Camels Are Desert "Newly-Arrived's"

It is startling, but incontestably true, that the camel, which we always associate with the desert scene, was not used in the Sahara until well into the Christian Era.

The camel was imported into North Africa from the East and came tardily and gradually. Or rather came back. In prehistoric days it had existed in the coastal regions that are now called Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco. Its bones have been dug up. But the wild camel died off before man learned to use it.

The slowness of the process by which the camel—the much-needed camel—moved westward from Asia Minor toward and into the Saharra is a puzzle. One would have thought that this seemingly Heaven-sent desert vehicle of transport would have swept into popularity in a few years. But it took centuries.

In early historic days even Egypt so close to the East, had no camels. The father of Rameses II was obliged to have a cistern built in the desert east of the Nile so that his men could reach the gold mines without risking death by thirst, they having had no transport but asses to carry water for their journey. By the seventh century B.C., there is noted the limited use of camels in Egypt . . .

A small, but significant circumstance which I have noted is that at Alexandria, which was far closer to the East whence camels came, and at a considerably later date than that of Alexander the Great's pilgrimage, the celebrated procession . . . included camels along with exotic and unfamiliar beasts like zebras, a white bear, a rhinoceros. It seems obvious that camels must still have been much of a rarity, else they would not have been given a place in this great show . . .

In short, at least a thousand years elapsed between the first introduction of the camel into North Africa, in Egypt, and its adoption as a regular means of transport. Yet it was the camel alone that was capable of, and eventually did, open up that immense trans Saharan trade which made Mediterranean Africa rich and brilliant in the Middle Ages and gave splendor and culture to the Negro empires by the Niger.

Before camels came, such desert travel as there was used horses specially trained to go two days without a drink. Pack oxen, also so trained, carried water skins. Asses helped, too.—From "North African Prelude: The First 7,000 Years," by Galbraith Welch.

Cost Of Living High In Russia

The British Foreign Office has given, without comment, a list of prices in Russia after the February 28 revaluation of the ruble, quoting the wage of a skilled Russian worker as from 500 to 1,500 rubles, equivalent to $126 to $378 a month.

Unskilled workers' wages were said to range from 250 rubles, or $63, a month.

Taking the value of the ruble at 25 cents, the prices given were:

Black bread: 2 rubles (50 cents) a two-pound loaf.

Milk: 3 rubles 60 kopeks a liter, or about 50 cents a pint.

Chocolate: 145 to 200 rubles a klogram, or about $16.80 to $25 a pound.

Beef: 35 rubles or $4.34 a kilo (2.2 pounds).

Ham: 47 rubles, or more than $5.60 a pound.

Toilet soap: 3 rubles, or 70 cents a cake.

Women's shoes: From 450 to 540 rubles, or $63 to $134 a pair.

Men's shoes: From 200 to 470 rubles, or $50 to $117 a pair.

Handicapped, But Game—This boy, Robin Sutherland, is crippled but happy. Picture was taken at Blue Mountain camp, near Collingwood. It's one of three summer camps operated by the Ontario Society for Crippled Children. The Society's annual Easter Seals campaign for funds continues until April 9. Donations may be sent to "Timmy, Toronto."

Searching For "Extinct" Monsters

For many years scientists have agreed that there are more mysteries in the sea than are ever likely to be solved. Unlike the majority of us they have rarely been incredulous of the stories of monsters and mermaids that have entertained us for so long. And they have been even less so since December 22nd, 1938.

On that day they received the biggest shock in scientific history. A trawler fishing off the coast of East London, South Africa, found a strange, steel-blue fish in the catch.

Fins Like Arms

It measured five feet in length and its most unusual feature were its fins which had developed until they looked like arms or legs.

Because it was so unusual, the skipper had it preserved and sent to Dr. J. L. B. Smith of Rhodes University.

Dr. Smith examined the fish and his subsequent story shook the scientific world to its foundations. **The strange fish belonged to a species that has been extinct for 50,000,000 years—or thought to be.**

In other words this species has actually lived all that time, unknown to man.

Unfortunately, after Dr. Smith had finished, the mysterious fish was handed to a local taxidermist who stuffed it ,throwing the head and entrails away before biologists could examine them.

