

PYTHONS SOLD AT SO MUCH A YARD

Takes Six Husky Men to Uncoil and Measure Big, Spunky Snake.

New York.—There is one market in New York which has a wider range between long and shorts than Wall street itself. It is the python market. You can get pythons, at the right time of year, anywhere from seven feet to twenty-five in length. Usually they are sold as ribbon is sold; the more you want, the more you have to pay.

Pythons form an industry, and New York is the center of it for America. Every year men go from here to Africa, India, Sumatra and South America, and early in the spring New York has a python population of 250 or so. They are sold mostly to traveling shows, which go on the road in the spring.

Possibly because the show people always expect bad business in a Presidential year, or perhaps because of the backward weather, the early part of 1924 brought a slump. In general, however, the python trade is steady; pythons and boas are two of the world's commodities which have not been greatly affected in price by the war. Quotations and demand are now about what they were ten years ago, or twenty.

A seven-foot python can be had for \$20. A length of 25 feet—found in the regal pythons from Sumatra—runs the price up to \$800 or \$700. Boas come smaller; 16 feet is the maximum at an age of eight to ten years, according to snake dealers, and this is also true of rock pythons. In price the boas start where the pythons do, and the biggest of them fetches about \$200.

Cheap Pet to Feed.
The upkeep, though, is astonishingly small. The big snakes are as economical a pet as one could have; one of them can sometimes get along on an expenditure not much larger than the seed bill of a husky canary, and while they usually live 13 years or so, occasionally they last 40 or 50.

"Sometimes they do not eat for two or three years," says Louis Rule, who imports 150 a year out of the 250 that are brought into the country. "Then you have to use forcible feeding. Two quarts of milk, with half a dozen eggs in it, administered through a hose every two or three months, will keep them alive."

If the python is cheerful it feeds once a month on live animals. That is the meal schedule in captivity; in the wild it feeds when it can, more or less. Wild porcupine is a titbit and plain pig will often tempt a python, though rabbits and guinea pigs are the most frequent dish.

The porcupine's quills have no terrors for the reptile; it knows which end to swallow first so the quills will lie flat.

When a boa or python is in captivity, however, it may become disgusted with life and look as if it were too tired to eat. A few months of this and a 25-foot snake that normally weighs 200 pounds will drop 40 pounds. Then is the time for the eggs and the rubber hose.

If a snake hasn't eaten for several months it looks lethargic; one that has fed is not easy to handle. It takes six men to measure a big python, according to Mr. Rule; to take it out of the box and use the tape and put it back. The snake often shows fight, and its way of fighting is to coil. If it gets a grip on something, then comes a tug of war. Just lugging it out and straightening it and dropping it back in the box is a half-hour's work for six strong men, and it leaves them exhausted.

Recovering a Stray.
Sometimes one of the big fellows gets loose. That happened not so long ago. Small boys looking up at a store window saw 25 feet of snake hanging out and looking around. They called a policeman, and the policeman, after some hours, succeeded in calling the store attendants. They all got together at the stern and heaved-ho until the snake was boxed again. It was an arm-wrenching job.

The men who do the hunting in the wilds take chances, for they go out, often hundreds of miles in the forests, with only two or three attendants. Often they are among natives who will not touch a snake because of tabu. There are narrow escapes, but the tight boxes of pythons keep arriving in New York in time for the circus and show seasons, and not a snake of the lot is under seven feet. India sends two where Africa sends one.

Now and then it is a case of "Pigs Is Pigs." The trip from India takes 45 days. A snake that started alone may be found at the end of it coiled around two dozen eggs, and in another two weeks the young are out.

Favor Forget-Me-Not
Cordova, Alaska.—The Grand Igloo of the Pioneers of Alaska in a resolution has requested the territorial legislature to make the forget-me-not the floral emblem of Alaska. The resolution declares this flower grows "on every hill and in every valley through Alaska's more than one-half million square miles."

