

EAST COAST UNDERTAKERS ARE CALLED ON FOR ASSISTANCE

Undertaking Establishments Give Up Entire Stocks of Formaldehyde to Preserve Monster Fish—Nineteen Barrels Are Used.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION. RUSHES EXPERT TO SCENE

Captain Thompson's Efforts to Save His Great Prize More Heroic and Thrilling Than Its Capture.

IT WAS an eventful day in Miami's history when Captain Charles H. Thompson finally landed his strange and mysterious deep sea monster and had it hauled up on the ways at the local docks. It is safe to say that no less than ten thousand people were eye-witnesses to the scene who remember it as though it happened yesterday.

As already explained in previous articles, the fish is the largest known in history and it is believed by many, including the leading theologians of the country, that it was a fish of this species that swallowed the prophet Jonah, as no other fish known to naturalists could have accomplished the feat.

The fish is of wonderful interest, not alone on account of its tremendous size, but from a scientific and zoological standpoint as well, as it is the only one of its species ever captured.

Captain Thompson was quick to recognize the great value of his stupendous prize and with characteristic energy and foresight he at once began the huge task of preserving it. To accomplish this great task he displayed as much courage and heroism as he did in capturing the monster. As a matter of fact it required as much nerve and fortitude to preserve this monster mass of flesh as it did to capture it in the terrific battle which lasted thirty-nine hours.

Police Force Called Out.
The crowd that swarmed around the monster after it was gotten on the wharf at Miami, was so great that in pure self-defense Captain Thompson was forced to call out the police force to maintain order while he rigged up a canvas screen around the creature. Two men were kept busy for the entire day passing the people in and out so that all might have a chance to see the monster.

In the meantime Captain Thompson had wired the authorities of the Smithsonian Institution at Washington advising them of his remarkable capture and asking for advice and assistance in preserving it. No response was forthcoming, the authorities evidently suspecting that they were called on to deal with another one of the "big fish stories" about which they were accustomed to hear such exaggerated statements at this season of the year.

Captain Thompson was beginning to feel apprehensive regarding the situation, when upon Dr. Guder, a gentleman whose scientific attainments were not unknown in Washington, wired a confirmation of the captain's remarkable claim and strongly advised that in the interest of science, the Smithsonian Institution should lend all possible aid in preserving such a rare specimen for the benefit of posterity.

The result was an immediate answer with instructions as to the proper course to be pursued, and also recommending that Professor J. S. Warmbath, an eminent naturalist and expert taxidermist, who had accompanied one of Peary's polar expeditions, be engaged to prepare and mount the big fish.

"But before Professor Warmbath could arrive," said Captain Thompson, in relating the story of his great undertaking, "I soon realized that drastic steps had to be taken if I would save my prize.

"The monstrous piece of flesh, lying there in the hot sun, was showing unmistakable signs of decomposition. Of course no kind of fish smells exactly like that of roses, no matter how fresh it may be, so when people began complaining of the odor and were edging away from its vicinity and when the board of health took action and declared the carcass a menace to the health of the community, I got busy right away.

Wires Undertakers for Help.
"I had already wired to all the undertaking establishments on the East Coast from Jacksonville to Key West, asking for assistance and also buying every gallon of formaldehyde I could get.

"The great, lubberly carcass was gotten into the water and towed across Biscayne bay forty miles out to a desert sandspit where, with the assistance of a number of hands, I set to work to save my prize.

VAST THROUNGS FLOCK TO SEE WEIRD DEEP SEA MYSTERY

CONSERVATIVELY ESTIMATED THAT EXHIBITION WILL BE SEEN BY AT LEAST 10,000 PEOPLE WHILE HERE.

Not in recent years, perhaps has anything aroused such widespread interest and discussion among all classes of people in Pensacola as has this unique exhibit. Undoubtedly it has attracted more attention than anything of the kind which ever came here before.

Many thousands of visitors have crowded the yacht since it has been here and many have been so profoundly impressed and have become so intensely interested with what they have seen that they have gone away and have urged their friends not to miss the opportunity to see the greatest zoological wonder of all times.

On account of the wonderful amount of interest shown it is now conservatively estimated that the exhibition will be seen by at least ten thousand people during the next few days. It is now believed, in fact, that Pensacola will almost equal Tampa's record, where the fish was seen by many thousands of people.

Among the thousands who have already seen the exhibit were a number from nearby towns, some of whom came from a distance of fifty and sixty miles away. Already the people of other cities are beginning to make inquiries and have urgently requested Captain Thompson to include those towns in his itinerary. The captain now has the matter under advisement and will announce his decision later in the week.

Although there are several lecturers aboard Captain Thompson's yacht who explain the many facts of interest regarding the fish, Captain Thompson himself seems to be the center of attraction and he is called upon to answer a great many curious questions. "It is surprising," said the captain,