That is why, early in the New Year, an expedition of twenty-five scientists sailed to discover, if possible, the area where the species, must spawn and also to look for proof of the existence of other strange marine creatures.

If the seas can hold such a secret for so long, how many more surprises might there be in store for us? Perhaps in the not-so-distant future sceptics will be made to think again about the existence of the Loch Ness monster, for instance.

We—the laymen—laughed when officers of the Mauretania reported seeing a curious monster, even though their story was supported by passengers. We laughed when Hans Egede, the missionary, vouched for one, and even when members of the Zoological Society reported another.

We were even disbelieving when fifty foot carcases of unknown species have been washed up on the shores of India and Africa. Scientists, however, have not been so sceptical—at least not since 1938.

But what of mermaids?

Both Beebe and Barton have reported strange deep-sea fish that looked almost human, seen through the windows of their bathyspheres.

At the same time every sailor who sails the seas does not spend his life trying to spoof people. Scores of times they have told of mermaids, until constant jeers forced them to keep quiet. Yet they cannot all be wrong.

All Nonsense?

In 1891 a mermaid was reported to have been seen off the Orkneys, and all the newspapers carried the story. She was described as having a small black head and a milk-white body with long arms.

Two years later another mermaid was seen by a man and his wife at almost the same spot. They agreed she was beautiful and had lots of thick brown hair.

Nonsense?

Of course it is all silly nonsense. So was the atom bomb once. So was the motor car and the aeroplane.

"No Substance"—Ambassador-at-Large Philip Jessup speaks into a microphone as he arrives in New York from London. Jessup, who was accused by Sen. Joseph McCarthy of having "an unusual affinity for Communist causes," said there was "no substance" to McCarthy's claim of Communists in the State Dept.

Radio Murder

Convicted criminals in a state penitentiary are supposed to be a hardened lot. But some things are too much even for them to stomach. Judging by an article in the Monthly Record, a publication produced by inmates of the Connecticut State Prison radio crime is one of those things.

One contributor wrote:

I get glass-eyed with anger (when) I think how the radio crime presentation industry operates its debasing crime schools.

A barrage of how-to-do-it crime programs is pouring into the homes of the susceptible American public. Your kids are constantly being shown that if they aren't as stupid as the villains of the programs, they can easily get away with crime. Every teen ager knows he's not that stupid, so he begins getting ideas, and there's another youngster headed for skid row to get a gun and maybe ultimately a trip to the hot seat.

Headed "15,000 Murders a Month," the article expressed the view of a number of prisoners in the institution that programs dripping with guile and gore occupy altogether too large a proportion of the time on radio station schedules.

That is expert testimony. Who should know better what it takes to make a criminal than those who have made the grade, the downgrade?

The men in Wethersfield Prison are paying their debt to society When will the professional and commercial exploiters of a depraved taste for crime—the producers and sponsors of thinly veneered glorifications of the gunman and gun moll—begin to do as much?

Investigate-- Before You Join

Before you invest, investigate.

That's the advice of the Better Business Bureau and it makes sense whether applied in purchasing a washing machine, a security or joining some popular movement. It is particularly applicable just now **when it's hard to tell a Communist** shyster from a genuine social reformer.

Already a lot of organizations with fine democratic names have been exposed as ideological boiler shops. A lot of unthinking liberals and do-gooders who didn't investigate what they were getting into, have been left holding the bag. Today there are three or four worldwide Communist sales organizations. All are selling a highly marketable and desirable product — "Peace."

The line is this: "If war comes it will be the fault of the Trumaniacs. The Soviet Union wants to ban the Bomb. The others refuse to do so." In other words, condition our minds to accept the Big Lie that if war does come, it will be of our making, not Russia's.

One sales force aims at labor; another at women; a third at the "cultural" level—the arts, science, etc.—and a fourth at youth

The latter organization is called the World Federation of Democratic Youth. There's also a Women's International Democratic Federation and a World Federation of Trade Unions. The kingpin is the World Peace Congress. The boss of the Canadian branch, Dr. James Endicott, ex-United Church missionary, was in Moscow recently. His mission: to give a first-hand report on the Canadian Peace Movement.

