

HOW ESKIMOS CATCH EELS TO FEED DOGS

Dip Nets Used Through Holes Cut in Ice.

Saint Michael, Alaska.—Early every winter vast numbers of eels come down the Yukon river toward the sea, and the methods used by Eskimos to catch them for dog food is novel.

The lower Yukon freezes early in December and when the ice is about six inches thick the Eskimos watch for the arrival of eels.

Eskimo villages are scattered along the lower river up to Anvik, the dividing line between the Yukon Indians and Eskimos. Anvik is 350 miles from the mouth. The villages have from six to twenty families, each with five or more children.

The natives prepare dip nets 18 inches in diameter, of seal or walrus hide, the size of a leather shoe string, and made with one-quarter-inch mesh, fastened to a willow hoop and four-foot pole.

When the ice is strong enough the Eskimos who own dogs find the river eddies where eels have regular lanes of travel year after year.

Holes Cut in Ice.
Each dog owner cuts a hole two feet square in the ice, then some distance further along another one, and so on until five or six are made, all in a line up and down the river, crosswise to the current. Over the holes are placed grass mats piled with snow to prevent freezing. A stick is frozen upright near each hole as a guide and warning. Near each hole heaps of dry woods are piled.

Eels do not run in small numbers first, they increase to the high peak. They come in a wriggling, writhing mass of snake-like forms. They pass a given point in from seven to twenty minutes, a few stragglers follow for half an hour. They are 18 inches long, dark brown, with a leather-like fin on back and belly. Each has seven small round holes the size of a pinhead on both sides of the skull and a mouth like a sucker. Their digestive organs are in the head. The backbone is a hairlike gristle running the entire length of the body. They are all fat, not a trace of lean meat to be found on one of them.

When the ice is six inches thick the natives are ready for the greatest event of the year.

The tribes have an unusual system of notifying each other when the eels have arrived. Four young men are sent to watch at a water hole three or four miles beyond their village, day and night, until eels are sighted. Sleep is impossible, for if they should miss the eel run the natives would be minus dog feed for the long winter.

The river water comes up through the ice holes to within two or three inches of the top and as the wriggling masses of eels come down stream they push water ahead of them so that each hole overflows. This is the sign to the watchers of the arrival of the anticipated hosts.

Much of Work at Night.
Eels run so close to the shortest days that it is generally night work harvesting them. It is the queerest of northern sights to observe 30 to 50 fur-clad Eskimos and many dogs on the snow-covered ice, the rows of small wood fires burning brightly at the water holes.

As the water begins to rise in the hole, an Eskimo plunges his dip net in. At once it is filled with writhing eels; he pulls it up, dumps the contents upon the ice, then another plunge, another net full.

The last hole cleaned, the Eskimos gather to inspect their catch. Each family has from five to seven or eight piles of eels already frozen stiff, the sum total caught numbering well up in the hundreds.

The piles are left on the ice during a great part of the winter, except when a sled load is wanted for dog feed.

Eels are cooked with dried dogfish and the native sledge dog receives one full meal per day, which is served at night.

The eels are too fat even for the oil-loving Eskimos, but the grease is used for cooking and lamps.

Elephants Poor Sailors; Sea Voyage Sickens 'Em

Hamburg.—"Old Rose," an elephant ninety years of age, suffered most from sea sickness of all the 300 trained animals which sailed from Hamburg for Montevideo as part of a circus now on tour in South America.

There were nine other elephants beside "Old Rose," who is queen of the herd, and all bore up very well indeed until the leader herself became ill and kept the veterinarians and trainers up every night for a good part of the three-week ocean trip. The elephants at first were kept up on deck, but slight of the waves and the constant rolling and pitching of the vessel agitated them and resulted in so much belching that they were soon moved below decks.

Writing home of their experiences, the animal trainers say the voyage was a nightmare which lasted several weeks. The snakes were the only quiet things aboard the ship during the stormy weather, they said.

