

# Making Hay in the Alands.

Prepared by National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C.-WNU Service. N THE north of the Baltic sea,

where the breast of Finland swells toward the Swedish coast, there are 6,000 islands, to which belong all the surviving big sailing ships in the world; or, to be more exact, there are 6,554 islands, rock islets, tree-spattered specks of sea-encircled territory whose name is Aland and in whose small ports are registered 26 of the surviving square-rigged ships in commission in the world. Altogether there may be 31 now, counting a German, two Swedes, an American, and a Dane.

Aland is Finnish; but its people are Swedes, speaking Swedish. Their colors are the blue and gold of Sweden, though the white and blue flag of Finland floats officially from the Government House. The strange cadences of the Finnish tongue are little heard here, though by law Finnish is taught in the schools are in the nautical academy.

The Finns have their own name for the islands, in their own language; to them they are Ahvenanmaa, and their capital of Mariehamn (which is Maryport in English) becomes Maarianhamina.

Sailing into Mariehamn one sees first a low island, and on it a lighthouse-nothing else. It is so low it looks as if an angry sea might sweep right over it and obliterate it from sight. Were the lighthouse not there, by night it would be invisible. It bears no trees, no habitation. Beyond are more island, low and rocky; then pine-

time it was only in the Baltic and the Gulf of Bothnia. Politics still quaintance had come Irene Howkept world trade the monopoly of a few nations, and no Aland ship was seen beyond the Danish sound. In 1854 the British sacked Bomarsund: for Aland, like Finland, was Russian then, and the British were at war with Russia. That was a sad blow. But the Alanders, many of their vessels burned and their

want to know is how much this wedport destroyed, soon began again. They founded the town of Marieding is going to set me back," Andrew said briskly. "For a preshamn where there had been two ent, I mean." fields, stretched across a narrow peninsula, with harbors at both to the church." ends. With their new port, the Alanders began to build their fleet possibly. Fink isn't going either. again. They built better vessels and found more trade. Gradually I suppose you and she can trail off together. Got enough to wear?" the hated steamship was rising.

Suez was opened in 1869, and the clippers passed. In the great discard of sail the Alanders, unworried by steam, bought up such vessels as appeared to be good bargains. They acquired Nova Scotian barks, Bluenose barkentines. Down East full-rig-

gers. They bought ships cheaply, and they bought good ships. One of their principles was that a ship should return her cost in three years.

ding either. "You and I can trot along togethships suffered heavily. Eight were er," she said. "I've just finished lost in one month. After the war some of the older ship owners had cross-stitching my new white silk with orange and black. It's swell. had enough and bought no more Now show me what you are going ships. But new ones arose; and one to wear." of these was Gustaf Erikson. In Ruth brought out her blue crepe. 1920 he began building up what Mrs. Fink inspected it with a carenow has become the last great fleet of sail in the world. less glance.

# THE FRONTIER, O'NEILL, NEBRASKA,

miringly at her slender young fig-BORROWED ure as she passed. When she entered in at the portal of the stately church she had an air of having just stepped from one of the stately automobiles that By ETTA WEBB were constantly gliding up to the

88

sparkling with joy.

But she must go. With somebody.

With Mr. Fink. Mrs. Fink was

sure to be asked. She and Irene

had belonged to the same bridge

It seemed to Ruth that she was

really getting into the swim at last.

Five months before she and An-

drew were strangers to everybody here. Then she had chanced upon

Mrs. Fink. Andrew and Mr. Fink

said Tom Fink was a good fellow.

Just at first Ruth thought she

didn't like Inez Fink, but after a

"It means a lot to us, in a way,"

"A man is known by the company

his wife keeps. The Howells are

way up. So you see. Mrs. Fink

"Never mind Mrs. Fink. What I

"No present. We're only invited

"I see. Well, I can't make it,

"Sure." Ruth smiled. "Except a

"I knew there'd be a something

short." Andrew pretended to groan.

"Remember my insurance premium

comes due the first of the month.

I've got to meet it if it takes a leg.

Every cent will count till that is

Ruth saw no prospect of getting

No, Tom wasn't going to the wed-

to wear with it. Folks always look

a smart bat

she told Andrew at dinner.

club.

ell's invitation.

says-

seen to."

new hat.

