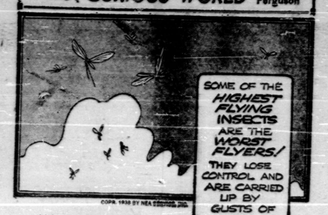
THIS, CURIOUS WORLD

By William Ferguson



ONE of the best known groups of stars in the heavens is the Pleiades, which frequently is erroneously called the "little dipper." These "Seven Sisters" figured prominently in ancient celebrations of the beginning of spring, since they once marked the sun's place in the heavens as it crossed the equator traveling north.

NEXT: When red hail fell.

OTTAWA REPORTS

That New Regulations Will Tighten Control On Purchase Of Farm Machinery

Farm machinery production and sale is being watched anxiously by the Government these days. Ottawa is very conscious of the fact that vital food production may be affected by any miscalculations of the requirement of the farmers in this direction.

In spite of the fact that quotas for manufacture of farm equipment have been very considerably enlarged during recent months, new equipment is still difficult to obtain compared with normal times. It is still necessary to ration a wide variety of items of farm machinery and equipment and to otherwise control the sale of these goods, and the Administrator of Farm Machinery for the Wartime Prices and Trade Board has announced some new regulations which tighten the control over conditions under which new farm machinery is sold.

War material must come first and implement plants both in Canada and the United States are still engaged on war orders. The supply of metal, although improved, is not yet nearly adequate. this respect that arrangements have been made by Mr. Bloom, the Farm Machinery Administrator, with the United States War Production Board for the release of greater supplies of metal for use in making farm machinery.

* * *

The new regulations now announced and included in a general consolidation of the farm machinery rationing order, concern the sales of machinery. One prohibits a dealer from putting to his own use machinery that he has obtained for re-sale to customers, unless he has proper permission from the Board to do so. Another provision is designed to prevent farmers from selling used equipment merely for the purpose of obtaining new. From now on, no application for new equipment will be considered in these cases unless the farmer has previously filed with the Board's representative, a statement describing the used equipment he sold, giving his reasons for selling it, and a description of the new machinery he intends to buy. It is useless for him to try to proceed with his purchase unless he has a notice from the Board's representative that his application for the new equipment will be given consideration.

* * *

Another provision has been made which is designed to prevent farmers, who have already been refused application for new machinery, from repeating their application through relatives. The Board now requires that applications for new machinery must come only from those who have a leasehold or freehold interest in the property on which the new machinery is to be used.

However it is some help to know that repairs for farm equipment are not on the rationed list, and that there are some thirty items of new equipment which are not rationed.

Coal for Poultry Breeders

Two announcements issued recently will be good news to poultry breeders across the country. The Department of Agriculture has announced that additional supplies of anthracite coal will be imported from the United States for the exclusive use of poultry breeders and hatcheries. This will apply to the districts where this fuel is customarily used.

The other announcement comes from the Wartime Prices and Trade Board and places a ceiling on the prices of both soluble and insoluble types of poultry grit. The ceiling prices which went into effect on December 16, affect manufacturers, importers, wholesalers and retailers.

VOICE OF THE PRESS

KNOWS HOW

Dunnville Chronicle would like to know: "Why do people spend money they have not got to buy things they don't need to impress people they don't like?" All we can suggest is the standard woman's reason—because.

—Owen Sound Sun-Times.

MAKES HIM SQUIRM

Hitler must find it a pain in the neck to read the handwriting on the wall when his back is almost against the same.

—Kitchener Record.

EACH GOT HIS DESERTS

A Canadian soldier paid £1 for a bottle of whisky in an Edinburgh pub. The Canadian got cold tea instead of whisky, and the pub owner got 30 days. Neither got what he wanted, but what each got was good for him.

—Ottawa Journal.

FAR BELOW CANINE LEVEL

Detroit police arrested a group of professional dog fight fans. A dog fight promoter is a man several degrees below a dog.

—Detroit Free Press.

A NIGGER IN THAT WOODPILE

Ask some consumers about coal, and they shout: "For peat's sake don't mention it!"

—Hamilton Spectator.

WHAT? AGAIN?

Newspapers, the ladies, have to be careful. When there's a letdown their slip shows.

—Ottawa Citizen.

