

# JUNIOR THE CALL SECTION

ISSUED EVERY SATURDAY FOR THE BOYS AND GIRLS OF SAN FRANCISCO AND CALIFORNIA

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., DECEMBER 25, 1909.—THE JUNIOR CALL

## HAVE YOU SEEN ALONZO? HE IS SNOWED UNDER WITH PRESENTS

### Toy Airships

Toy flying machines are now made in great variety as to styles and sizes and range in price from 25 cents up to \$50. The lower priced toys of this sort, says the New York Sun, are little metallic airships which do not actually fly, but when driven by a propeller wheel operated by clock work swing out and describe a horizontal circle in the air while suspended at the end of a cord.

There are flying machines of this kind fashioned in imitation of the Zeppelin airship in various sizes up to a length of 8 or 10 inches. There are also clockwork, bird shaped flying machines with wings spreading 8 or 10 inches, and with the propeller wheel placed in front, that sell for 50 cents and 75 cents.

The most striking of the clockwork flying machines that are worked swing around suspended, is modeled after the Wright machine, with its planes about a foot in width. It sells for \$6.

The machine that sells for \$50 will actually fly. It weighs five pounds. Its length is 5 feet 4 inches and its spread of wings or planes from tip to tip is 5 feet 6 inches. It has a frame of wood supported on the regulation roller wheels, three in number, on which it rolls along the ground preparatory to starting on its flight. It has four wings, placed horizontally and all in the same plane, two on each side, one back of the other, and it has a regulation propeller of wood with two narrow blades, the wheel being about 20 inches in diameter.

Power for this machine is supplied by a stout thick piece of rubber, which extends from the extreme front end of the machine's frame along its top to the wheel at the back, and which is free, except at the extreme ends. To get the power to move this machine the rubber strip is twisted by means of the propeller wheel used as a crank. Thus, when the propeller is released the rubber uncoils itself along its length, communicating power to the propeller. This flying machine will fly two blocks.

### Goat Runs Away in Golden Gate Park

Little Miss Virginia Hazelton, a younger junior tourist from Chicago, was rescued from a thrilling runaway in Golden Gate Park last Sunday by Mounted Policeman Thomas Daly.

It is true the runaway was only "Pluto," one of the goats that hauls little travelers about on sightseeing tours at the park, and he was not running over fast, but he was completely beyond the control of the child driver and she was as greatly terrorized as though she had been sitting behind a fractious horse, and when she realized that she was safe she threw her chubby baby arms about the neck of the big policeman and smothered his face with kisses and told him that he was "just the bravest man."

Daly made no report of the incident to his superior officer, but he says he would not trade those baby kisses and the words of thanks given him by the baby girl for the biggest gold medal ever given a police hero.

### Lightning Holes

It is generally known that lightning striking the ground sometimes forms tubes lined with fused minerals, but comparatively few persons have ever seen these phenomena. Lately, during a thunder storm in Essex, England, a ball of fire which seemed to cast darts in all directions was seen to descend from the clouds. There was a crashing explosion and afterward in an outfield three distinct sets of holes, ranging from nine inches down to one inch in diameter, were found in the ground. They were perfectly circular, diminishing in size as they went deeper, and were cut through the yellow clay as clean as auger holes.

### The Great Auk

An egg of the great auk was sold in London lately for \$1,575, the highest price ever paid for an egg. This one was not fresh, either, being more than 70 years old.

There will never be any more auks' eggs, for the birds have been extinct more than half a century. The last of them were seen in 1844 on a small island off the coast of Newfoundland.

The great auk was abundant along the coast of North America from the arctic circle to Massachusetts bay when the first white men came; but because it could not fly, nor run fast, it became an easy victim and had to perish. It was a web footed marine bird somewhat resembling a duck, but very much larger. The body was sometimes three feet long, making the bird almost as large as an ostrich.



### A Pet Monkey

A Paris contemporary dealing with the love of great men for animals gives an amusing account of Chateaubriand and his monkey. When he was engaged in preparing De Fontanes' works for the press, on returning one day he was met by his monkey. "Ah, you rogue," said Chateaubriand, "your shamefaced look tells of mischief." The monkey was chained up, but as things did not appear much disturbed Chateaubriand thought no more of the matter until it was time to resume work. De Fontanes' manuscripts were not to be found.