Recently, the Communist youth movement staged a World Youth & Student Festival in Budapest, behind the Iron Curtain. A young American who attended, writing in a U.S. magazine article, said he was "appalled" by what he called the "defamation" of the West.

Among the hundresd of young delegates were 32 Canadians representing these organizations

National Federation of Labor Youth, National Committee of LPP Students, The Canadian Tribune, Student Christian Movement, Canadian Seamen's Union, United Jewish People's Order, Association of United Ukrainian Canadians, B. C. Woodworkers' International Union, CIO Fur and Leather Workers, "Vochenblatt" (Canadian Jewish Weekly) Kossuth Sick Benefit Society (Hungarian), Federation of Russian Canadians.

Except for the Student Christian Movement, all are either outright Communist affiliates or front organizations. At least 20 of the 32 delegates were known Communists. Some were members of the "Beaver Brigade." This is a Communist youth shock troop group. Since the war, they have made annual trips behind the Iron Curtain to work with pick and shovel on Communist work projects.

The Canadian party also included a contingent of musicians, dancers and singers. At least two of them are members of the Toronto Symphony and one holds a staff position with the Toronto Royal Conservatory of Music.

The leader of the delegation was Norman Penner, long a Communist. He is the head of the LPP's youth movement. From him and his Quebec deputy Camille Dionne, the conference got its report on the state of culture in Canada.

When he came back, Penner made a coast-to-coast tour carrying the Budapest message to the Canadian faithful and sympathizers.

What Penner and his world youth movement and all Communists are selling is totalitarianism done up in a fancy package. In a wrapper labeled "Democracy," it has been forced down the throat of much of Europe and now China.

Today more than ever before we should investigate before lending support to causes no matter how attractively presented. If we don't we are quite likely to find that our names and financial contributions are being used to undermine the very things we cherish most.

—From The Financial Post.

Housing Problem

In a big city department store, a woman was extremely interested in a display of doll houses. She examined each one very minutely. Finally, she stood in front of one, and when she read the exorbitant price tag, she was petrified. The saleslady, noticing her staring at the expensive doll house asked: "May I help you, madam?"

The woman smiled sweetly and replied: "Of course, you arrange for the mortgage on this!"

Blind Man is TV Fixer—Although he's though he's been blind for 13 years, Johnny Lizza, 25, is expanding his radio repair shop to television. By his sense of touch alone, Lizza can make most repairs on the complicated sets. He opened his radio shop in 1945, and hopes to save enough money for an eye operation.

"A Man Gets Mad Sometimes"—Emanuel Silva wrecked his cement truck on a hillside and escaped unhurt. That he could take A couple of days later, he was helping to haul the big truck up an embankment when it suddenly burst into flames. Then Silva saw red. He dashed to his sedan parked at the top of the embankment, gunned it and crashed into the burning truck. Emerging from his wrecked car unhurt, Silva said: "A man gets mad sometimes."

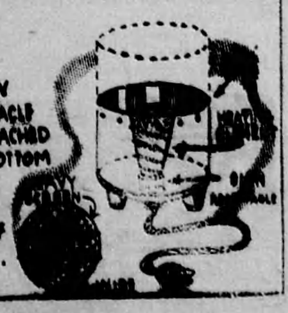
HOW — By Harold Arnett

PAINT MATCHING

TO MIX PAINT TO MATCH WORK ALREADY DONE, SMEAR SOME OF MIXTURE ON PIECE OF GLASS AND HOLD GLASS AGAINST SURFACE FOR COMPARISON. IF SWATCH DOESN'T MATCH, WIPE IT FROM GLASS BEFORE APPLYING ANOTHER SAMPLE.

HOT PLATE

MAKE HOT PLATE FROM TIN CAN AND HEAT-LAMP ELEMENT. SCREW HEATING ELEMENT INTO SIGN RECEPTACLE TO WHICH A PLUG AND CORD ARE ATTACHED AND FIT RECEPTACLE OVER HOLE IN BOTTOM OF TIN CAN. LET EDGE OF CAN EXTEND SLIGHTLY ABOVE TOP OF ELEMENT AND PUNCH HOLES IN EDGE OF CAN FOR WIRES TO SUPPORT A GRATE.



JITTER — By Arthur Pointer