THE WAR - WEEK — Commentary on Current Events

Eisenhower To Direct Western Assault Into Heart of Germany

A three-front land offensive to be launched simultaneously against Germany from Russia, from Italy and from Britain across the Channel, with Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower in supreme command of the Anglo-American invasion army, was disclosed by President Roosevelt in his Christmas Day radiocast to the nation and to the armed forces in every theater of the globe, writes a correspondent of The Christian Science Monitor.

The Cairo and Teheran, Iran, conferences with Marshal Joseph Stalin, Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek and Prime Minister Winston Churchill brought the President announced, agreement "on every point concerned with the launching of a gigantic attack upon Germany."

Mr. Roosevelt revealed the broad pattern of the climatic operations now in the making.

Campaign High Lights

He evidently felt it would be no help to the enemy to make known.

That the Russian Army will continue its stern offensives on Germany's Eastern Front.

That the Allied armies in Italy and Africa will bring relentless pressure on Germany from the south.

And that the encirclement will be complete as great American and British forces attack from other points of the compass.

The President explained that General Eisenhower was selected to lead the combined attack from these other points because "his performances in Africa, Sicily and Italy have been brilliant" and because "he knows by practical and successful experience the way to co-ordinate air, sea, and land power."

Shifts in Commanders

London revealed that General Eisenhower's assistant will be Gen. Sir Bernard L. Montgomery, the famed commander of Britain's Eighth Army, that Gen. Sir Henry Maitland Wilson will succeed Gen. Eisenhower in the Mediterranean with an American general assisting him, and that Gen. Sir Harold Alexander will command the Allied forces in Italy.

A British officer, to be announced by Prime Minister Churchill, will succeed General Eisenhower in the Mediterranean and both the new commanders will have American and British subordinate commanders.

The choice of an American for the Channel operation was dictated by the proportion of the burden to be borne there by American forces. The Mediterranean is to become largely a British undertaking. British troops have from the beginning carried most of the load and now provide nearly three fourths of the troops operating in Italy.

American forces entered that area originally on the assumption that the French in Africa would resist Americans less tenaciously than they would resist the British. French Africa now being in the war as an ally, that factor no longer governs. America's land weight in Europe therefore shifts back to England as a base and an American commander becomes logical for that area.

Magnitude of Problem

Indicating the gathering striking force now available in Britain and the powerful reserves which will be ready to follow up the coming cross-Channel invasion, as well as other operations, Mr. Roosevelt said "there are now 2,800,000 men in the American armed forces serving overseas and that by July this number will rise to over 5,000,000.

But with the settling upon General Eisenhower for the invasion command comes new indications of the magnitude of his problem. The time cannot be very far in the distance. To take the fullest advantage of the Russian winter offensive it must come in the very early spring—before the spring thaws in Russia, or not much after the beginning of the thaw. The Germans must not be allowed time to move forces from the Eastern to the Western Fronts.

Element of Haste

That writes an element of urgent haste into the preinvasion bombing schedule. Not only must maximum damage be done to German war industry during the next two or three months, but the invasion coast itself must be softened and the primary coast defenses must be reduced to the minimum possible effectiveness.

The President frankly warned that the biggest and costliest battles are still to be fought, and he said of the planned invasion, though its success was certain, its cost would be high and the time might be long.

David Franklin McDowell

* * *

Anglo-Saxon political development when the English first appeared as a nation.

Mr. McDowell is the author of The Champlain Road, an historical romance of Ancient Huronia, in Ontario's Georgian Bay District, which won the Governor-General's Award for Fiction in 1939.

Identified for many years with the Canadian National Railways as Publicity Representative for the Central Region, Mr. McDowell is one of the many fiction writers trained by practical journalism. Widely known among press and magazine writers, his early years were spent as a reporter and feature writer, and he worked for a period in the United Kingdom.

Forges of Freedom . . . By Franklin Davey McDowell . . . . The Macmillan Company . . . . Price $3.50.

The Book Shelf

Forges of Freedom

By Franklin Davey McDowell

Like a tapestry come to life this novel of fourteenth century England presents a vivid panorama of life in that romantic and turbulent age when the roads of England were the meeting-place of knights and minstrels, merchants and pedlars, outlaws and conspirators.

Mr. McDowell re-creates brilliantly the medieval scene and the pattern of life in England when, after three hundred years of Norman occupation, Englishmen from every walk of life drew their swords or forged them to fight for freedom.

