

ODD GROUP, THE GALAPAGOS

Noted for Giant Tortoises, a Sea Post-office and King Pat.

HUMAN BEINGS SHUN THEM

Some Facts About the Islands the United States Would Lease, Where They Are and Their Peculiarities.

In looking around for a site for a naval station which would be of strategic importance in the protection of the Panama canal the United States government, according to a dispatch from Washington, has entered into negotiations with Ecuador for a lease of the Galapagos Islands in the Pacific off the coast of South America.

For years the Galapagos have been noted for these strange creatures and for little else except possibly the curious sea post-office establishment there 100 years ago or more by whalers. Captain Sam Houston, office after depositing mail there have had a chance to disport themselves by taking a ride on the back of a giant tortoise, a pleasant way to break the monotony of a long voyage.

The tortoises of the Galapagos are said to be the last survivors of the reptiles to which belonged the huge dinosaurs and other creatures of which only fossil remains. According to visitors to the islands these tortoises have sometimes reached a length of seven or eight feet. The tortoises have a very shiny neck and a cruel looking head and are of a dull earthy color. It is said to be comparatively easy to mount the back of one of them and with the aid of a stick to keep your balance you can enjoy a novel ride. The tortoises have made deep paths all over the islands. They do not appear to be dying off.

Unusually Thick. Perhaps because there are thirteen little islands in the Galapagos group they have been unlucky for some folks who have been marooned on them. They lie 730 miles southwest of Ecuador and about 1,500 miles from Panama, occupying relatively the same position in respect to the traffic approaching the canal from South America as Hawaii does to trade from the north.

The largest island is about twice the size of Staten Island. From time to time attempts have been made to colonize them but without other results than to add to their curious fauna and flora, so that today in addition to the tortoises some of them are overrun with wild vegetables and also with wild horses, wild dogs and wild pigs. No native population was ever discovered in the group, but a hundred years ago there was a real wild man there.

The wild man of the Galapagos was a red headed Irishman and his name was Patrick Watkins. King Patrick he called himself and for several years he ruled the island and made slaves of some sailors who landed there. He is said to have been responsible for the first sea post-office established there, that being the way devised by one sea captain to warn others of the presence on the islands of King Patrick.

King of the Islands. The Irish king of the Galapagos was a deserter from an English whaler, which made a landing for water and from vegetables at Charles Island, one of the group. The place where he landed and where he issued forth a wild looking object to terrorize sailors has since been called Pat's Passage. Pat built a hut in a valley about two acres in extent back in the interior. It was the only place capable of culture in the present. He cultivated potatoes in great abundance and sold them to the ships that touched his shores.

Dressed in rags, his red hair and beard tangled and filled with briars, his appearance was that of the primitive man and so wild as to cause those who visited his domains never to forget it. His one desire, according to some chroniclers of his reign, was for brandy, for which he would exchange his vegetables. He had an old musket and some bullets and lived alone in state among the tortoises.

Finally he decided to become a slave owner. One day an American whaler put in for water and left a negro in charge of the ship's boat drawn up on the beach. King Pat sallied forth from a defile, captured the negro and started to drag him to his hut in the valley. He hadn't gone far before the negro turned the tables and captured King Pat, the result being that he was taken aboard ship for trial.

An English vessel happened to come in just then and Pat's sentence was that he should be flogged first on the American vessel and then on the English. After this sentence had been executed the Irish king of the Galapagos was taken on shore, handcuffed and left in that fashion, while his captors ruthlessly tore up his garden, destroyed his hut and sailed away.

In the Stage World

Attractions in Omaha. "Wildfire" at the Boyd. "Vaudville" at the American. "The Call of the North" at the Gayety. Wrestling Match at the Krug.

Bernhardt is coming in June, but between now and then we are given the promise of seeing a fine lot of the best plays by the best actors the American stage now knows. The list includes about everything. Henrietta Croeman is among the number and Gertrude Elliott, and Francis Wilson will be here, and John Drew, and "The Sweetest Girl in Paris" is coming, and some similar attractions, so that the nights at the Grandville will be filled with pleasure and music and gay laughter and some little sober thinking before the canvases covers are put on the chairs and the carpets are taken up for the summer.

Back of the new sign that was hoisted in place of the Grandville theater yesterday lurks a little story that involves the too literal obedience to orders, or, rather, the too literal interpretation of a short remark by the house electrician. But the sign was needed, anyhow.

When plans now being put into effect are completed the way up Douglas street from Sixteenth to the American will indeed be "the great white way." It will literally blaze at night, and the wayfarer will have no trouble in following the route.

George Arliss has been so much of a success in "Disraeli" at the Grand in Chicago that his time has been extended. The play is one that has met the approval of the Chicago critics and the public seems to like it, so the Liebers are counting it as among their season's successes.

"The Girl I Love" is coming money for Harry Haskin at the LaSalle in Chicago and bids fair to run right through the summer. This is the second big winner for the LaSalle this season.

