

GETS CREDIT FOR INVENTION IN 1810

Clerk Was First to Devise Boxes in Post Office.

Washington.—Thomas Brown, a clerk in the Richmond (Va.) post office in 1810, has been given official credit for having invented the "post office box."

While there are no Post Office department records to show that Brown was the first to make and put the post office box in use, there is nothing on file to disprove the claim made for him by his great-granddaughter, Miss Mary D. Lewis of Tallahassee, Fla.

Postmaster General New, therefore, has replied to a letter from Miss Lewis presenting the claim by stating he is ready to give Brown the benefit of the doubt and acknowledge him as the inventor.

Brown's memoirs, published some time after his death, fully set forth the circumstances leading to the invention. He wrote:

"I was the inventor or planner of post office boxes. These were times of embargo, nonintercourse, etc., and, of course, speculation was rife. The first news was important and therefore there was always a great rush to the post office as soon as the mail came in, for letters."

"The universal plan was to hand out letters from a round pane of glass from the front window. I have seen the whole street blocked by people waiting their turn to get to the window to ask for letters."

Brown was asked to devise a plan to remedy the situation. He did so by fitting a partition across a large room, filling it with pigeonholes covered at one end with glass with each hole numbered in front and bearing the name of the box-holder at the open end. About 400 boxes were quickly engaged at 50 cents for each three months.

Brown's plan is still utilized in post offices throughout the smaller cities and towns of the country.

Aged Woman to Fight for Unsettled Estate

Camden, N. J.—The myth of a \$1,000,000,000 estate remaining unsettled in New York was revived by the announcement by Miss Irene Powers, eighty-two years old, of Camden, that she intended to try to obtain a portion of the land supposed to have been left by Anneke Jans Bogardus. She said that she still hoped to share in the property, which comprises 62 acres between Broadway and the Hudson river, and includes the sites of the Woolworth building, Trinity church and other structures.

Although she has knowledge of the many futile attempts of this kind in the past, Miss Powers insists that she will pass her remaining years seeking to obtain millions which she declares are hers by right of inheritance.

Anneke Jans Bogardus inherited the property from her first husband, Roelof Jans, who bought it in 1630. She was supposed to have left the property under a 99-year lease to its occupants, with the understanding that it would revert to her heirs when the period expired. Actually, the property was transferred to the governor of the province, and later presented to Trinity church by Queen Anne.

On this flimsy evidence thousands of descendants of Anneke Jans have made attempts to acquire riches. The claim was outlawed by the New York State Court of Appeals in 1856, and again in 1881. Swindlers have repeatedly capitalized the story by juring supposed heirs into schemes for recovering the estate.

Standing Room Only Puts "Pep" in the Turk

Constantinople.—The new prefect of Constantinople, Emin Bey, to instill the spirit of "hustle" into the prefecture officials, has given orders that no chairs be allowed in any office except the chairs occupied by the officials themselves.

This is intended to discourage the inveterate habit of Turkish officials of comfortably installing their business visitors, treating them to coffee, and gossiping interminably without getting down to business.

Change Names at Will

Riga.—A recent decree of the central soviet authorities grants every Russian citizen over eighteen years the right to change his family name and his first name as often as he pleases, with full legal validity, simply by notifying the registrar of the community.

First Mail Plane Motor to Museum

Washington.—The engine used in a Bleriot monoplane to carry the first arial mail in the United States has been presented to the Smithsonian Institution by Earl Ovington, a Santa Barbara (Cal.) aviator, who, in 1911, was sworn in as the first arial postman.

The official document, bearing the signature of Postmaster General Hitchcock and Chief Inspector Morgan of New York also will be presented to the institution, together with a sample of mail carried on the first trip and a photograph of the plane.

Film 1-254,000 of Inch Thick Is Manufactured

Washington.—Probably the thinnest celluloid films ever produced have been made by the bureau of standards. They are so thin that 254,000 of them can be packed in a space an inch thick.

They were made by dissolving the celluloid in amylacetate and dropping the solution on a clean water surface, allowing the acetate to evaporate. The brown will use the films in X-ray work.

SIGHT OF CHILDREN IS BEING NEGLECTED

Small Percentage Receives Tests, Says Survey.

New York.—Only 4,227,702 of the 24,000,000 school children in the United States received eye tests in 1923, according to a preliminary report issued by the Eye Sight Conservation Council of America embodying the initial findings of a nationwide survey of eye conservation in education and industry.

The survey, which covers the results of testing the eyes of more than 10,000,000 students extending over a period of 16 years, discloses, it is asserted, that the eyesight of children in the public schools throughout the nation is being neglected.

"The eyesight of children in the public schools throughout the United States is not being given proper attention," says the report. "Even simple tests to detect the most evident cases of defective vision are not made generally. A very low percentage of the total enrollment receives eyesight tests of any kind. In the schools where tests are made there are wide differences in the results obtained. This indicates that in many schools the tests are made very superficially and that a uniform procedure is not observed in making the tests."

Cause of Retardation. John J. Tigert, United States commissioner of education, and a member of the board of councillors of the Eye Sight Conservation Council, says that defective vision is believed to contribute toward retardation. Commenting on the disclosure of the survey, which, he points out, should tend to develop an important field of education which has been too long neglected, Commissioner Tigert declares:

"The establishment of a consciousness of the need of attacking physical defects among our school children as a part of our educational program can scarcely be over emphasized. This is peculiarly true with reference to eyesight, because defective vision interferes more with educational progress than any other defect of sensation.