Facts of Interest About the Deep Sea Monster

- Measures 45 feet in length. Weighs 15 tons or thirty thousand pounds.
- Its liver alone weighed 1,700 pounds or more than ten full grown men put together.
- It is twenty-three feet around the body and its tail measures ten feet from tip to tip.
- It had swallowed an octopus weighing one thousand five hundred pounds which was still alive in its stomach when caught.
- It could have swallowed twenty Jonahs without suffering the slightest pang of indigestion.
- It smashed a boat into thousands of pieces and crushed the rudder and propeller of a thirty-one ton yacht with a single swish of its mighty tail.
- Five harpoon thrusts and one hundred and fifty large calibre rifle bullets only served to increase its fury and it took five days to finally kill it.
- The battle lasted thirty-nine hours—two days and a night—in open sea with monster dragging small boat at express train speed for hundreds of miles.
- Smithsonian authorities believe that the creature was an inhabitant of depths more than fifteen hundred feet below the surface and that it was blown up by some subterranean or volcanic upheaval which injured its diving apparatus so it was unable to return to its native depths.
- Its hide is three inches thick and enabled it to withstand the most enormous water pressure, a pressure almost inconceivable to man. Its eyes, which are very small, have no lids and were never closed, indicating that it lived at a depth where eyes were of no avail.
- The creature is not classified in natural history, the genus or species is unknown and it is not only the most remarkable zoological specimen but the largest specimen of the fish tribe known in history.
- Although the largest fish ever captured, scientists claim it was only a baby of its tribe and if it had lived to attain full growth it would have been two and one-half times as large.
- Every undertaking establishment on the Florida East Coast from Jacksonville to Key West gave up their entire supply of formaldehyde to preserve the monster and over nineteen barrels were used.
- It was mounted by J. S. Warmbath, the celebrated taxidermist of the Smithsonian Institution, who was also chosen to accompany Admiral Peary on his famous trip to the Pole.
- Now on exhibition in Pensacola at Captain Bennie Edmondson's wharf on board Captain Thompson's large, sea-going yacht which he built at a cost of \$50,000. Hours 10:00 a. m. to 10:30 p. m.

of more than \$5,000. I was proud of the achievement, for I found myself in possession of the greatest example of the taxidermist's art in America, if not in the world. The Deep Sea Mystery now appears exactly as it did when it was first taken out of the water.

Fish Has Beautiful Lines.
"To say that I was delighted with the results of my labors expresses it mildly (or one could not conceive of a more beautiful or perfect specimen of the true fish species. One would imagine on hearing of the enormous size of the creature that it would be more or less of a monstrosity and would have an awkward, ungainly, lubberly appearance. Just the opposite is true, however, as no fish ever possessed finer or more graceful lines.

"Many doubting Thomases," continued Captain Thompson, "ignorant of natural history, on seeing the Deep Sea Mystery for the first time are ready to assert their belief that it is nothing but a whale. It has been entirely settled

WONDERFUL MARINE EXHIBIT ON CAPTAIN THOMPSON'S YACHT

Collection Contains Many Rare Specimens and Is Considered One of the Finest and Most Complete in America.

Second only in interest to the Deep Sea Mystery itself, which is attracting thousands of visitors to Captain Thompson's yacht at Captain Bennie Edmondson's wharf, is the captain's marvelous marine exhibit, which is considered by many who have seen it to be one of the finest and most complete private collections in America.

Among the rare specimens are an octopus, one of the most repulsive creatures imaginable; a devil-fish; hammerhead shark; angel fish, a giant sail fish, with a sail two and half feet long and one and a half feet wide; a giant barracuda over seven feet long and that weighed 150 pounds and with a mouth and teeth large enough to bite a man's arm off, to say nothing of hundreds of other marvels of the great deep, all of which are shown in their natural forms and colors.

One of the most interesting and singular specimens of the entire collection is the baby hammerhead shark, with the singular elongated head from which it derives its name. The eyes are situated on the extreme outer edge of the "hammer," so that it can cover an unusually wide range of vision. The hammerheads grow to a length of fifteen feet and bring forth their young alive.

The tiger shark is the terror of the presence of enemies, when danger threatens, where food is to be found and so on. Some fishes are so sensitive as to be able to distinguish between vibrations caused by a stone or a piece of bread dropped in the water, even at a distance of twenty-five feet or more.

"The bones of some fishes are of a cartilaginous nature and remain so at their lives. In others the cartilage hardens, or ossifies, as the fish attains maturity. The vertebrae of the Deep Sea Mystery is composed of cartilaginous plates which show the beginning of ossification. This fact is indubitable proof that the creature was far from the adult age, was in fact a baby. Such an animal would be of extremely slow growth and it might take several hundred, if not a thousand, years to arrive at maturity.

"These and other details revealed by the internal anatomy of the creature, leave no shadow of a doubt that the Deep Sea Mystery is a true fish, but of a species hitherto unheard of or seen in any part of the world since recorded history began. It is therefore a unique specimen and will doubtless remain so for a long time to come."

Appearing just as it did when it first came out of the water in the natural

LOUD-TALKING MAN ORDERED RELEASED

George W. Gillings, the late of Man citizen, who came to this country and Thursday had trouble talking too loud in a moving picture theatre, at the time a patriotic speaker had the stage, was yesterday afternoon ordered released by Judge Sheppard of the United States District Court.

NON-SUIT ENTERED.
Non-suit was entered in the United States District Court yesterday in the case of Clarence Smith against the Escambia Mill Company, claiming \$5,000 damages for alleged personal injuries.

DR. J. I. VANCE ELECTED ASSEMBLY MODERATOR

DURANT, Okla., May 17.—Dr. James I. Vance, of Nashville, Tenn., was elected moderator this afternoon by the Southern Presbyterian general assembly.

CATARRH OF THE BLADDER
SANTAL MIDY
CAPSULES
RELIEVED IN 24 HOURS

Subscribe for The Journal.

If It's Meats
If It's Vegetables
If It's Chickens or Eggs
If It's Fish of Any Kind

PHONE US
The Parlor Market
173-174 PHONES-174



Get Long Battery Life Through Good Battery Care

Unless you give your battery the care it deserves you can't expect it to keep on giving you the service you demand.

You can't get that service day in and day out unless you add distilled water—unless you keep the battery charged.

You can get every mile of

service there is in that battery if you just follow carefully a few simple directions.

We'll be glad to tell you just how to take care of your battery if you'll stop for a few minutes. And also ask us about the Still Better Willard Battery with Threaded Rubber Insulation.

STORAGE BATTERY

Willard

SERVICE STATION

Copyright registered, 1918

Pensacola Launch and Machine Co.
P. L. BROWN, Manager PHONE 662