Mrs. Fink ran in.

"It'll do if yo

C. D. J. Walsh-WNU Service. UTH stared at the invitation. red lips curving, blue eyes

She had known Irene Howell so sisted down the step. slightly that she had not dreamed of being asked to the great Howellthat a wedding should be-lovely the world." flowers, music, perfume, pretty Twining wedding. Probably Andrew wouldn't feel he could go.

blue eyes as she listened. She draw. wished Andrew was with her. And she forgot her borrowed hat.

worked at the same place. Andrew The sunshine was gone by the time she left the church. She hadn't gone two blocks before the first while she got used to the sharpraindrop spattered down. Automotongued woman. From this achad been a taxi in sight.

Faster and faster fell the raindrops.

Faster and faster sped Ruth toward the safe shelter of Mrs. Fink's. Folks on the sidewalks, at windows became aware of a flying figure in drenched blue crepe, bareheaded, holding a too large hat under a fluttering rag which had been a chiffon flounce.

White, wet to the skin, breathless between haste and anxiety, Ruth at last came to Mrs. Fink's. Mrs. Fink was lying down, but she sat up quickly enough as Ruth burst in. "Good gracious. Ain't raining?" exclaimed Mrs. Fink. Then she began to laugh. "I got that hat on trial," she said. "I knew one of the salesgirls at Hawtry's. I told them I wanted to keep it until my husband could see it. Tom couldn't tell a French hat from one I'd made myself. I was going to wear it to the wedding and take it back. And now"-she paused significantly. "Of course I'll pay for it," said

Ruth. Her call was not pleasant. She was obliged to stay at Mrs.

Fink's until the storm ceased. Then she stole home-to count up her available cash. Meanwhile Mrs. Fink promised to telephone to Hawtrey's.

The hat was more expensive than Ruth had dreamed. She had to appeal to Andrew. Andrew had to borrow from Fink, who said shortly that he didn't see how women showed so little judgment in buy ing clothes-he was sure his wife was always beautifully dressed on very moderate cost. Andrew knew what Ruth had just told him. But he kept silent.

Why Permit Men Monopoly of Fun?

curb. In fact, she seemed to be- a boxing bout) is Myron Emory, long to that particular automobile weight 132 pounds. And in this corwhich had a silver ornament on ner Charlie Young, weight 114. The its radiator cap, rather than the boys are known as the Cuban Flash stout old lady who had to be as. and the New Hampshire Wildcat. They will now fight four rounds for It was a wonderful wedding, all the whiskerweight championship of

The reporter, in a popular magaclothes, exquisite bride and six zine, goes on to describe the fight; bridesmaids looking like a bouquet how the boxers, lean, tanned, eager, of spring blossoms. Ruth herself advanced to the center of the ring; had been married in the front par- how the crowd applauded wildly; lor of her parents' small house far how they battled, now boxing clevaway, and her mother had made erly, now slugging hard, the crowd the wedding cake. But she knew shrieking encouragement. Twice one nevertheless what it was to take of the fighters was knocked to the the vows of wifehood. Her heart canvas, but twice he arose and beat fast and tears dimmed her earned himself the decision of a

And now, says a woman writer, whose widely read articles are not usually devoted to prize-ring activities, the point of this boxing report in this space. It was really a very strange contest. For the fighters, biles dashed past. But Ruth had Emory and Young, were seventy-nine no money for taxl hire even if there and seventy-eight years old! The referee was a hundred and three.

The bout took place in St. Petersburg. Fla., a popular haven for old people. It was managed by the Three Quarter Century club, all of whose members are over seventyfive, all active in some sport.

And no old-time athletes are these men. Just elderly people who when they retired to that city in the sun found all sorts of diversions-for young people. They realized that if they were to have any fun there they would have to organize activities for themselves. So they founded the Three Quarter Century club-"not to turn back the years, but to utilize fully the years they have left." It appears they are adding to them. But-the Three Quarter Centurians are all men. My thought is, what about the women? They don't have to box, or join the baseball team, but there are goodly activities in that city of the sun that would give them no less fun. Have they been so preoccupied all those years before that they can't learn now how to take fun like their men? That's an idea for the generation to follow them. Let this July 4th be remembered as an Independence day for a Woman's Three Quarter Century club!