"Experience has clearly established that tests for defective vision may be carried out advantageously by the teachers. It is important to emphasize that suitable provisions are not now made for training teachers, school nurses and health inspectors in the methods of making tests. The council is doing a splendid thing in helping to secure such provision."

The data from which the council's report was prepared was gathered from widely different sources, including reports of state departments of education and state boards of health since 1907, covering 6,600,000 eye examinations, and municipal reports since 1907 covering 3,500,000 examinations. The most recent statistics were obtained through data obtained from public schools of 247 cities.

Few Receive Tests. "Only a small number of school children receive periodic eyesight tests at regular intervals," continues the council's report. The council has verified this statement in two ways, first by a summary of replies from state officials and second by a summary of replies from city school superintendents.

Simple visual acuity tests reveal that 25 per cent of the school children in the United States have manifest defects of vision and symptoms of eye-strain. More thorough examinations indicate that over 50 per cent of school children have eye defect of sufficient degree to warrant correction. There is no uniform method for testing eyesight, says the report.

Eye tests as made in the public schools are merely tests for keenness of vision and reveal but a portion of eye errors, according to the council, which says that especially in children a large proportion of eye defects are hidden, and while the child is contending with the defect, his keenness of vision is not affected.

Gold Prospectors Cause Excitement in Rhodesia

Bulawayo, Southern Rhodesia.—Gold prospecting is very active throughout Rhodesia and so keen are the prospectors in pegging out claims that eight of them slept throughout the freezing cold one night on the site of a dead miner's forfeited gold claim, known as Mick's Luck, near Essex Vale, at one time the home of the famous explorer F. C. Selous.

As soon as it was daylight there was a wild stampede among the men to erect the customary notices. Motor-cars had arrived for two of the competing amateurs, who apparently thought that first registration of a claim at the mines office in Bulawayo established a prior right to it. These two men had a furious race to Bulawayo, covering the distance of 30 miles over the rough veiled road in 45 minutes.

Wealthy Man Creates New Town in Ulster

Belfast.—Newtownkelly is the name of a new town which has sprung from the venture of Sir Samuel Kelly, wealthy mine owner, and which is said to be the greatest commercial undertaking ever attempted single handed in Ireland.

He has successfully prospected for coal, sunk two deep shafts, constructed overhead equipment and laid eight railway sidings. Colliers which he brought from Cumberland and Scotland live in the new town.

Turtle, Dated 1884, Is Found Twice by Man

Moorefield, W. Va.—Zack Reel found a land turtle on the Woerner place near Keasel on which was carved the name of "Joseph F. Woerner," and the date, "May 11, 1884."

Woerner is living with his daughter, Mrs. Edward Smith, at present. The same turtle was found by Reel once before about 100 yards from where it was discovered this time.

Works as Lumberjack to Earn College Tuition



Here's a girl of courage and originality. Probably the only girl lumberjack in the world. She spends the summer months booming logs on Moosehead lake, Kinto, Maine, to earn money for her college tuition. She is shown here keeping her balance on logs, a very difficult task for men, and unheard of for girls.

Miss Ruth C. Appar of Easton, Pa., is shown on the job.

New Material Lessens Building Cost in Russia

Moscow.—Russia's scarcity of living accommodations and the high cost of building material have forced the soviet authorities to experiment in the construction of what are termed "thermolite" houses, the invention of a Russian engineer named Peter Galakhoff.

A thermolite house has the conventional framework of wood, but a liquid material of heavy consistency (thermolite), composed of sawdust, straw and common tree leaves, mixed with lime, plaster and antiseptic solution, is interposed between the outer and inner boards.

When this mixture becomes hard, the house is rendered moisture-proof, resists decay, and is impervious to certain insects. With a coating of special paint containing the same ingredients as "thermolite," the house is also rendered fireproof. Houses of this type, according to the inventor, can be erected for 25 per cent less than the ordinary house and can be completed within less than six weeks.

Radio Replaces Pastor on Island Off Sweden

Stockholm.—A radio loud-speaker has taken the place of a minister for the first time in Sweden on the Island of Utoe in the Stockholm Archipelago.

The congregation, after having taken part in the service broadcast from Stockholm, was enthusiastic in its praises of the new scheme, since the island, especially in the winter time, often cannot be reached by ministers, owing to bad navigation conditions.

ED. F. MOREARTY Attorney at Law 700 Peters Trust Building

NOTICE OF SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

To James Mayo Non-Resident Defendant: You are hereby notified that Theodocia L. Mayo, your wife and the plaintiff herein, filed her petition in the District Court of Douglas County, Nebraska, on the 26th day of May, 1924, to obtain an absolute decree of divorce from you on the grounds of wilful desertion for more than two years last past, and for non-support. You are required to answer said petition on or before the 27th day of September, 1924.

THEODOCIA L. MAYO.

44-8-29-24

Texas has two colored postmistresses.

In each 1,000 colored persons between 5 and 20 years of age, 540, as compared with 670 whites, attend school.

Of the 1,855 colored school teachers in Tennessee, 1,497 are females.

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WANTED—Colored men to qualify for sleeping car and train porters. Experience unnecessary, transportation furnished. Write T. McCaffrey, Supt., St. Louis, Mo.

Miscellaneous

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