

# EASTER AT ATLANTIC CITY

By WALDON FAWCETT



**D**IFFERENT localities throughout the United States have varied forms of Easter observance, each novel and distinctive in its way, but it is safe to say that the most spectacular of these events is the great Easter parade on the board walk at Atlantic City. Each American city, to be sure, has its Easter parade along about church time on the joyous morning, but none of these, not even the famous show of fashion on Fifth avenue, New York, can approach in magnitude and splendor the informal procession in honor of the spring holiday at the seaside.

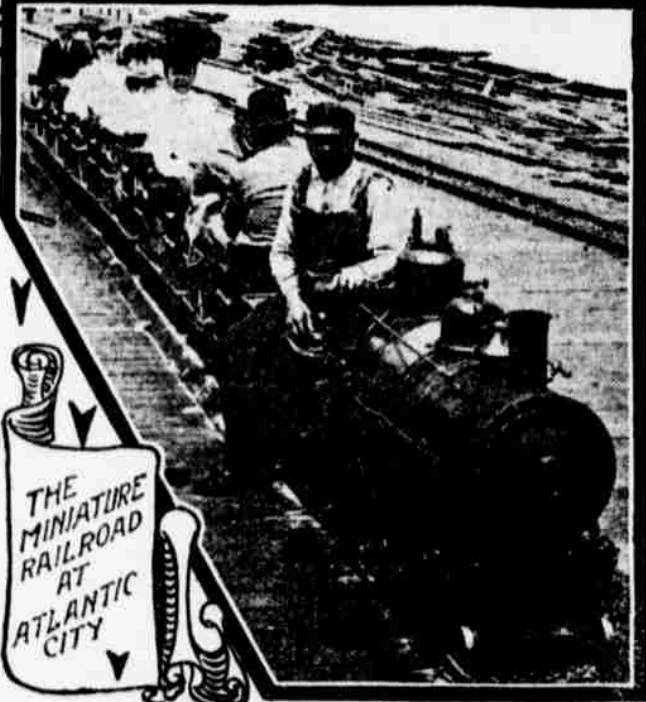


THE GREAT EASTER PARADE AT ATLANTIC CITY

It is no commonplace sight, this panorama of 150,000 people, all attired in their most impressive raiment, tramping up and down an esplanade five miles long to see and be seen.

Perhaps, if you haven't been initiated, you raise your eyebrows at the thought of Atlantic City as an Easter resort. We are wont to think of seashore resorts as bleak places in winter, with biting winds sweeping over the sand stretches and whipping mournfully the tattered remnants of last season's ice cream signs. Surely no person bent on enjoying an Easter vacation would go elsewhere than to a southern resort—certainly not farther north than Old Point Comfort, at any rate. That logic is passing, however, for all that it was very well in its way and sounds plausible even today. The people of the eastern part of the United States have come to accept Atlantic City generally as the pre-eminent Easter mecca and the pleasure loving residents of the middle west and the far west are gradually taking the same view, although they had long been accustomed to recognize it only as a summer paradise and the middle west to this day reserves its main pilgrimage for August, when one may see in bathing at one time as many people as reside in the state of Wyoming.

Just what converted Atlantic City from a summer playground into an all-the-year resort, with



THE MINIATURE RAILROAD AT ATLANTIC CITY

especial fascinations at Eastertide, is difficult to determine, although the residents of this pleasure metropolis ascribe it all to their discovery that the Gulf stream comes nearer to the coast off Atlantic City than at any other place north of Florida and thus moderates the temperature and softens the ocean breezes in a degree not enjoyed elsewhere. Candor compels the confession that there have been Easter Sundays when Atlantic City presented a decidedly chilly aspect out of doors, and even under the best conditions

most of the women in the Easter parade wear furs, but as a rule the air is bracing and mild enough to encourage lengthy constitutionals. Incidentally it may be remarked that the luxurious rolling chairs which constitute a distinctive feature of life at Atlantic are not so well patronized at Easter as in dog days. Easter weather is of a kind to encourage walking and the chairs which are abroad at this season are housed in with glass.

