

# GIRL'S BATTLE WITH ALLIGATORS

## Rescues Her Baby Sister from Saurian's Jaws.

Savannah Walston, a pretty Texas girl, is the heroine of the little town of Tunis, on the Bayou Sarah, an arm of the Brazos. She made herself famous a few days ago by killing two monster alligators that had entered her mother's cottage during the night. Few men would have been capable of performing the feat that this brave girl accomplished. The house occupied by Mrs. Walston stands within twenty feet of a large irrigating ditch, across which there is a small foot bridge. The yard gate opens at this little bridge, and a wire fence extends some twenty feet either way along the bank of the ditch and then turns at a sharp right angle and joins the

from the jaws of one of the saurians. Mother and daughter were now standing up on the bed, but they were not sure that they occupied a position beyond the reach of their hungry assailants. The noise awoke the little negro, and the women saw him running towards them. They shouted to him warning him of the danger, and telling him to run outside of the yard. Evidently he did not know what was the trouble, for he ran towards the bed, stumbling over one of the alligators, and falling with his head right into the mouth of the other. The women were helpless to defend the unfortunate little African. The monster crushed the little negro's

an end to the existence to the two terrors. Her brother's gun was hanging against the wall on the opposite side of the room. She determined to take advantage of the first opportunity and get hold of the weapon. Her mother tried to dissuade her from such a desperate venture, but the moment that the big saurian left the room she sprang out on the carpet and ran after the gun. The alligator heard her steps and he pursued her to the bed, snapping his hideous jaws and making a noise that would have paralyzed a less courageous girl.

Miss Savannah says that she had never shot a gun before in her life, but she had often seen her brother handle a rifle and she had some knowledge of the way the liner was worked in order to load and eject the shells from the barrel. Her heart bounded for joy when she found the magazine of the gun full of cartridges. Aiming well at one eye of the big bull she fired and had the satisfaction of seeing him cavort about over the carpet as if there was something hot



corners of the house. This makes a small front yard which has but one gate.

It is supposed that the two monster alligators were prowling along the irrigating ditch in search of food when they encountered the foot bridge, and in crossing over it they may have pushed the little gate open. Miss Savannah Walston was sleeping on a cot on the little porch in front of the open door of her mother's room, and a little negro boy 6 years of age was lying under a china tree in the yard. Mrs. Walston, who was sick at the time, occupied a bed in the parlor of the cottage, and her little baby was lying in a cradle within easy reach of her hand. She says that she heard the alligators for some moments before she called her daughter. The moon was shining almost as bright as day, and when Miss Savannah was aroused by her mother she raised up on her cot and put one of her hands on the head of one of the monsters. At that instant a little dog that had run out of Mrs. Walston's room was snapped between the jaws of another alligator at the young girl's side.

In her fright she sprang over one of the monsters in order to reach her mother's bed. Both of the alligators pursued her across the floor and one of them turned the cradle over. The little boy fell out on the carpet. Miss Savannah had reached the bed in safety, but when she heard the cries of her baby sister she sprang back on the carpet and rescued the child almost

head between its jaws, and the women could plainly see the child's blood streaming over the carpet.

"To add to the terror of the scene," says Mrs. Walston, "the other alligator seized the little negro's legs and they tore the child's body to fragments before our eyes. We did not know what to do. At one moment we thought of springing out on the floor and trying to escape and run to the house of a neighbor."

While the women were hesitating in their fright a curious thing happened. On the previous day Mrs. Walston had ordered a large mirror which she had set on the floor against one of the walls of the parlor. The male alligator caught the reflection of his own image in this glass and with a furious bellow he plunged at it and shivered the costly mirror to fragments. This seemed to enrage the creature and he began to bellow and run about over the house, overturning everything that came in his way. Miss Savannah says that she threw pitchers, wash bowls, glass tumblers, and boxes of matches into the monster's mouth and he would crush and swallow such things as if they were delicacies that tickled his palate.

While the smaller of the two creatures was overturning the stove and destroying the kitchen furniture the other remained in the parlor terrorizing the two women. He would doubtless finally have succeeded in overturning the bed if Miss Savannah had not adopted a plan of battle which put

inside of his head. She pumped a few more shots into his body behind his forelegs and it was not long before he rolled over lifeless. The female came crawling into the room.

Savannah sent a hot bullet into its body. The furious animal turned and ran straight towards the bed with wide open jaws, and, furious with pain and rage, she got her forefeet on the bed, and the women were now worse frightened than before. The horrible jaws of the maddened creature were close to their bodies. Savannah pushed the barrel of the gun into the alligator's mouth and fired. It was a fortunate shot. The big ball tore through the full length of the creature's backbone, and it fell, quivering and lifeless, on the carpet.

