THIS CURIOUS WORLD

By William Ferguson

RATTLESNAKES, moccasins and copperheads belong to the New World tribe of pit vipers, but only recently has definite progress been made in determining what part these facial pits play in the snake's life. Now it seems that they are highly developed sense organs, responding to heat and air vibrations.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

February 13.

JESUS ON THE MOUNTAIN AND IN THE VALLEY

Mark 9: 2-29

PRINTED TEXT, Mark 9: 2-8 17-27.

GOLDEN TEXT. — I believe; help thou mine unbelief. Mark 9 24.

Memory Verse: God . . . careth for you. 1 Peter 5: 7.

Time.—Autumn A.D. 29.

Place.—The transfiguration took place on Mt. Hermon, far in the north of Palestine; the healing of the demon — possessed boy took place near the southern foot of this mountain.

The Invited Three

"And after six days Jesus taketh with him, Peter, and James, and John, and bringeth them up into a high mountain apart by themselves. And he was transfigured before them." Our Lord took with Him the three who also were with Him in the Garden of Gethsemane. It was while our Lord was in the act of prayer that he was transfigured. The word transfigured implies more than a change of mere outward semblance.

The Transfigured Lord

"And his garments, became glistering exceeding white, so as no fuller on earth can whiten them." The business of a fuller in ancient times was to cleanse and whiten linen garments.

The Heavenly Visitors

"And there appeared unto them Elijah with Moses: and they were talking with Jesus." We should carefully note that Peter did not selfishly ask that a tabernacle might be built for himself, but only for his Lord and the two visitors who had come from the other world. Matthew tells us that they were so awed and afraid that they could not bear the glory of the scene. They were amazed and stupefied.

The Voice From Heaven

"And there came a cloud over shadowing them: and there came a voice out of the cloud. This is my beloved Son: hear ye him. And suddenly looking round about, they saw no one any more, save Jesus only with themselves." The representatives of the Law and the Prophets depart. The whole scene was changed in a moment and only Jesus, as the disciples had known Him, was seen. As the disciples lay prostrate and stupefied with terror, and Christ touched them and spoke His word of cheer, they were relieved of their fears and lifted up their eyes again.

The Disciples' Failure

"And one of the multitude answered him Teacher, . . . bring him unto me." We have seen the Saviour's compassion; here we see how great was His forbearance—'how long shall I suffer you?' In His words—'bring him unto me'—we hear the note of love, of authority, of confidence. He did not turn away in spite of the faithlessness of those present, but confident of His inherent power to cure the hardest case calls for the love to be brought forward.

The Evil Spirit's Work

"And they brought him unto him . . . but if Thou canst do anything, have compassion on us, and help us." This was the work of the evil spirit within the youth. When the devil within him saw Jesus about to work, he matched his power against Christ's

Faith, Not Power

"And Jesus said unto him, if thou canst! All things are possible to him that believeth." The father had said. 'If Thou canst do anything'. Jesus says, 'If thou canst believe.' The question was not, 'Is there power', but 'Is there faith.'

"Straightway the father of the child cried out, and said, I believe; help thou my unbelief." How can we fully and freely believe? First we must confess the faith that we have, as this man did. Then we must appeal to Christ to be helped against our unbelief, as this man did. Finally, we must bring the case to Christ.

Christ's Healing Power

"And when Jesus saw that a multitude came running together . . . . But Jesus took him by the hand, and raised him up; and he arose."

Christ's words center no more into him shows the completeness of the miracle and Christ's care for the future of this youth. In the grip of Christ there was power, healing power. The weak exhausted lad found himself possessed with new life and vitality when his hand was grasped by Christ. He was lifted; but even as he was raised he found himself able to rise with the new strength which had entered into him.

LEADS CANADIANS

Major General Chris Vokes, 39, of Winnipeg and Ottawa is in command of a Canadian division in Italy. He is Canada's youngest general, and commanded the 2nd Infantry Brigade of the Canadian 1st Division in Sicily where he won the D.S.O.

The Book Shelf

The Colonel's Lady

By Helen Montgomery

"There may be girls nowadays who feel poorly equipped to cope with Army life, but I am a little vain of my position of Most Ignorant Army Bride of All Time, and I have no notion of giving it up without a fight."

This is the way the Colonel's Lady, Helen Montgomery (Jones) begins her story of life as an Army wife; the most amusing book we have seen in many years.