The student of human nature—and there is no better place in the world for such study—instinctively draws contrasts between the Easter throng and the summer vacation crowd at Atlantic City. In July and August, when the city by the sea is entertaining some 200,000 visitors a day, this whirlpool of humanity is filled for the most part with wage earners and salaried folk and their families who can afford but one vacation a year and elect to enjoy it here, tarrying beside the sea for a week or ten days or two weeks.



A FAVORITE AMUSEMENT OF THE LITTLE FOLKS

At Easter, on the other hand, the assemblage at Atlantic City is recruited largely from the wealthy and leisure classes—it is the rendezvous of fashion at this period, just as are Newport and Bar Harbor in midsummer.

For all that the influx at Easter does not equal that when the summer excursion business is at flood tide, almost all of Atlantic City's one thousand hotels and boarding houses are open to receive the spring merrymakers who pour in at the rate of 300 carloads a day for several days before Easter. What the Easter invaders lack in numbers they make up in spending power and this insures them a double welcome on the great amusement highway where the opportunities of retail trade are such that as much as \$3,000 a year rental is charged for a tiny store room. That the Easter rush seaward means such a golden harvest for the hotel keepers and merchants at the Brighton of America is all the more significant when it is taken into consideration that many of the Easter visitors come only for the "week end"—that is, for the interval from Friday afternoon to Monday morning.

Atlantic City at Eastertide is the board walk and the board walk is Atlantic City. In the summer the great bathing beach is, of course, the prime attraction for many of the visitors, but nobody cares to indulge in a dip in old ocean at Easter unless, mayhap, he is some venturesome individual in quest of notoriety. This being the case, the board walk becomes the center of attraction and right well does it meet the responsibility. Following the example of Atlantic City, almost every seaside community has erected a board walk, but the one at Atlantic City is in a class by itself. It is upward of five miles long, is 40 feet wide throughout its main section and cost more than a quarter of a million dollars.

On the one hand this board walk affords promenade an unobstructed view of the sea, while on the other the marine esplanade is lined with hundreds of restaurants, amusement places of every imaginable kind and the most fascinating shops in America. Interspersed at frequent intervals are art auction rooms. A large proportion of the visitors to Atlantic City are women and of course no woman can resist the temptation of real bargains—a fact of which the wily Japs who conduct these auction emporiums are manifestly well aware. Aside from the never-ending procession of variegated humanity, unlimited free amusement is provided by the picturesque "barkers," the fakirs, the street musicians and the sand sculptors who line the board walk. Finally great amusement piers of steel construction—each, in effect, an "annex" of the board walk—extend seaward from the beach a third of a mile or more and afford visitors all the sensations of life on an ocean liner save the seasickness. On these piers are the great music halls and concert auditoriums, where are held the popular dances for which Atlantic City is famous.

## SCIENCE AND INVENTION

### SCIENCE NOTES.

The chances of sudden death among men are eight times as great as among women.

Nine of the 18 expeditions in search of the south pole have been of English origin.

A California ethnologist has identified no less than 135 different Indian dialects in that state alone.

A Vienna surgeon claims to have arrested progressive paralysis by injecting large doses of tuberculin.

Drinking water is obtained on the rock of Gibraltar by condensing the dew in specially constructed basins.

A Texan has patented an attachment for phonographs which causes small dolls to dance in time with the music.

Although the winters of Montreal are noted for their severity, that city is 350 miles nearer the equator than London.

An average of 13 persons a day who use the railroads of the country for footpaths pay for the practice with their lives.

A wealthy English automobile enthusiast uses a semograph to register the jolts imparted to his car by rough roads.

During the whole of last year London's famous clock, "Big Ben," never varied more than four seconds from the correct time.

It is claimed that there is danger of blood poisoning in the use of blue blotters because of the chemicals used in preparing them.

A new cooking utensil consisting of a perforated disk attached to the end of a rod handle by a small joint, is said to stir the contents of a vessel more thoroughly than a spoon.

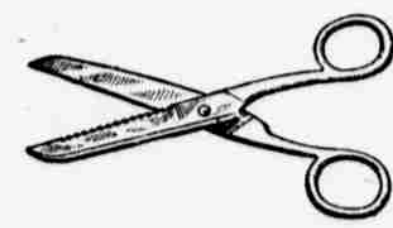
Textiles may be rendered fireproof, according to the Paris board of fire commissioners, by steeping them in a ten per cent. solution of phosphate of ammonia, then drying them in the open air.