"Wildfire" will be presented three times more at the Boyd, the run closing on Saturday night to make room for "The Call of the North," which begins the new week on Sunday afternoon.

Manager Byrne of the Orpheum is looking for early advice of the coming of the Orpheum road show. He suggests that Orpheumites keep their eagle eye out for the date and get seat reservations early and thus avoid disappointment. Among the acts with this year's road show is La Pia, "The Enchantress." In a series of fascinating dances with elaborate costumes, she is said to be the most versatile performer. The Orpheum has yet known. These brothers offer eight distinct acts in their forty minutes. They are clever as jugglers, mimics, illusionists, aerialists, acrobats, plastic posing, Chinese magicians and musicians. Howard, premier ventriloquist of Scotland, is another act. Mac Melville and Robert Higgins will offer their comedy hit.

The Buena Vista at the First Methodist church next Tuesday evening will be the first of Miss Hopper's offerings under her own management for the season. She is undertaking to carry out the H-H-W concert series as an independent undertaking. The great pianist has been getting very flattering reception throughout the west, and the present indications are that she will delight a large audience at the church next Tuesday.

Arthur Deming, appearing at the American. King Patrick, Porter made the islands his headquarters while he made raids on British whaling ships during the war. The ships were accustomed to put in there for water and fresh vegetables and fell an easy prey to the Americans.

David Glasgow Farragut was a midshipman on the Essex, and he described the sea post office as it then existed in a journal he kept of the cruise. In telling of one of the expeditions he wrote in 1852: "We then separated, our ship going to Charles Island to examine the postoffice which a letter box called to a tree, in which whalers and other visitors deposited records of their movements. Found nothing new but some fresh tracks of men."

A Sea Postoffice. A man who visited the island in 1854 described this sea postoffice as consisting then of a candle box nailed to a tree, and said that it looked old enough to be the same box found by Farragut.

In the early '60s the British warship Amphion visited the Galapagos and erected a new postoffice to commemorate its visit. The crew of the warship put a new box on top of a post on the beach above high water and cut the name of their ship in it. Since then it has been the custom of callers at the postoffice to inscribe their names on the post as a sort of postmark.

There is no telling how often the postoffice is visited, and people depositing letters have to take chances. Some of the letters put there have taken queer travels before reaching their destination. Two letters deposited there in 1906 reached the office in May, 1907, and then only after some hard work done by the experts in the dead letter office at Washington.

These letters were found by a resident of Guayaquil and forwarded by him to Washington. The addresses were all but undecipherable. One was addressed to a mother in Missouri by her sailor son and another to a woman in California whose son was a member of a scientific expedition which had touched at the islands.

Uncle Sam once before the present time had his attention called to the Galapagos. That was when an expedition was sent there to rescue Frederick Jeffs, an American seaman who was reported as marooned there as the result of a shipwreck. It was in February, 1908, that the Navy department was asked to send a ship to look for Jeffs. After searching hard and long, the crew of a Norwegian vessel, which had been wrecked there, had been rescued with the exception of Jeffs, who had wandered away. The whole world instantly began to take interest in this case of a Robinson Crusoe.

The gunboat Yagouan, detailed from the battleship fleet, then on its way around the coast, reached the islands in March, 1908, and made a careful search of indefatigable island, one of the smallest in the group and the one from which the other shipwrecked sailors had been rescued. Though they searched hard and long, the only trace of the missing sailor the exploring party could find was a signal pole erected by him at a spring ten miles from the spot where the other sailors had been found and a rusty razor bearing his name.

A little over a year ago a report came to the State department from the Pacific that a body of a sailor supposed to be Jeffs had been found and buried on a little island not far from Colon. Whether this really was the body of the missing sailor was never definitely established, and the story of Jeffs has remained one of the

can this week, is one of the famous minstrel men of the last decade. He is the man that made the songs "I'd Leave My Happy Home for You" and "Just Because She Made Them Goo Goo Eyes" the popularity that they had some eight years ago. He sings them this week at the American with his various embellishments that make them more than ordinary songs.

George Austin Moore, who will be at the Orpheum next Sunday, was recently married to Cordelia Haager, daughter of Chief of Police Haager of Louisville, Ky. Mrs. Moore will appear with her husband in the act. Mr. Moore bears his second name on account of having been born at Austin, Tex. He is noted for his ability to make an extra fine quality of chili con carne.

Fred G. Latham will sever his connection with Charles Dillingham's office at the end of next month. Latham has been the stage director for Mr. Dillingham since he resigned from the Metropolitan opera company five years ago. In that capacity he has staged virtually all of the Dillingham musical and dramatic plays during that period. His reason for withdrawing at this time is a desire to obtain a long rest. A while ago he injured his knee cap seriously and it never has been given a chance to heal properly.