Married in 1924, when Lieutenant Jones was just graduated from West Point, they spent a short time at their first army post in the United States and then sailed for China. Despite domestic crises precipitated by their lack of knowledge of the Chinese language — on one occasion they were served "fried eggs and cream cheese" instead of "frogs legs and green peas" — they were enchanted with the land and its people.

After their return to America the Jones were moved from one post to another, struggling always to make a lieutenant's pay do for themselves and their three children. In 1935 the tide turned, Lieutenant Jones became Captain Jones and they started up the ladder that has ended in a Colonelcy.

The Colonel's Lady . . By Helen Montgomery . . . The Oxford University Press . . . Price $3.00.

Battling Basutos

Basutos who are greatly esteemed as fighting men in our African army, have one big "defect" which will tickle military men greatly. They actually love drilling so much that they do it their spare time as amusement.

The result is that, to find suitable punishment for minor delinquencies, C.O.'s have solemnly to forbid the offenders to take part in any drills, regular, extra or voluntary. It sounds very odd, but the fact is officially vouched for.

Skip-Bombing

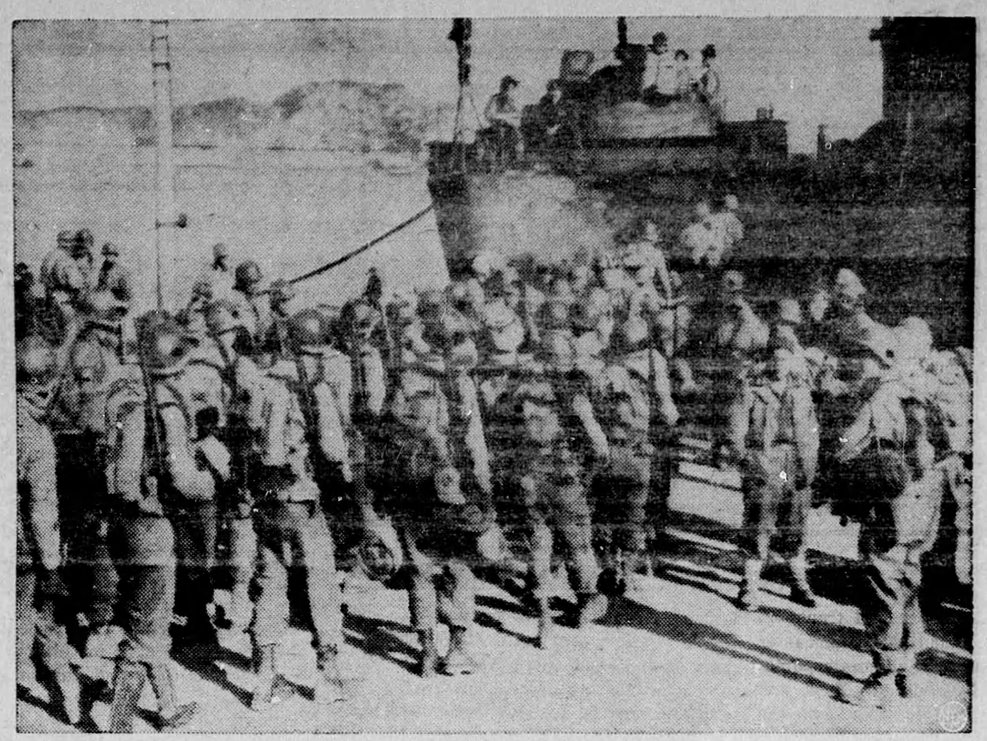
The new technique of skip-bombing was brought to success in the battle of the Bismarck Sea and in the Mediterranean, says the New York Times. Skip-bombing is a cross between dive bombing and shelling. Sometimes the bomb is aimed to bounce on the water and ricochet into a ship's side, and sometimes the bomb is dropped earlier so that it bounces, falls into the sea and strikes the target below the water line. In a third method the bomb is released at a higher level close to the ship to strike before a vertical dropping position is attained. At Pantelleria low-flying planes skipped bombs into caves which were used as underground hangars.

The Husky

The husky is a dog native to northern North America from Alaska to Labrador. He is usually wolf-gray in color (indeed, he has some wolf blood in him) and is much used for a draft and pack animal.

The name husky is said to be derived from an Algonquin Indian word for eskimo. In the early days the white Missionaries called the Labrador natives "huskemaws," a form of the word esquimaux. Curiously enough, the name husky was first applied to the natives themselves and only later on came to be identified with the eskimo dogs.

SHORT-CUT ON THE ROAD TO ROME



At an unnamed Italian port Allied troops file aboard an invasion ship enroute to the surprise landing behind the German lines, south of Rome. Expecting a bitterly opposed landing, Lieut Gen. Mark Clark's forces were themselves surprised when the beachhead was established with very little resistence.