LIBERIA HAS HUMAN LEOPARD SOCIETY
New York, N. Y., July 11.—(By the Associated Negro Press).—According to Dr. Elwood Linsey Haines, head of St. John's Academy and Industrial school, Cape Mount, Liberia, the Ku Klux Klan of America has nothing on an organization among the 2,000,000 natives of Liberia known as "The Human Leopard Society". This body is supposed to deal in magic and its members upon joining take an oath,

GAINS 7 MILLION IN LAST 4 YEARS

Our Population Increased by Low Death Rate and Immigration.

New York.—The population of the United States totaled 112,826,000 on January 1, 1924, according to estimates announced by the national bureau of economic research.

This compares with 110,883,000 on January 1, 1923, and the census count of 105,711,000 on January 1, 1920.

The most remarkable gain was recorded in the last half of 1923, the net increase being 1,162,000, a greater growth than in any other half year during the last two decades, and probably greater than any six months' period in the nation's history. The gain for the entire year was 1,943,000.

Figures by Half Years.
The bureau estimates the population of the continental United States for each half year since January 1, 1920, to have been approximately as follows:

Jan. 1, 1920	105,711,000
July 1, 1920	106,422,000
Jan. 1, 1921	107,875,000
July 1, 1921	108,539,000
Jan. 1, 1922	109,284,000
July 1, 1922	109,938,000
Jan. 1, 1923	110,883,000
July 1, 1923	111,664,000
Jan. 1, 1924	112,826,000

All the figures after January 1, 1922, are necessarily tentative, for the bureau of the census has not as yet published complete monthly data for births and deaths, covering the periods since 1921.

Improved methods of estimating the nation's population for the years following the census count in 1920 were developed by the bureau of economic research in continuance of its studies of income in the United States, and the relation of income to population.

The process evolved by the bureau is based on the "registration area" theory and takes into consideration all elements of error disclosed in previous work and the results attained by it are believed to approximate very closely actual figures.

In announcing the figures Dr. Willford I. King, under whose supervision they were gathered, said: "The fact that the rate of increase in population during the decade 1910 to 1920 was considerably less than the corresponding rate during the previous ten years led many persons to anticipate that in the future we might look forward to a rate of population expansion considerably lower than that which experienced during the last century."

Phenomenal Growth in 1923.
"Such expectations have been rudely shattered by the events of the last four years, and especially by what occurred during the latter half of 1923, in which period the rate of population growth appears to have been greater than in any other half year during the last two decades, and probably greater than in any six months within the history of the nation."

"This unusual increase was due to two facts: First, a very heavy recorded excess of immigration over emigration, which increased our population by 505,000; and, second, by the fact that the death rate was as low as has ever been recorded."

"According to the estimates of the bureau, there were about 1,298,000 births, against some 621,000 deaths, giving a net natural increase of about 677,000.

"This number, added to the 505,000 gain from immigration, totals 1,122,000, the estimated increase in population indicated by the government reports for the last half of 1923, as compared with a similar estimate of total growth for the entire year amounting to 1,893,000.

"It appears, then, that the average gain during the last four years was 1,778,750 a year, as compared with an average increase of 1,418,100 during the decade 1910 to 1920."

Kreisler Detects Genius by Thrills Along Spine

New York.—The spine is the indicator of genius, Fritz Kreisler, composer and violin virtuoso, firmly believes.

He gave this as part of his credo when he and Mrs. Kreisler boarded a liner, bound for Europe to resume a concert tour and holiday interrupted by the death of Mrs. Kreisler's father, George T. Lies. They first sailed April 17, but were aboard only forty-eight hours when called back.

"I have made a study of genius," the virtuoso said, "a study of all sorts of geniuses, and I have found that when I listen to a musical genius play, or read what has been written by a writer who is a genius, I get a thrill up and down my spine. I have made inquiries and I find that other people get the same sensation."

As for genius itself, Mr. Kreisler believes it is largely the perspiration of a talented individual.

"It is a gift," he said, "but the success is due to a great extent to the adaptation of the gift. Hard work is needed."

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Their first conversation betrayed the fact that she was not fastidious

At a distance she had appeared unusually neat, immaculate. But upon their first face-to-face meeting he discovered that her teeth were not clean. And he soon lost interest.

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