C Bell Syndicate.-WNU Service.





Through the World war Aland

clad ones ahead, astern, abeam, all around. Still one can see no houses. The islands are low, the highest not a hundred feet above the sea. The pines come down to the water's edge. This is Aland.

#### What Mariehamn Is Like.

Around a point between two islands is Mariehamn quay. On the slope above it are houses and a wood: then some more houses and a great wood, down each side of which a road has been made. This parklike forest with lanes is the Esplanade, main street of Mariehamn. There one may walk in the cool shade of the trees, past rows of clean spacious houses. It is all ships, this street, with shipowners living there and sailors walking up and down, and at the bottom the harbor, on both sides (for Mariehamn crosses a narrow peninsula), with the masts and yards of the barks growing there above the pines, as if they, like the pines, had begun there and grown there and always belonged there.

At one end of the Esplanade is the town's hotel, Societetshuset, where the visitors live when they come from Sweden. The summer business is good, and at week-ends a special excursion steamer from Stockholm brings hundreds more visitors to the little town. The tourists dance, eat, swim, and bathe, and the Alanders, bent over their tasks in the fields, pay them no attention at all.

These Alanders might be the original sailors, descendants of Vikings-there are Viking graves at Godby, on the main island, and elsewhere-who stayed there on raiding trips to Finland because they liked the place, with its peace and its woods, its good earth and its good fish that teemed in the waters. Viking blood still predominates here.

In a group of 6,000 islands even a small farm, away from the principal large island, would ordinarily include several islets. The plowman, if he would not swim, must boat to his fields; the farmer's wife

going to market must go by sea. It was natural in these surroundings that a race of mariners should arise. Taking so much of their food from the sea, finding the materials for shipbuilding so close at hand, they early built fine vessels.

### Built Up a Merchant Marine.

There were always timber and fish in Aland, and these, with the surplus products of the farms, were the first cargoes. After a while, when the restrictions imposed by rival ports had been broken down, the Alanders were allowed to send their vessels out into the Baltic. Now they built larger ships, schooners, and brigs. They carried their | ten, hard raised. To them waste is own goods so successfully that soon they began to carry other people's: abomination. They have little time and so the beginnings of their

merchant service grew. For a long | change.

Erikson's Fine Ships. Erikson bought up the beautiful

at your hat first. If you've got a snappy chapeau you can get away German training ship Herzogin Cewith any old rag for a dress." cilie, paying some \$20,000 for her Ruth flushed hotly. as she lay in a French port. He sent her to Australia for grain and The blue dress didn't look the same to her after Mrs. Fink got to Chile for nitrates, and in two years she had returned her purchase through with it. price and more besides. He bought Ruth tried it on three times. the big Lawhill, and with one lucky Each time she felt more keenly freight from Buenos Aires cleared the need of that new hat. She \$200,000. Now he has a corner on tried to change the trimming on all the commissioned sailing ships her best hat, but it had faded unof the world, and those Cape Hornderneath. ers which do not fly his house flag Mrs. Fink made her go over and see the white silk cross-stitched may be counted upon the fingers of one hand.

sels that he equipped two of them

especially to take passengers-the

Viking and Herzogin Cecilie; and,

not content with that, bought

pull a boat almost as soon as he

can walk, and sail one not long aft-

erwards. At the age of ten or so

he makes a Baltic voyage, helping

in a "sump" taking firewood and

fish to Stockholm or to Turku, From

wishes to become a sail-trained

sailor now must sail in Aland ships

-and pay \$250 to the owner for

To the Alanders deserved promo-

tion is comparatively easy. A nau-

tical academy is provided free

through the winters in Mariehamn:

here, after two years of service, can-

didates may sit for their second

It takes a long time to know them.