At last Chateaubriand looked into the waste paper basket, and there were the manuscripts. The monkey had watched his master, and as he had seen him fold a sheet of paper and tear it into four, so he had dealt with De Fontanes' writings. With much labor they were pieced together and afterward published.

Chateaubriand thought it advisable to see what else the monkey had done. His orders had disappeared from a drawer which was always kept closed. The servants searched everywhere for them, but they were not to be found. Nearly a week elapsed before they were traced, and then a domestic noticed that the monkey had suspended them to the cornice in a quasi symmetrical way.

The monkey was given his conge, and Chateaubriand replaced him by a cat, which was allowed a place on his master's writing table, and great was the pleasure which he derived in playing with puss.

### An Interesting Clock

At the Southern electrical and industrial exposition held in Louisville, Ky., a very interesting clock was exhibited. This clock is different from the ordinary timepiece in having no hands. Minutes are indicated by means of 60 radial rows of lights, each containing 32 electric globes. The hours are indicated by shorter rows of colored lights. In place of the hands two lines of light sweep over the face of the dial, one indicating minutes and the other hours. Each second an illumination in an outer circle of lights moves forward one lamp, and when an entire circuit has been completed the row of minute lights is advanced one interval. The hour hand moves at five minute intervals. The dial is formed on the face of a huge pendulum, which swings to and fro over an arc of 15 feet. The pendulum is 48 feet long and its weight, with the 5,485 lamps and 11,000 connections required, is 3,000 pounds.

### Wireless in the Ice Floes

A complete test of wireless telegraphy in tropical and arctic seas is about to be made. The scout cruisers Salem and Birmingham, equipped with the most elaborate wireless outfit ever placed aboard an American war vessel, have been detailed for that purpose. The Salem sailed from Charlestown navy yard on the 5th of December for a cruise through tropical seas and arctic ice floes, and the Birmingham is expected to follow soon. The tests will extend over a period of four months.

### Flowers by Post

Flowers that have been sent through the post, especially carnations and roses, should have the ends of the stems snipped off and be then placed in a bowl of hot water and allowed to stand in the dark for a few hours.

Even delicate flowers travel well if the heads are carefully wrapped round with tissue paper and the stalks protected with cotton wool. They should be packed as closely together as possible, and the box lined with plenty of tissue paper.

### To Study Radium

A "Radium Institute" has been formed in New York by prominent scientists and physicians. Wealthy New Yorkers have promised money support. This will be needed, for radium is very expensive. In connection with a New York hospital the institute will use radium to cure certain diseases, and in connection with Columbia university it hopes to establish a laboratory in which to experiment with this wonderful substance.

### Cotton in California

Cotton is being grown in the Imperial valley, and it is confidently predicted that this industry will soon rank among the most important resources of California. Cotton is also promised as an export from Hawaii, one of the eight islands of the Hawaiian group now being given up entirely to the crop.

### Henlein and the Clock

Not long ago the town of Nuremberg, in Germany, together with the society of German clock makers, caused to be erected a monument to the memory of one Peter Henlein. Four hundred years ago Henlein substituted springs for weights in clocks and thus prepared the way for the watch. His work also meant that clocks could be made smaller, since length was no longer required for the fall of the weight. It is probable that the first spring was not coiled as at present, but that it consisted of a strip fastened at one end, with a string at the other and pulled down and coiled around the driving wheel. The spring thus acted like the sapling in a noose trap. Its play was limited, and the timepiece soon ran down.

### Remains of Indian Feasts

A biological expedition from Amherst college has been examining the numerous prehistoric shell heaps on the Maine coast. Some of these heaps are thought to be 1,000 years old. It seems that they are the remains of great feasts held by the Indians, or by some other race. Mingled with the shells of clams and oysters are the bones of deer, of bears, of turkeys and of the same kinds of fish now found along the Maine shores. Near by there are the remains of the fires in which the food was probably cooked. So large are some of the heaps of shells and bones that it seems as though thousands of people must have partaken of the banquet. Evidently the Indians used to have good times at their feasts before the white men came.