There are many dramatic meetings in this novel, pictured in all the pageantry of the period: the meeting of John of Gaunt and the "Grossers"; the march on London when Watt Tyler met the King and his followers with Sir John de Redeware, Lord William de Rose and their partisans.

Forges of Freedom tells the story of that critical period of

* * *

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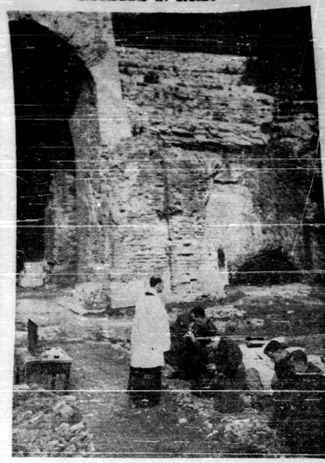
CANADIANS IN SICILY



These ancient ruins in Sicily, crumbling evidence of a former civilization, was the setting for this Church of England communion being given here to a group of Canadians by Major Serson Clarke, of Ottawa, after a recent church service. (Canadian Army Overseas Photo).

Some Kind Words For Lowly Skunk

The lowly skunk has been given a lot of most undeserved publicity, according to a man who claims to know much about these little animals, says The Trenton Courier Advocate. This man tells us that when a skunk is trapped, the other skunks will bring him a bed to lie on. Further than that, they will bring him food. He says he can prove this. If what this man says is true, and we are not doubting him a bit, name any other animal, wild or tame, that is so considerate of its own at a time like that.

Newfoundlanders Doing Full Share

Out of a male population in Newfoundland of 40,000 between the ages of 20 and 40, more than a quarter have volunteered to serve abroad. Numbers of these men are with Newfoundland artillery Regiments of the United Kingdom forces; with the Royal Navy, the Royal Air Force, the Merchant Marine and the Forestry Unit. Many have enlisted in the Canadian armed forces. In this war as in the former world struggle, the Newfoundlanders are doing their full share of the fighting.

Still Gets Around On High-Wheeler

From Regina comes a picture of a man in his seventies riding a high-wheel bicycle, relates the Woodstock Sentinel-Review. This machine, more than half a century old, is used today just as the ordinary bicycle or automobile —for the purpose of "getting around." What a difference in mechanism and in time and events between that high-wheeler and the latest tank.

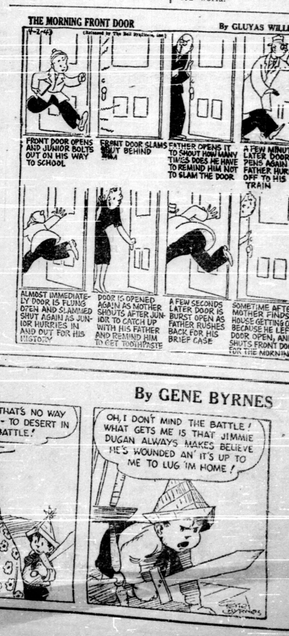
The owner of the high-wheeler is R. J. King a Regina contractor. He says he "learned to get on the thing (quite a chore) back in Wingham, Ontario, 59 years ago." Mr. King said that he "used to go to work on it back in Ontario—Went a-courtin' on it, too."

Not without interest, in the light of the story and background of this high-wheeler, is the fact that it was built in Coventry, England. The firm which built it was still making bicycles when the war broke out. Probably the firm's building was blown to bits in the infamous Coventry blitz.

The machine's front wheel is about 4½ feet high. Tires are solid rubber. "Sometimes," says Mr. King, "if you lose your balance, she'll throw you like a bucking broncho." With no attempt at lightness, it should be said that such news as this helps all to keep their balance in a troubled world.

THE MORNING FRONT DOOR

By GLUYAS WILLIAMS



Blitz Children Overcome Fear

Children Lose Nervousness Under Expert Care In Foster Parents' Nurseries

The war may produce a generation of neurotic children, as some scientists predict, but the specialists who have cared for Britain's blitz babies do not think so.

The staff of the two Foster Parents' Nurseries in London has a way of putting it that epitomizes much. "The best shelter," it says, "is the shelter of the mind."

One mother, a comfortable and very placid woman, the mother of six children, when asked whether her rooms had been damaged by bombing, answered with a beaming smile, "Oh, no, we were ever so lucky. We had only blast and my husband fixed the window frames again."

"Blast which removes the window frames, not to mention the window panes, can be a very uncomfortable experience.