CHRONICLES of GINGER FARM

By Gwendoline P. Clarke

* * * * *

If this war teaches us anything at all it certainly should make us realize how interdependent every country, every race, every industry and every individual is upon the rest of the world. It is true from the highest to the lowest. No man—or nation—can live unto himself alone. We find evidence of that every day—in the home, on the farm, on the battlefield and on the sea. And so often it is the little things that count — little people, little jobs and little boats. Yes, especially little boats.

* * *

Do you remember the scene in "Mrs. Miniver" where the little boats rescued the men from Dunkirk? Little boats—not battleships or destroyers, but small, unimportant pleasure yachts and fishing smacks. And do you realize how dependent we still are upon the little boats for the safety of our loved ones and for the shipment of everything they need on the battlefront. No, it isn't the little boats that carry the men and supplies, but it is the little boats that make it possible for the bigger boats to ride the seas with their precious cargoes.

* * *

All these thoughts have come to me as a result of some verses I received last week. They were sent by a reader of this column who, apparently, wishes to remain anonymous. Here is the poem:

"THE HOUSEMAIDS OF THE SEA"

By David B. Cunningham

The little boats of the fishing fleet,
Emily, Susan and Jane,
Sail out with steadfast hearts to meet
Danger and death and pain.

Not theirs to battle the great Graf Spee,
But they must softly tread,
As they keep the mine-strewn sea lanes free
From Penzance to Malin Head.

They proved their valour long ago,
When Drake was matched with Spain,
And now from Devon to Scapa Flow,
They prove it once again.

As, out where the lurking sea-mine floats,
They gamble with death and life—
The little salt-lipped fishing-boats
From Grimsby, Hull and Fife.

They seek their safety on bended knees,
For they see their duty plain,
And sweep the floors of the coastwise seas—
Emily, Susan and Jane.

That poem almost makes me homesick. I can see those little boats—not as they are now but as they used to be. I can see the herring boats along the quay at Yarmouth . . . trawlers coming into the dock at Harwich and little boats with red sails off the coast of Somerset — "red sails in the sunset."

* * *

Oh well, this is 1944, and we are a long way from England — and on a farm, and we do find a few little things to keep us occupied from daylight to dark. Last week it was things like cleaning stove-pipes and chimneys. You see we have finally come to the end of that soft coal I have done so much talking about so we really went after those pipes in a big way and then while I was cleaning flues and stoves Partner was scraping the chimney. I wish you could have seen the pair of us when we were through! And actually, we didn't have any callers. Three times I went over the dining-room floor on my hands and knees—twice to wash it and once to wax it. And after that I scrubbed the kitchen floor. The next day I wouldn't have gone down on my knees for a fortune. That job done I set up a quilt for the Red Cross and invited some friends in to help with the work. We didn't get it finished so that will be another job for this week.

* * *

We are still enjoying the most marvellous weather. It almost seems too good to be true — we keep wondering what has happened to Canada—"Our Lady of the Snows". Some farmers are beginning to shake their heads—there is a water-shortage—and what is going to happen to the wheat and clover? That is what every farmer would like to know, but whatever is likely to happen, worrying about it won't stop it.

AUTHOR

HORIZONTAL

1,8 Pictured famous author
14 Fixes.
16 Loop with running knot.
17 Vigor.
18 Slender stick.
19 Posture.
20 Thing (law.).
21 Symbol for selenium.
22 Mother.
23 Established value.
24 Male sheep.
25 Organ of sight
27 Belonging to him.
28 Music note.
29 Upon.
30 Sword.
32 Postscript (abbr.).
33 System of occult theosophy
34 Fish eggs.
35 Half an em.
37 Train of attendants.
39 Place.
40 Hypothetical structural unit
42 Behold!
43 Doctor of Science (abbr.).
44 Light tap.
46 Eras.
48 Was seated.
50 Refer.
52 Diaphanous.
54 Clearer.
55 Small river.
56 Resident of Vienna.