More than half a million dollars' worth of radium has been produced at the Imperial Austrian laboratory at St. Joachimsthal, the pitchblende from which it is extracted being taken from a worked out silver mine.

### SCISSORS WITH A SAW-TOOTH

Teeth Hold Material Fast and Prevent it from Slipping Toward End of the Shears.

A very handy tool can be made from an old pair of scissors or shears, as shown in the accompanying sketch. One blade is cut with a set of saw teeth inclined toward the handle. These teeth hold the material fast, and prevent it slipping toward the point of the shears. Rubber sheeting, strips, and all kinds of soft packing can be easily cut with square or inclined ends. It matters not in what position the scissors are held; they will cut without slipping. In using these scissors for rubber and other slippery goods, the saw-toothed blade should be on the bottom to obtain the best results. Heavy rubber and packing can be cut with less effort, as it is not necessary to hold the scissors against the goods to prevent slipping. The same design of lower blade can be applied to plumbers' and metalworkers' shears with a change in the relative positions of the holding and cutting blades, says Scientific American. If the saw-toothed blade is kept



Scissors with Saw-Tooth Blade.

on the bottom of the goods, the edge will be left rough; but by reversing the shears, so that the saw teeth come on top, the edge is left just as clean as if no teeth were used. The piece cut off however, is rough on the edge. The scissors can be used to cut paper, cloth, or any other material, if the saw teeth are kept on top or bottom, according as it is desired to have the smooth edge on the left or the right-hand piece cut off.

### Guns with Double Tubes.

Henceforth all sea coast guns of six-inch caliber or over, except mortars, will be provided with double tubes, so that, should the inner tube give way, the damage will not extend to the outer tube and the enveloping jacket and hoops. This will permit the restoration at small cost of guns whose tubes give way and will facilitate the rehabilitation of guns whose accuracy has been lost through erosion and wear of bore.

### Earth's Age.

A new estimate of the earth's age has recently been given by William Morris Davis of Harvard. For the usually accepted 100,000,000 years he estimates 60,000,000, based on an examination of the cliffs of Arizona and Utah, where the time taken to deposit the strata can be easily computed.

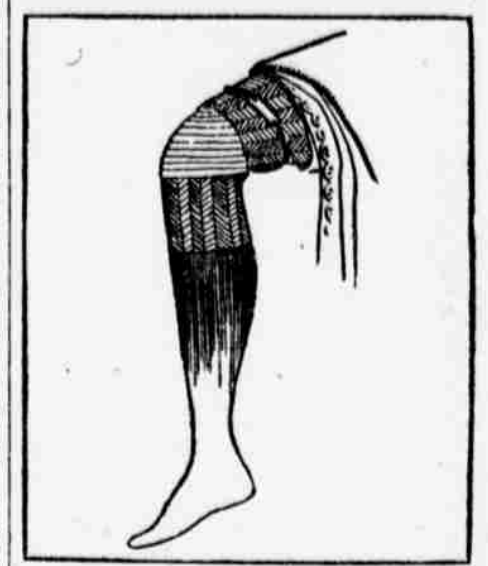
### Spawn of American Toad.

Though a single spawn of the female of the American toad contains 8,000 eggs, N. Miller finds no increase in the species. Dragon flies, water beetles, newts, crayfish and other water animals are destroyers.

## HOW TO REINFORCE STOCKING

Transversely Ribbed Knecap Will Stand Unusual Wear—Excellent Article for Small Boys.

A stocking that fills a long-felt want among small boys, scrub women and other persons who spend a great deal of time on their knees is that designed by a Mississippi woman. This stocking is made with a transversely ribbed gore on the knee that will stand many times the amount of wear and tear that the knee of an ordinary stocking will. Above the calf the stocking is ribbed longitudinally, while the gore section is ribbed crosswise and is made of heavier material, more closely knit. The small boy who will go through an ordinary stocking the first time he puts it on can crawl around and climb trees in this kind for many a day before the knee gives way. Even then a new piece can be set in, which