The smoke had hardly cleared and the women had not yet dared to venture from the bed when A. Nelson, a neighbor, entered the gate and asked if they were having a battle with burglars. The man could hardly credit his own eyesight when he saw the carcasses of the two big alligators lying on the carpet. Other citizens of the little town were soon gazing in wonder at the dead alligators and the wrecked furniture. They proved to be two of the largest alligators ever killed in the country. The people of the little town have voted Miss Savannah the bravest girl in Texas, and the young men of the place gave a ball in her honor and crowned her mascot of their military company and the queen of the hunting club.

mirrer of the world-renowned hero. Colonel Cody, tells us "the buffalo is the one animal of the temperate zone, which belongs to the Wild Man," and adds: "The horse is an animal that plays and dances as soon as he hears music." Another brilliant one gives the somewhat startling information that "the rhinoceros has a stone nose," and that "dogs is a domestic animal, which chews bones." We are also told: "The llama is a beast of burden and we get clothes off its back." Another animal evidently in the clothing business is the seal, which, we are informed, "makes coats." Upon other sub-

jects the answers were equally as enlightening. The miner, we learn, "always had a donkey to pull him out of the mine, which is full of gas and chokes him." One future citizen informs us that "the chief occupation of Philadelphia is taking ferry boats across the river."

Machines Displace Farm Hands. In England during the past few years, it is claimed, 140,320 farm laborers have been displaced by machinery, while the making of the latter, it is asserted, required only the labor of 4,600 men for one year.

### CAMERA CATCHES FLEA

Five Thousand Times as Large as He Really Is.

The eye of the camera has been brought to bear upon the flea. Considering the difficulty with which the human optic meets in trying to accomplish the same thing this is a remarkable feat. Free and untrammelled the domestic flea has long cavorted upon green pastures, so to speak, in defiance of direct human investigation, and it remained for Fred Cloutman, a photographer of Boston, to produce photographic results, as shown in the accompanying 5,000 times enlarged reproductions. No. 1 shows the festive creature in a pose of impending action. The long hind legs are poised ready for a leap that, were the flea an elephant, would carry him twice and a half around the earth, allowing a distance proportionate to the relative size. The accompanying two pairs of assistant legs also shown are simply aids in the clever "give and get away" tactics of the active little creature. The small pair of antennae at the front of the head are reserved for the attack of prey and it is these that are responsible for much human woe. No. 2 shows an enlarged photograph of the head, legs and antennae and No. 3 the antennae alone. In the points of the antennae the poison of the insect is concealed. When the flea goes dining it is the antennae that are prodded into the flesh of its victim and through them the blood is absorbed, the poison being emitted in the process. It is lamentable for San Franciscans that Mr. Cloutman's art does not extend further than to the photographing of the fiendish insects. Did it portend the discovery of some means for the permanent extermination of the species his photographic triumphs might be pointed out and preserved with gratitude by a long-suffering public.

### FLAGSTAFF'S ICE MINE.

An Inexhaustible Underground Supply for a Town in Arizona.

Flagstaff, a comfortable logging town on the Santa Fe Pacific railway in Arizona, has been provided by nature with the queerest ice-making plant known. During the past summer a large part of the town's ice supply has been secured from caves in the pine woods, nine miles to the southward. The caves are in lava formation, the geological capping of the entire country. Entering to the main cavern, through a narrow slit in the malapal rock, necessitates a vertical drop of ten feet to the floor of a passage that runs farther in, till blocked by ice barriers. The temperature in the caves, even in the height of summer, is about the freezing point. Many visitors have been prostrated by the cold after making too long a stay. The ice, which is as hard as ice can be, fills every nook and cranny beyond the short black hallway that leads inward from the entrance. When dug away in whatever quantity, it seems to grow again from behind in the manner of the creep of glaciers. The depth or size of the deposit is not known. It is even believed that there is an underground ice lake of immense dimensions. How the deposit was formed is a puzzle that has not been solved by the geological ice miners. The region is almost destitute of surface or well water and the mean temperatures are far above the thermometric figure that would appear to render such a deposit possible. But the ice is there and the product of the unique mine has been sold daily in Flagstaff.

### Strenuous Life in a Lighthouse.

Mr. William McDonough, keeper of the light at Yellow Island, near Co-mox, was in town today, says the Vancouver (B. C.) Province and loaded himself up with all kinds of rifles, shotguns, ammunition and dynamite. Mr. McDonough states that these warlike instruments are not to be used for the purpose of extinguishing the aborigines of the island, but are merely for self-defense against the ducks, gulls, loons and other birds which haunt the light tower at night, and keep him awake by the emission of wailing, long-drawn-out screams, besides contributing largely to the maintenance cost of the station by breaking the panes of glass in the tower.