Mother's Example

By way of contrast there was the mother of a young boy named Jim. She never went to bed so long as an air raid warning lasted, but stood at the door trembling, insisting that the boy, only five, stand beside her. Separated from her, he lost almost all his nervous habits and showed no special alarm when the sirens sounded.

"The point is," explained a staff member, "that children rely so much upon the adults around them. So long as the grown-up remains calm so does the child."

Apart from fitting a child into the next best thing to his own home—a nursery where there is a continuing happy family — the therapy employed is mainly an application of the well-known principle of child psychology that the best way to overcome fright is to play over and over again the experiences that caused fear. Thus, the children beyond the baby stage have taken up air raid games, and more recently commando games, the 1943 equivalent of "cops and robbers" or "cowboys and Indians."

Grouse and Quail Scarce In Ontario

Sportsmen who have visited Northern Ontario this fall report that the ranks of the partridge (the American ruffed grouse) are becoming pretty well depleted, according to The Chatham News. Some years ago this splendid game bird, after a period of protection, increased in numbers and afforded some good hunting. Here in this section of Ontario they have been scarce this fall. Possibly the severe weather and heavy snowfall experienced last winter, which covered their food supply, destroyed some of them. Probably a good many others fell victim to the gunners. If the ruffed grouse are again to become plentiful in the swamps and on the wooded ridges they must be left undisturbed another year or two.

As to the quail or bob-white, it is very questionable whether there should again be an open season for that handsome game bird whose habitat in Ontario practically is confined to the southern corner. The quail falls an easy prey to the gunner, and is but ill-equipped to make much of a fight for existence. The huntsmen could well leave the bob-whites unmolested, and confine their hunting to the partridge and the pheasant, which are better adapted to look out for themselves.

Armistice Coach Said Destroyed

The newspaper Aftonbladet quoted Swedish eyewitnesses as saying that last week's raids on Berlin had destroyed the famous French Compiegne railway coach in which the 1918 and 1940 armistices were signed.

The eyewitnesses said the Zeughaus (war museum) on Berlin's Unter den Linden, containing this and other war trophies, was leveled. The Germans signed their armistice in the coach at the end of World War I. In a theatrical gesture, Hitler forced the French to sign there in 1940.

Cold Sore Throat

Swallow one Paradol tablet. Gargle with two tablets dissolved in water. Go to bed and rest and sleep.

Soon the pains and aches disappear and you may avoid a disagreeable cold.

Paradol is a fast relief for headaches, neuralgia, toothache, rheumatic and sciatic pains. It is pleasant to use and leaves no disagreeable after effects.

Paradol does not disappoint.

DR. CHASE'S PARADOL
IN THE SEIZE OF PAIN

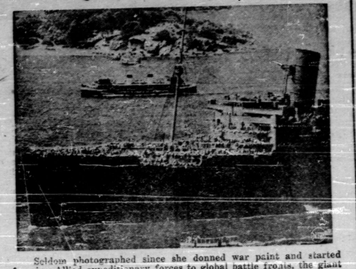
IF BACK ACHES HELPS KIDNEYS

Do you feel older than you are or suffer from Getting Up Nights, Backache, Nervousness, Leg Pains, Rheumatic Pains, Burning, Scanty or frequent passages? If so, remember that your Kidneys are vital to your health and that these symptoms may be due to Kidney and Bladder troubles—in such cases Cystex usually gives prompt and joyous relief by helping the Kidneys clean out poisonous excess acids and wastes. You have everything to gain and nothing to lose in trying Cystex. The iron clad money-back agreement assures a refund of your money on return of empty package unless fully satisfied. Don't delay. Get Cystex (Sis-tex) from your Nalpa Clean druggist today.

Cystex
Kidneys

MACDONALD'S BRIER
Canada's Standard Smoke

QUEEN OF TRANSPORTS



Seldom photographed since she donned war paint and started ferrying Allied expeditionary forces to global battle fronts, the giant S.S. Queen Mary is pictured as loaded to the gunwales with troops she recently entered an unnamed port.

CHAPTER XI

SYNOPSIS

Dave Bruce, out of a job, arrives at Wilbur Ferris' Cross-Bar ranch. Curran, the foreman, promises him a job if he can break a horse called Black Dawn. When he succeeds, he discovers Curran expected the horse to kill him. A girl named Lola rides up, angry with Dave for breaking "her" horse. She refuses to speak to Dave even when he uses his savings to pay off the mortgage on the small ranch she shares with her foster father, a man named Hooker. When Hooker is killed by a shot fired through the window, Lola has him arrested for murder. Faced with almost certain hanging, Dave is awaiting his trial when Curran goes to call on Lola.

