 113 S. Ashland boulevard. Illinois Athletic, 112 S. Michigan avenue. Irish Fellowship Club, La Salle Hotel. Iroquois, 21 N. La Salle st. Kenwood, Lake ave. and 47th st. Kenwood Country, Drexel boulevard and 48th street. Marquette, Dearborn ave. and Maple street. Mid-Day, First National Bank bldg., 17th floor. Oaks, Lake st. and Waller ave. Press Club of Chicago, 26 North Dearborn street. Quadrangle, Lexington avenue and 58th street. Rotary, 28 South Dearborn st. Saddle and Cycle, Sheridan Road and Foster avenue. South Shore Country, lake shore and 67th street. Southern, 26 N. Dearborn street. Standard, Michigan ave. and 24th street. Swedish Club of Chicago, 1258 La Salle avenue. Twentieth Century, 2246 Michigan avenue. Union League, Jackson boulevard and Federal street. Union Printers', Howland block, Monroe and Dearborn. University, Michigan avenue and Monroe street. Republicans freely predict the nomination of William Hale Thompson for Mayor. Why has the fight on the Harvester Trust been abandoned? Judge John R. Caverly is one of the most popular men on the bench.

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MUNICIPAL NEWS Some Items of Interest From the Public Offices About Occurrences of the Week.

William L. O'Connell's strongest point is his straightforward honesty. The people like a man who does not beat about the bush, but talks straight to the point and who always keeps his word.

People are asking whether the few dollars that stand between the railroads and their engineers and firemen will bring on a strike. Referendum as to whether the 55,000 engineers and firemen on 98 railroads west of Chicago shall strike will be taken at once.

So announced Warren S. Stone, grand chief of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and W. S. Carter, president of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen, after negotiations between the firemen and engineers and the general managers' committee, representing the railroads, had been broken off.

The railroads gave a final refusal to the demands of the trainmen for wage increases and new working conditions. Mr. Stone said it probably will require about 30 days to complete the vote. Negotiations have been going on here for nearly three months. The railroads involved include virtually all the lines in the United States west of Chicago, including the Illinois Central, and all lines in Canada west of Ft. William except the Grand Trunk.

The general managers' committee in a statement says that the demands of the men would increase the pay-rolls approximately 50 per cent. James A. Long, Chief Clerk of the Board of Assessors and a popular and capable public official, is strongly backed for the Democratic nomination for Clerk of the Appellate Court.

William Hale Thompson is a man who does things. He makes friends and keeps them. Judge John R. Caverly is making a record on the Municipal Court bench that he can at all times point to with pride.

The offices of Rudolph Oelzner, well known importer of beer, are now located at 109 W. Grand avenue. Daniel L. Cruice is a great favorite with the workmen.

The La Salle Street Trust and Savings Bank OF CHICAGO LA SALLE AND QUINCY STREETS Capital \$1,000,000.00 Surplus \$250,000.00 United States Depository for Postal Savings Funds SAVINGS ACCOUNTS of \$1.00 or more received on which interest is allowed at the rate of 3% per annum. CHECKING ACCOUNTS invited on the most favorable terms consistent with safe banking. HIGH GRADE BONDS secured by First Mortgages on Catholic Church property, netting from 5% to 6%.

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