Bans Banana Song

Budapest.—Bands and orchestras in Hungary are not allowed to play "Yes, We Have No Bananas." As the tune reaches each country of the Balkans it is translated to suit local tastes, but the Hungarian words to it are so naughty the authorities have banned the air.

FRENCH PEOPLE DYING FAST

(By The Associated Negro Press)

Paris, France, May 14.—According to figures compiled for the first quarter of 1923 only one city in France, Strasbourg, showed a birth rate larger than the death rate. In ten of the largest cities in the country deaths increased by 2,000, this city being one of the numbers.

Baseball By-Plays

Sport slang! Curious sort of institution, isn't it? And did you ever stop to ponder over it; ever stop to wonder where it all came from?

Some of the classics of the ball lot were coined by none other than Ping Bodie, now playing center field for the Des Moines Boosters.

"Ping, you know, was the well-known wop fence buster and one-time "roomie" of Babe Ruth. It was during the Bambino's biggest home run year that Ping was selected to keep tabs on Ruth—wander around with him at night to see that the infant didn't do anything that would be bad for him.

So, then it was Ping, himself, who first referred to a baseball as an onion. Later he called it an apple. Still later he spoke of it as a tomato.

"Well, sir," Ping was wont to say, "I ain't so fast on my dogs any more when it comes to chasing them fly balls, but I certainly can caress that old apple."

Long Mutt Williams, the pitcher, who probably would be one of the greatest flingers in the game if he took life a bit more seriously, always has a lot of smart cracks on the end of his tongue. Mutt, who probably measures in at about six feet, four inches, always takes delight in telling some unsuspecting victim about the time when he was an actor. The elongated one says he used to play the tree in the forest scene in Way Down East. Mutt generally winds up by confiding to his listener that this all happened back in the good—yes, way back in the goodyear rubber company. Williams is now starring in the Denver line-up and will be seen in action in Omaha ere long.

URGENT PENSION FOR WIDOW OF COL. YOUNG

(By The Associated Negro Press)
Washington, D. C., May 16.—The Senate committee on pensions has already made a favorable report on the bill for the relief of the widow of Col. Charles Young, according to information contained in a letter from Sen. Royal S. Copeland, New York, to Wm. Pickens. Colored voters are urged to remind their representatives of the necessity for the passage of this measure.

Mrs. T. P. Mahammett returned on Tuesday from a three months' visit with relatives in California.

ATTEND STYLE SHOW
Style show Monday evening, May 26th, 1924 at Masonic hall, 24th and Parker streets, under the auspices of Ivy leaf Court. Feature of the evening, men models. A prize given to the one selling largest number of tickets. Admission 35c. Children, 15c. Adv. 3-t

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ED. F. MOREARTY
Attorney-at-Law
700 Peters Trust Building
NOTICE OF SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

To Elias Hollowell, non-resident defendant:

You are hereby notified that Josie Hollowell, your wife, and the plaintiff herein, filed her petition in the District Court of Douglas County, Nebraska, on the 13th day of February, 1924, to obtain a divorce from you on the grounds of willful desertion for more than two years last past. You are required to answer said petition on or before the 16th day of June, 1924.

JOSIE HOLLOWELL

4-1-5-16-24

LEGAL NOTICE

ED. F. MOREARTY
Attorney-at-Law
Peters Trust Building
NOTICE OF SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

To Louis Bonner, non-resident defendant:

You are hereby notified that Daisy Bonner, your wife, and the plaintiff herein, filed her petition in the District Court of Douglas County, Nebraska, on the 6th day of February, 1924, to obtain a divorce from you on the grounds of extreme cruelty and non-support. You are required to answer said petition on or before the 9th day of June, 1924.

4-1-5-9-24 Daisy Bonner.

! betrayed

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.

So many people overlook this one matter of fastidiousness. And do in spite of the fact that in conversation the teeth are the one most noticeable thing about you.

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