Margaret Wycherly, who was the light in the original American production of "The Blue Bird," will have the principal comedy part in support of Annie Russell in "The Backsliders."

Charles Klein, author of "The Gamblers," has announced that Lewis Waller, the well known English actor-manager, will produce his play, which is now running at Maxine Elliott's theater in New York. Henry Arthur Jones will adapt the play and Mr. Klein himself will direct the rehearsals.

Within a few days Ralph C. Herz, lately a star of "Madame Sherry," will begin rehearsals in a new musical play entitled "Doctor de Luxe." In that piece he will begin a tour under the direction of Joseph M. Galtes, which eventually will bring him once more to Broadway. "Doctor de Luxe" is from the pens of those prolific writers, Otto Hauerbach and Karl Hosenba. In its original form the piece was intended for Victor Moore, but was thrust aside in favor of "The Happiest Night of His Life."

Edna Goodrich-Goodwin has signed a contract with M. S. Bentham for a vaudeville tour on the United Booking time. Mrs. Goodwin will be seen in an elaborate production, requiring in all fifteen people. The act will open March 6 in some out-of-town theater, where it will be whipped into shape for its New York premiere. It is a farce comedy. Mrs. Goodwin, it is understood, will receive \$2,500 a week.

In "The Old Town," which comes to the Grandville theater next Sunday, Dave Montgomery and Fred Stone appear disguised as members of a Scottish volunteer regiment. The situation and the costumes give them opportunity to introduce a big Scotch medley number, in which they are assisted by some twenty members of the chorus and by six little dancers of the English pony ballet.

There is reason to believe that O. M. Scott, a member of the Orpheum Four at the Gayety this week, gets over the railroads at half rates—not because he isn't old enough to pay whole fare, but because of his narrowness. Scott is really so thin that it would overwork him to even cast a shadow the sunniest day in summer. It is said that the chambermaid in the hotel where he is stopping made up his bed, not noticing him, while he slept peacefully.

Unsolved mysteries of the sea.—New York Sun.

SPLENDORS OF CALIFORNIA ATTRACT SOUTH DAKOTANS Many from Northern State Enjoying Hospitality of Friends in and About Los Angeles.

LOS ANGELES, March 2.—(Special.)—With the fashionable season in southern California at the very apex of its winter glories, with the influx of fashionable people growing greater daily, South Dakota folk are becoming more prominent than ever before in the daily and weekly round of gaieties. They are taking their part in the rides to the beaches and Mount Lowe, they are to be seen in many of the larger parties that are climbing Mount Wilson, they are evident in the crowds attending the polo match; in fact, they are to be seen wherever the world of fashion has decreed that it is proper to be seen.

While all of them have a good time, none have had a more enjoyable visit to the land of everlasting sunshine than Mr. and Mrs. E. McEwen of Clark, S. D., who are visiting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Young in fashionable Central avenue, San Jacinto. Another South Dakotan who has been the guest of the same hospitable home is E. P. George.

Rev. and Mrs. Davis of Orient, S. D., have been for some weeks the guests of their friend, Fletcher Coates, in Fremont avenue, Los Angeles. Mrs. Davis, who is a relative of James A. Garfield, the murdered president, and her aged husband celebrated their golden wedding not long since. Their plans for return are uncertain.

Louis Beach, the largest and most popular of the seaside resorts near Los Angeles, has had several South Dakota visitors this season. J. L. Hall of Volga is the latest arrival. He is at the Hotel Virginia. From Redlands, where the orange grows, comes news of the arrival of R. H. Williams and H. Williams, both of Brookings, S. D. They are guests of Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Hird, in Brookside avenue. Both men are bankers and are making a business and pleasure trip through this section. They are planning to transfer their interests to California. It is reported, but have not yet decided where they will settle.

Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Bloodgood of Huron, S. D., are spending a few days with their brother, Freeman H. Bloodgood, of Inglewood. They are making a tour of southern California with a view to settling.

Washington Affairs. (From a Staff Correspondent.) WASHINGTON, D. C., March 2.—(Special Telegram.)—Army orders: Colonel William P. Evans, Twenty-fifth infantry, will proceed to Hot Springs, Ark., and report to the commanding officer, Army and Navy general hospital for treatment. By direction of the president, First Lieutenant Sam F. Herron, retired, is detailed as professor of military science at Ohio Wesleyan university, Delaware, O., and will proceed to that place for duty accordingly. First Lieutenant Leopold Mitchell, Medical Reserve corps, is ordered to active duty and will proceed to Washington barracks, Washington, D. C., for duty. By direction of the president, Lieutenant Colonel Charles H. Watts, Ninth cavalry, will repair to this city and report to Brigadier General Henry G. Sharp, commissary general, for examination by army retiring board. Captain Joseph D. Leitch, general staff, is transferred from the Twenty-fifth to the Twenty-eighth infantry. Captain William P. Mapes is transferred from the Twenty-eighth infantry to the Twenty-fifth infantry.

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