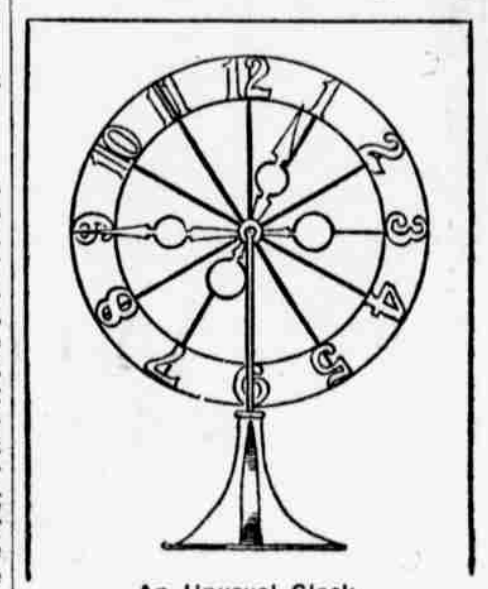
Reinforced Stocking.

will look and feel much better than patches. For working women who have to get on their knees, as in scrubbing up floors and the like, stockings of this design will be found not only economical, but comfortable.

## CLOCK WITH SKELETON DIAL

Makes it Possible to See Time from Distance and is of Much Benefit to Near-Sighted.

A clock by which even a person of poor eyesight can tell the length of a big room is that shown in the illustration. It was designed by



An Unusual Clock.

a Missouri man, and it is entirely proper that the timepiece should emanate from the "show me" states. The clock consists of a skeleton dial mounted on a stand. The numerals, which are large figures, stand out clearly against almost any background and the hands also show plainly. In fact, the positions of the hands alone will indicate the hour of the day without putting the onlooker to the necessity of consulting the figures. Probably the most striking peculiarity of this clock, however, is the fact that there are no works to be seen. On one end of each hand is a watch movement and near the other end a weight, the two connected so that the hands are operated as they would be in an ordinary timepiece. The ease with which such a clock can be regulated and cleaned is another feature.

### Cause of "Keel Water."

The track of smooth water, or "keel water," stretching in the wake of a moving vessel is often noticed, but little understood. The effect is not due to the influence of oil on surface tension, though the stilling of the waves may be similar. Prof. Ashorn, a German investigator, has made some experiments with bodies moving on the water, and these show that the gyroscopic action of the eddies or whirls left behind on each side of the vessel smooth out the smaller waves and give the calm, oil-appearing track that is so familiar. The larger and swifter the ship the longer and broader is the smooth wake.

### Material for Flying Machines.

A novel material for flying machines and airships is a kind of reinforced paper, and is claimed by the German inventors, Dr. Wagner and Herr von Radinger, to be exceptionally light and strong. It is made of paper, raw silk and other fabric bound up with steel wire. The product is stated to be inexpensive, proof against fire and damp, and is expected to prove serviceable for a variety of purposes. A test of it is being made in an airship now being built at Stettin.

### New Stereo Invention.

Interest among printers has been aroused over the daily use by the Pittsburg Press of a dry matrix process by which steam tables are entirely eliminated from the process and methods in the mechanical department practically revolutionized.

## RESURRECTION.

A magic wand hath touched the sleeping earth,  
And at its summons, lo, a glorious dawn!  
To countless joys rock, field and hill give birth,  
And myriad triumphs in a breath are born.

Old winter's woe, like mist, hath rolled away  
And over all a rose-hued splendor glows;  
Love, pleasure, hope—as flowers—adorn the day;  
Ecstatic peace in every streamlet flows.

Sweet spring is here! The Easter of our souls!  
O'erfilled with promise; burdened with delight;  
A noble purpose in each hour that rolls;  
A precious treasure in each moment's flight.

O magic wand! O faithful hand and true!  
We give thee praise and gratitude for this—  
Thy touch hath quickened blood and brain anew  
And thrilled our lips with fresh-filled cup of bliss.

—Lurana W. Sheldon, in Metropolitan Magazine.

## STRANGE EASTER RITES.

In no corner of this whimsical old world of ours can there be found more naive traditions of Eastertide than those treasured in the heart of the Macedonian race, on the border between Europe and Asia.

Even before the 40 days' fast is quite over, the rejoicing that is to flower full-blown at Easter begins, crocuswise, to push its bright way upward through the gloom of abstinence and vigils, says a writer in Housekeeper. On Palm Sunday, in little bands of three and four, the