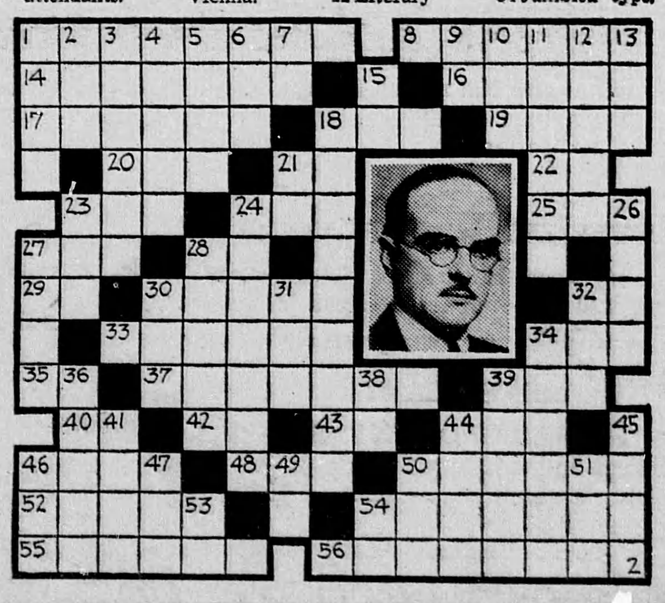
Answer to Previous Puzzle

M	I	L	L	A	R	D	F	I	L	L	M	O	R	E
	N		S	T	I	R		R	A	T	E		E	
S	T	E		E	D	I	T	O	R	S		L	B	S
	E	A	T		S	P	E	N	D		N	E	O	
O	R	R	I	S		S	S	E		V	E	E	R	S
A	N	S	A	T	E		T		H	A	W	K	E	D
			R	E	N	T		D	O	R	Y			
D	R	E	A	M	S				P	E	O	P	L	E
R	O	L	E	S						C	R	E	E	L
	T	A	D						B		K	E	A	
B	A	N		E					O	M		N	N	W
	T		M	P					R	O	D		E	
S	E	R	A	I					N	A	M	E	R	S

MILLARD FILLMORE

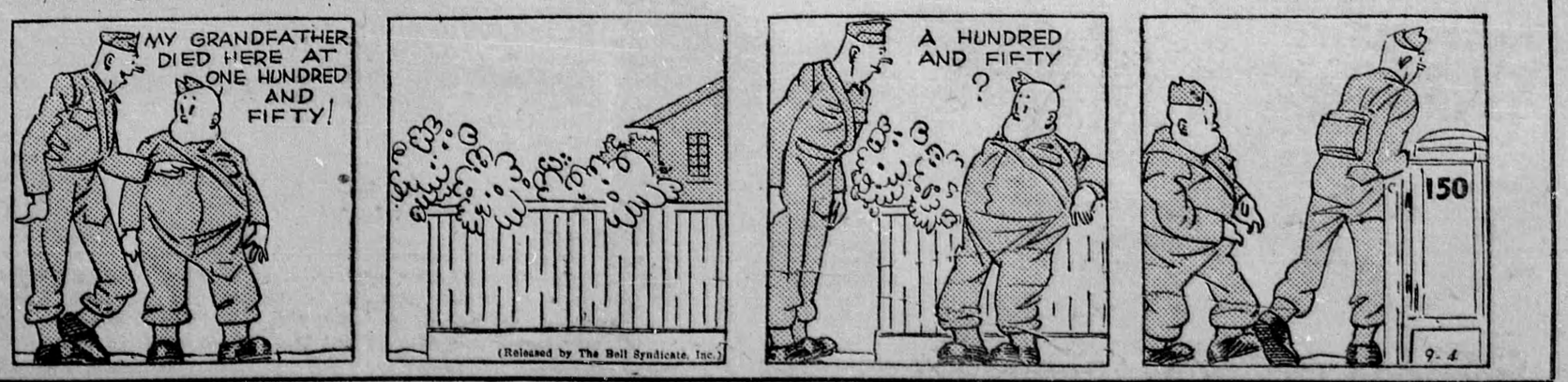
VERTICAL

1 Woody plant.
2 Fowl.
3 Musical dramas.
4 Scarcer.
5 Cuts off edges, as on coins.
6 Attempt.
7 Bone.
9 Within.
10 To trim.
11 Ill-fated.
12 Literary composition.
13 Wild (Scot.).
15 Accomplish.
18 Dutch painter.
21 South America (abbr.).
23 Fastener.
24 Turned-down collars.
26 Relieve.
27 Sharpen.
28 Tag.
30 Sardinia (abbr.).
31 Biblical name.
32 Cooking utensil.
34 Tune again.
36 Darkness.
38 You and I.
39 Crude potash.
41 Animal.
44 Arrangement.
45 In this place.
46 Onager.
47 Observe.
49 Like.
50 Beverage.
51 Of the (Fr.).
53 Sun god.
54 Jumbled type.



POP—Aged in the Wood

By J. MILLAR WATT



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