"Well, Miss Lola, this shore is bad news," Curran said, and Lola could see that his face was blackened and his lip badly swollen from the beating that Dave had given him the day before.

"It doesn't make any difference now," said Lola gravely. "Hooker's dead. I guess you fellows are going to hang Dave Bruce."

"You betcha we are!" shouted Curran. "We don't aim to have no dirty murderers livin' and fattenin' in the jail at the expense of the town, and saddlin' us with the cost of a jury trial at Hampton. We always acted on that principle, and we're always goin' to do so. There's goin' to be some fun tonight, Miss Lola."

"I'll be there," said Lola.

"Meanin' yuh want to see the feller dance?"

* * *

Lola nodded. Curran looked at her curiously at first; then, as his eyes took in the lines of her slender body, his face flushed. He took another step toward her and stood looking down at her. She hardly reached to his shoulder.

"What yuh aimin' to do now yore dad's dead?" he asked, as the shock had done.

"I haven't made my plans," Lola answered. "I reckon I know how to mind my business, Mr. Curran."

Curran flushed. "Why the Mister?" he asked. "And how come you call yore dad Hooker?"

"Maybe you can tell as well as I can," answered Lola.

That was Curran's first intimation that she knew Hooker had not been her father. He had sense enough not to pursue the subject, but it acted like the fuse-cap on a stick of dynamite, clinching his resolution.

"You never acted very warm toward me, did yuh?" he asked.

"I don't know why I should," said Lola. "You were never a special friend of mine, as far as I remember."

"Maybe I could be," said the foreman. "Maybe I've tried to be. Listen. I guess you know I stand in purty well with Mr. Ferris. Fact is, he couldn't git rid of me even if he wanted to. It ain't no secret to you that Lonergan's got the mortgage on the Cross-Bar, and put me in to run it?"

* * *

Lola was silent, and Curran continued, "I shouldn't be s'prised if I was to be the owner of the Cross-Bar one of these days. Half-owner, anyways. And that time ain't so far away. I been watchin' you for a good while, Miss Lola. You're growed up to be a woman now. It ain't fair to yoreself, livin' up here in the hills and runnin' as wild as a scrub pony. And now Hooker's gone, yuh can't go on livin' here alone."

"What d'you want me to do about it?"

"I'll tell you what I been thinkin'," answered the foreman, supremely confident. "How about you and me gittin' hitched? You'll find yoreself livin' like a queen, compared to this."

"That's sure some picture you're drawin', Mr. Curran," answered Lola. "Only it don't seem to jogister somehow. I'd rather have my bronco."

Curran glared at her, a self-possessed little figure, standing erect in her chaps and stained overalls. With one hand he could have swung her into the air. Desire and thwarted will united in the resolve to overcome here, to break her, as Dave Bruce had broken Black Dawn.

* * *

He seized her in his arms and tried to press his lips to hers.

A resounding slap reddened the foreman's cheek. Lola broke away, confronting him with fists clenched and heaving breast.

"You try that trick again, Mr. Curran, and I'll set the herd on you," she said.

Curran's glare had something of fear in it. He had seen enough of Lola' strange power over the wild broncs.

He turned away, went slowly back to where he had left his horse, climbed into the saddle. "You think over what I said," he called. "You'd be crazy to turn down a proposition like that. Think you'll be gittin' a better one, huh? I'll see yuh at the hangin', and I'll be comin' back here for my answer soon."

Lola watched him ride away. She felt perfectly secure. A whistle from her would have brought the herd running head-

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SURPRISE CREAM FILLING

1⅓ tablespoons butter
1⅓ tablespoon a BENSON'S or CANADA CORN STARCH
¾ cup milk
¾ cup icing sugar
¼ teaspoon salt
1½ tablespoons lemon juice
½ cup shredded cocoanut or ½ cup crisp cooked cereal or ½ cup stale cake crumbs

Melt butter in saucepan; blend in corn starch, stirring to a smooth paste. Add milk and stir until boiling point is reached. Allow to boil for 2 minutes, stirring constantly. Add icing sugar, salt and lemon juice. Blend thoroughly. Cool and stir in cocoanut, crisp cereal or stale cake crumbs, before putting between layers of SALLY'S LAYER SPONGE CAKE.

