

PERUVIAN HEAD HUNTERS' PRIZES

FOUR IN FIELD MUSEUM

Human Heads Shrunken to Size of Oranges Found by Expedition; Relics of Old Barbarism

Four human heads, slashed from the bodies of victims by Peruvian head hunters, and shrunken to the size of oranges for preservation as trophies, are now on exhibition in the South American hall of the department of anthropology at Field Museum of Natural History. A wide vista of speculation is opened by the fact that one of these heads is that of a white or partly white woman, determined by the distinctly European cast of the features. Who she was, and how she got into the hands of the savages to meet this tragic fate, must undoubtedly always remain a mystery. It is believed she was a woman of Spanish descent who lived in some Peruvian settlement near the habitation of the tribe.

Another of the heads is that of a man who had European blood in his veins; the remaining two are typically Indian.

Type of Gruesome Art

Shrunken heads of this type are products of a gruesome art known only to the Jivaro tribe of Indians, who dwell in the little explored regions of the Upper Amazon, at the base of the Andean Mountains, according to Dr. William M. McGovern, assistant curator in charge of South American ethnology at the museum. Dr. McGovern has explored the Jivaro territory, and is the author of several books on the South American wilds and the aborigines of the various countries.

The shrunken heads are usually those of enemies killed in battle, Dr. McGovern says. By a mysterious process the Jivaros reduce them to about one-fourth their original size, at the same time perfectly preserving them. The shape and proportion of the features are in no way affected. Although head hunting is quite common among savages in various parts of the world, this method of squeezing the heads is unique to the Indians of South America. Specimens today are exceedingly rare, and because of the great demand for them by museums and private collectors they now command large prices.

Many Explorers

"Many explorers have entered the Jivaro territory in an attempt to learn the secret of how these heads are prepared, but only in a very few cases have they met with any success, and more than one European has paid for his scientific curiosity by having his own head cut off and reduced to the size of a baseball," declared Dr. McGovern.

While much of the process is still a secret, a few details concerning the method of preparing these squeezed heads have been learned. On his own expedition in the Jivaro territory, Dr. McGovern learned the following essentials of the way it is done: Long slits are cut in the decapitated head, and all of the skull and facial bones are carefully removed, but in such a

way as not to disturb the features. The head is then boiled in water containing some astringent herb. After this, hot stones, of gradually decreasing size, are placed inside the head, causing the flesh slowly to contract. Finally the stones are removed and the slits are carefully sewn together. In most cases the lips are also sewn up, a precaution arising from the native belief in magic, and intended to prevent the victim from causing any harm to his slayer.

Old Custom

"The custom of head squeezing is very old among the Jivaros, and is still being practiced," says Dr. McGovern. "The Peruvian government has done its best to eradicate the practice, but as it still has little power to control these wild Indians, its efforts have not met with much success. In fact, following the law of supply and demand, head shrinking has tended to increase rather than decrease. The demand for these heads has been so great that the half-breed rubber gatherers of the Amazon Basin, who come into occasional contact with the Jivaros have been willing to pay what seems to the Indians fabulous prices for good specimens. The result has been that the Indians are always willing to oblige, even if they have to organize a special war to get

new heads for the trade. Recently the Peruvian government has tried to eliminate this traffic by prohibiting the export of the heads."

GENERAL MALONE TO GO TO PHILIPPINES

Announced That He Has Been Promoted to Command of That Division

Maj. Gen. Paul B. Malone, commander of the Sixth Corps Area, Chicago, has been relieved of that command to become commander of the Philippine Division in the Philippine Islands, it was announced Monday by the War Department.

Gen. Malone will relieve Maj. Gen. Johnson Hagood, now in command of the Philippine Division, who has been ordered to return to the States for another assignment.

Gen. Malone was ordered to sail for his new post from New York on May 3, 1929.

Gen. Malone became ranking officer of the Sixth Corps Area last June, when he succeeded Maj. Gen. Lassiter, who was also transferred to Philippine service. Previously Gen. Malone was commanding officer at Fort Sheridan.

STREET CAR RUNS DOWN STEEP HILL, WAUKEGAN

Slides from Rails When Brakes Fail, and Plunges Down Steep Incline

Sliding off of the end of the rails near the intersection of Sheridan road and Washington street, one of the large street cars operating on that line started on a rampage down the incline to Spring street and ended its flight only after it had crashed through the wall of the Chicago and North Western passenger station at 10 o'clock this morning.

The motorman, James Daley of 132 South Buttrick street, after failing in desperate efforts to stop the rampant street car leaped to safety a moment before it crashed into the building. There were no passengers on the car.

Breaking of a brake rod on the car was given as the reason for the flight of the car.

SEVERAL INJURED IN ROUND LAKE ACCIDENT

A woman was painfully hurt and four others escaped injury last week near Round Lake when two cars, one on the way to election the polls, collided with the election car, turning it over twice.

Irving Loftus, of Round Lake, was taking Mrs. Gehrke to the polls in Round Lake to vote at the time. Rev. Schmitz, of Round Lake, who was taking his mother and father for a ride, collided with Loftus near the Renehan place. Loftus' touring car turned over twice with Mrs. Gehrke suffering severe cuts about the face and head.

Loftus, except for a bump on his head, was uninjured. Rev. Schmitz and his passengers were unhurt also. Both cars were completely wrecked.

MUNDELEIN MAN IS HURT IN AUTO CRASH

Edgar Roder, 20 years old of Mundelein, suffered severe burns on his

legs and arms last week, when the Ford roadster in which he was riding from Libertyville to Mundelein turned over in the middle of the pavement and burned up just west of Libertyville.

The boy was taken to the Elizabeth Condell hospital in Libertyville by a passing motorist and Dr. Pannoy was called to attend him. His burns, according to the physician, are serious.

When Roder regained consciousness, he was unable to tell how the accident occurred. He said that the last he remembered was when his car gave a sudden lurch and turned over.

ALL BUT DOZEN VOTES CAST IN ONE PRECINCT

The interest in last week's election, which developed a record vote, is best disclosed in the report from the seventh precinct in Waukegan where all but 12 of the eligible voters in the precinct cast their ballot. All through the county this high record was common although not so near perfect as in the seventh.

Ravine Lots For Sale

You are invited to look at some beautiful wooded ravine lots at ORCHARD STREET, corner of Waukegan Ave. and on NAIDA TERRACE, just one short block south of Orchard Street. Tracts are about one-fourth, one-third, one-half and three-fourths acres and all are on ravines which will lend themselves to beautiful landscape effects. All lots have large oak trees and a variety of other trees and shrubbery.

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