### Self-Culture Is Possible.

Self-culture is possible, not only because we can enter into and search ourselves—we have still a nobler power, that of acting on, determining, and forming ourselves. This is a fearful as well as glorious endowment, for it is the ground of human responsibility. We have the power not only of tracing our powers, but of guiding and impelling them; not only of watching our passions; but of controlling them; not only of seeing our faculties grow, but of applying to them means and influences to aid their growth.—W. E. Channing.

### Photographic Printing.

There seems to be a likelihood that before long movable types for printing will be done away with altogether, and their function, hitherto regarded as indispensable in the art, performed by ingenious photographic processes. The books of the near future, it is predicted, will be made by photography, and it is not improbable that even newspapers will be issued by methods in which the camera and dry plate will take the place of the font of metal letters and the stereotype from a paper matrix.—Saturday Evening Post.

An Egyptian contemporary says: "Our whole island is now girdled with golf courses. All the world is no longer a stage, but a golf links."

### THE OLYMPIC GAMES

WERE HELD EVERY FOUR YEARS BY ANCIENT GREEKS.

From 394 A. D. Until 1896 There Were No Olympic Games—America Led in Modern Games with Nine Events to Her Credit.

Beginning with 776 B. C., the Greeks reckoned their time by olympiads, or periods of four years when the olympic games were held. A sacred truce lasting for a month put a stop to all war between the various states at the time of the games. This enabled everyone to travel in safety, as none would dare to offend the terrible god Zeus. Almost every town in Greece sent representatives either to compete or to look on at these contests, and from the islands along the coast as well as from the colonies in Asia, Africa and Western Europe visitors came for business or pleasure. No women, except one priestess, were allowed to be present at the contests. All competitors were obliged to prove that they were of pure Greek blood and that they had spent ten months in preparation for the contests. Then, if accepted, they were obliged to pass the thirty days immediately preceding the games in training at Olympia under the direction of the officials. During this period the athlete and his friends made frequent sacrifices and prayers to the various deities whom they thought might assist in giving him the victory. On the day of the games all the competitors were obliged to take a solemn oath at the altar of the god Zeus that they would abide by the rules and would take no unfair advantage of an opponent. Originally the games consisted of but a single race, the stadium—600 feet; but at the time of their greatest glory five days were consumed in deciding the contests. They were then as follows: Foot races, the pentathlon, horse and chariot races, boxing, wrestling and

the pancrattum. The foot races consisted of the single course, already mentioned, the double course, the long race, sometimes twenty-four times the length of the course, and the race in armor. The pentathlon consisted of five events, leaping with dumb bells, throwing the discus, throwing the spear, running and wrestling. A victor was obliged to win three out of the five events. The wrestling was not very different from what we have nowadays; but the boxing was done with the hands enclosed in strips of leather on which were fastened pieces of metal. This arrangement was called a cestus, and you can imagine what a terrible mass of blood and bruises would result from such a contest. One day was given to the contests of boys, the others to the men and youths. After each contest the victor was given a palm branch. At the end of the games there was a formal presentation of olive wreaths to all the winners, then followed feasts and sacrifices almost without number. When a champion neared home, the whole town or city came out to meet him. If there was a wall about the city, a new opening was made for the glorious one to enter through; songs were sung regarding him, statues were made of him and set up in his native town and at Olympia. Presents of all kinds were made to him in such numbers and of such magnitude that all necessity of working for the good things of life was taken away from him. From the year 394 A. D., when they were discontinued by the order of the Emperor Theodosius, until 1896, there were no Olympic games. But in that year, through the efforts of Baron Pierre de Coubertin and a committee representing all the nations which take an active interest in gymnastic and athletic exercises, a modern edition of the Olympic games was held at Athens. America led the prize winning, with nine events to her credit. The other winning countries were France, England, Greece, Germany, Australia, Hungary, Austria, Switzerland and Denmark.

### Blackmail by Lawyers...

### Some Unscrupulous Members of the Bar Guilty of this Crime...

Fortunately for the average lawyer's client, it is not often the case that a solicitor so far betrays the confidence reposed in him as to utilize the information poured into his private ear for the foul purpose of blackmail, yet the records of legal malpractices contain a certain number of such cases of more or less heinousness, says Tit-Bits. Not so many years ago a young lady residing in a Midland county had occasion to consult a solicitor regarding a rather delicate matter in which she had been, through no fault of her own, involved. For obvious reasons she avoided the practitioner who attended to her family's business, and, rather rashly, pitched upon the first gentleman whose doorplate caught her eye.