They are not given to the utterance

of long dissertations upon the burn-

ing problems of the day. They are

a quiet and careful race, hardbit-

shameful and a loud mouth an

for progress that means only

that privilege.

costs little.

grain trade from Australia.

behind in case of need.

with black and orange. It was His ships carry crews of boys; charming. But the hat Mrs. Fink even the officers are very young, had got to go with the dress took and many of the masters are young-Ruth's breath away. It was the hat er than thirty years. Some of the of her dreams. She bit her lip, trying to keep down a pang of envy as ships are schoolships, carrying premium-paying apprentices as crew. Mrs. Fink carelessly twirled the hat So many people wrote from all over on her hand. the world asking to sail in his ves-

She let Ruth try on the hat. And the way Ruth looked in it! It made her blue eyes bluer, her cheeks pinker, her hair brighter. That night she dreamed about

L'Avenir from the Belgians. He the black hat. fitted her to take 80 passengers, Next morning Ruth was all exof three classes, and in the sumcitement. She hurried with the mer pow she makes Baltic cruises dish-washing. She put the tiny with the Erikson tug fussing along home to rights with deft, swift motions. Ordinarily a small Aland boy can

The wedding was at noon. At ten minutes to eleven when she was all dressed ready to go the telephone bell rang. Mrs. Fink had called up to say hoarsely that her throat was getting worse every minute-she couldn't go.

these he graduates to the Baltic schooners, and so to the North sea lovely dress! That elegant hat! Is jured. Like blow fish, which also barks; thereafter it is an easy step there anything I can do for you, to deep water, Cape Horn, and the Mrs. Fink?" Ruth's voice was full of honest concern. A Finnish law restricts berths

before the mast to Finnish nationwith. Say, Ruth! You can wear als, and the forecastles of the ships the hat if you want to." are ordinarily filled with Alanders. "Oh, Mrs. Fink! Do you really But the half-decks, where the apmean so? You aren't joking, are of any like a fish. It appears to be prentices live, contain all the nayou?" tionalities of the world. He who

"I should say not! Stop in on and a spinous dorsal fin. your way past and get it." Ruth had always made it a rule not to borrow or lend unless there

was real necessity for doing so. Andrew was dead set against the practice himself. They had started out in their married life to be independent, square and conservative. Up to this mo-

ment they had both fulfilled the mate's papers, first spending six conditions of their little informal months at school. Tuition and books contract. cost nothing; the boy must provide But now Ruth yielded to the lure

only his board, and in Aland that of the hat. She saw no harm in wearing it. They are quiet, these Alanders.

especially as her friend had so kindly offered to loan it. She was very happy when she put the hat on her bright head. She failed to notice Mrs. Fink's rather odd little smile.

The hat made her brave enough to go to the church alone. More than one erson looked ad- low."-Pearson's Weekly.

Mrs. Fink was ever after extremely cold to Ruth.

Not long after the Finks got into a little difficulty through Mrs. Fink's methods of buying. They left town. Andrew got Fink's job, which brought in more money than his own. But in spite of this added good fortune Ruth was even more

conservative and thrifty than she had been before. That much she had learned from Inez Fink.

# **Divers in Tropics Fear**

#### Manta Will Devour Them

Divers in the tropics avoid the manta, holding to the traditional story that the giant ray will engulf a man and slowly devour him. Such, however, seems to be mythology. The manta is dangerous when wounded, and can be taken only by harpoon after a hard battle of several hours, says Popular Mechanics Magazine.

The cow fish has a coat of armor consisting of hardened scales which form a bony box from which the jaws, fins and tail can be moved freely. The name is applied because of small horns in front of its eyes. The porcupine fish is one of the most grotesque members of the finny tribe, being of olive color and spotted with black dots. Armed with sharp-pointed spines, it is dif-"I'm so sorry! It's too bad! That | ficult to handle without being in-

are found in the gulf, porcupine fish are capable of inhaling air or water to form a balloon-like appear-"Oh, I've got everything to doctor ance to frighten enemies.

Although a small fish, generally running about six or seven inches in size, the bat fish looks the least a toad, but has spine-like scales

While the drum fish is not exactly a queer specimen, its powerful jaws hold a set of mill-like teeth with remarkable crushing force. Schools of drums, from three to four feet in length and weighing from 40 to 60 pounds each, can make short work of a small oyster reef. When young they are striped like a zebra. Later they become a dusty color. A large female will lay 6,000,000 eggs.

#### Good Salesman

"Yes, Jones is the most successful\* salesman I know." "What's his latest success?" "Yesterday he sold Mrs. Brown two dozen stair carpet rods." "I don't see anything very won-

derful in that." "Neither did 1 until I realized that the Browns lived in a bunga-