There's No Short Cut to Victory

For nearly two years we have been bombing German cities many times more heavily than London was ever bombed. The Nazis haven't yet shown one definite sign of cracking, warns the Financial Post.

Three months ago we landed on the mainland of Italy. At no time have we registered a sustained advance of more than a few miles.

Along the whole coast of Western Europe the country is mined and studded with guns of all calibres to a depth of a hundred miles. To these formidable defences has now been added winter.

These facts do not point to any short cut to victory. As Prime Minister Churchill warned in London the other day, there is no indication that we can win this war without a staggering bill in blood and treasure.

It is possible that Germany might collapse before the armies of the Western democracies are called upon to face an Armageddon in Eastern Europe. But we would be blind fools to count on such an outcome; to ease in our war effort, to weaken our national capacity to withstand horror and disaster by assuming that we are now pretty well out of the woods.

Air Travel Speedy To Airman's Home

Here is an example of speedy air travel. Squadron Leader D. S. Florence, D.F.C., now serving as a navigator in the Atlantic Service operated by Trans-Canada Air Lines for the Canadian Government, not long ago reached home after leaving a North British airport—and only 37 hours were spent in travelling, times down at Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, North Bay, Winnipeg, Lethbridge and Calgary making up the remainder. The air distance covered in the trans-Atlantic crossing and Trans-Canada Air Lines flights represented approximately 5,600 miles.

long with Black Dawn leading, a fighting, tearing, kicking, crunching fury.

"I hate him," she said to herself. "You're bad medicine, Mr. Curran. I'm glad that you got beaten up yesterday."

(Continued Next Week)

DRESS UP YOUR BED

It's smart and the newest way to add glamour to your bedroom —the large pillow on your bed. What your age or occupation if you are troubled with piles, we want you to try the Page Internal Tablet Combination Treatment. This method not only helps stop suffering promptly, but grateful letters from people who have used it testify that it has given quick relief.

Send twenty cents in coins (stamps cannot be accepted) for this pattern to Wilson Needlecraft Dept., Room 421, 73 Adelaide St. West, Toronto. Write plainly Pattern Number, your Name and Address.

IN Toronto It's The St. Regis Hotel

- Every Room with Bath, Shower and Telephone.
- Single, $2.50 up—Double, $3.50 up.
- Good Food, Dining and Dancing Nightly.

Sherbourne at Carlton
Tel. RA. 4135

Whole-Grain Quaker Oats Has the Vitality Element That's "Short" In Duration Diets!

Yes, Whole-Grain Oatmeal leads every natural cereal in protein—the great vitality factor that's meat's main element. Children must have it for normal growth. Adults must have it for stamina and to help fight fatigue.

No other natural cereal, hot or cold, restored or not, gives your family the protection of real Whole-Grain Oatmeal. So serve this hot, delicious Whole-Grain breakfast at least 4 mornings.

Get a big economical package at your grocer's today!

The Quaker Oats Company of Canada Limited

QUAKER OATS

"Home-From-Home" For Johnny Canuck

Canadian airmen were posted to a spot near a picturesque Yorkshire village with old-world green, Maypole, duck pond and homely inn, says The Leeds Yorkshire Post. They found their way in due course to the inn, where the landlady was interested to hear them talking wistfully of corn-on-the-cob and other delicacies of their home towns. She bought some maize seeds, planted them in the garden behind the inn, and eventually gathered and cooked genuine cobs for the delighted Canadians.

This is just one of the many stories the Canadian airmen tell about the inn where they enjoy the warmth of Yorkshire hospitality when off duty. Many of them drifted away, come back to spend their leave in the village —and the inn. It is a home-from home for them.

For Eczema-- Skin Troubles

Make up your mind today that you are going to give your skin a real chance to get well. Go to any good druggist to-day and get an original bottle of Moone's Emerald Oil—it lasts many days because it is highly concentrated. The very first application will give you relief—the itching of Eczema is quickly stopped—pimples dry up and scale off in a very few days. The same is true of itching Toes and Feet, Barber's Itch, Salt Rheum and other skin troubles.

Remember that Moone's Emerald Oil is a clean, powerful penetrating Antiseptic Oil that does not stain or leave a greasy residue. Complete satisfaction or money back.

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PILES

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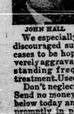

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