Her choice proved an unfortunate one. The lawyer in question was an unmitigated scoundrel, whose chief harvest was reaped from indiscriminate blackmail, and very soon the girl discovered this fact to her sorrow. For the unscrupulous scoundrel, having obtained full details of her position, together with certain compromising documents, proceeded to obtain from her various sums under threats of exposure, and it was not until she had parted with all her savings and was on the verge of desperation that she summoned sufficient courage to lay the whole distressing business before her father. The latter relative at once took very active measures to bring the villain to justice, but, owing to some legal technicalities, the case fell

through, and he escaped his well-merited punishment.

A case that threw a third light upon the methods of these human vultures was tried some time ago in one of the western courts of America. A young lady typist employed in a fancy goods firm sued a solicitor of shady repute for attempting to obtain money from her by threats. It then transpired that the girl, having got into a scrape through an unfortunate love affair, had consulted the lawyer as to the best means of getting out of the trouble. Instead of giving her the necessary advice, the rogue had proceeded to demand from her the sum of \$100, adding that, unless the amount were paid to him within a month, he would publish her story to the whole world. By a lucky chance, a friend of the girl who had accompanied her to the office happened to overhear the conversation from the adjoining waiting-room, and, armed by the presence of this witness, the plucky girl retaliated upon the villainous solicitor by placing him in the dock shortly afterward. He was sent to prison for a long term, the court complimenting the fair prosecutrix on the courage she had shown in bringing the scoundrel to the doom he deserved. A blackmailing lawyer who died some ten years ago in the West Indies confessed that, while the ordinary exercise of his profession had brought him in a little more than a bare livelihood, he had earned no less than £20,000 by the exercise of blackmail.

### ENCOURAGED BONDAGE.

Once New York Had a Municipal Slave Ship.

When New York city owned a slave ship is told in an article in Pearson's Magazine. The greatest impetus was given to the slave trade by the act of parliament of 1684, which legalized slavery in the North American colonies. This does not mean that slavery was unknown in what is now the United States before that time, because as early as 1620 a Dutch man-of-war landed and sold twenty African negroes at Jamestown, Va. In 1626 the West India company imported slaves from the West Indies to New York city, then New Amsterdam. The city itself owned shares in a slave ship, advanced money for its fitting out and shared in the profits of its voyages. This recognition and encouragement may account for the astounding fact that in 1750 slaves formed one-sixth of the entire population of New York. The general prevalence of slavery is shown by the fact that at this time there were sixty-seven slaves in New York's small suburb of Brooklyn, and that in London itself there were resident 20,000 slaves. Slaves were at that time publicly dealt in on the London exchange. No wonder the traffic in human flesh was a recognized commerce, and that in 1771 the English alone sent to Africa 192 ships equipped for the trade and with a carrying capacity of 47,146 slaves per trip.—New York Press.

### Don't Scorch in England.

A wheelman named Grimwood has been sentenced in England to fourteen days' imprisonment, without the option of a fine, for alleged furious riding. The constable estimated the speed at from fourteen to eighteen miles an hour, but the defense put it at five or six. Grimwood, who is chief

engineer on a steamer, was not present, as his duties called him away, so that a surprise awaits him when he returns from his cruise. The only corroborative evidence of the speed, as given by the prosecution, was that of a man who was knocked down, and who said the rider was upon him before he could turn round.

### Lipton and His Pork Corner.

Sir Thomas J. Lipton's pork corner in Chicago has increased his popularity in England. The details of his operations are not understood, but there is a general impression that he has succeeded in rivaling Chicago's speculators in business shrewdness and coolness of judgment. This achievement nearly equals in reputation the honors he has won in New York by competing with yachtmen and not insulting them when they have beaten him fairly.—London Letter.

### Alms Race Yu Ishing.

The curious Alms race, which originally occupied the whole of the island of Yezo, is rapidly vanishing before the influx of Japanese emigration. According to recent investigations they now only number some 16,000, and in a few more decades they will probably be totally absorbed. They are the hairiest race in the world, are filthy dirty in their habits, and terribly addicted to drunkenness. They worship bears and snakes, and in some cases live in caves.

### Queen Victoria's Enticements.

An English paper says that the only reason that Queen Victoria does not appear personally at the opening of parliament is that she is physically unable. She would have to walk a long distance and climb a flight of stairs, and has now passed the age when she can do that.

### QUAKER 'FACTS'

About Animals Told by Fup's of a Philadelphia School.

A teacher in one of the public schools of the Quaker City who has a sense of humor, has culled some remarkable bits of information from her examination papers. Questions bearing upon the habits of animals were found to be particularly amusing. One small boy declared, in a fit of poesy, that "the lion is the queen of beasts." From another more practical "the lion has a great big mouth, and roars something fearful." One evident ad-