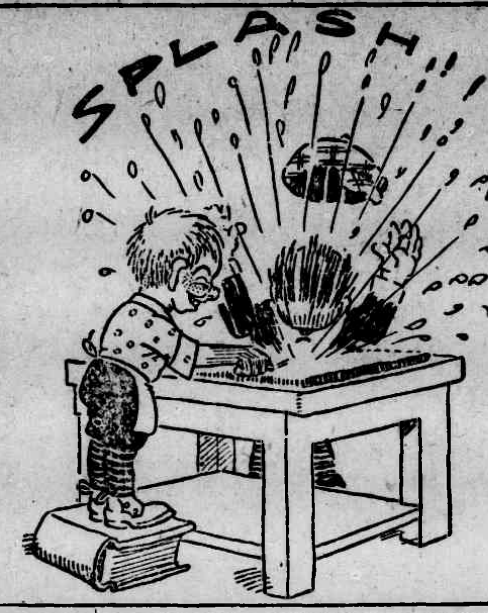
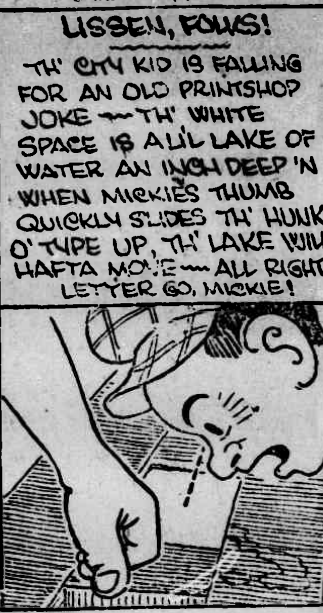


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**HOW WE TAMED THE BASCHILELE**

By S. P. Verner  
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One of the purposes I wished to carry out when I was at Bena Luidi was to determine the mouth of a certain "river of Doubt" in that region. The river, the Lukenyne, had been previously indicated by a question mark on the maps. It was supposed to be about one hundred miles long, to have its source near the capital of Lukengu, king of the Bakuba (or Bushongo), and to join the Kasai on the east side between the junction of the Lulua and the Sankuru. It was also supposed to be the most important tributary to the big river between those two, which would give it a watershed of approximately three thousand square miles. While the river had been indisputably identified by Captain Using and Monsieur Cudell, its exact position on the map had not been determined. To do this by estimating distances along the crooked course of the Kasai would be only a rough approximation. There were, however, certain mountain peaks in that region, from which I knew I could get a triangulation, provided I could clearly identify the mouth of the Lukenyne from their summits. So I decided to make a canoe trip down the Kasai, in order to familiarize myself with the locality, and to obtain observation points for such use.

The negotiations with the Baschilele about the little chimpanzee enabled me to take up with them the question of a canoe and paddles. They were decidedly timid and had to be strongly reassured, as well as remunerated, but finally brought a beautiful thirty-five foot canoe to the landing on an appointed day. The canoe was hewed out of a solid log of African teak wood. It was made long and narrow, as speed with the Baschilele was a desideratum, owing to their unsavory reputation with their neighbors. The middle aged oar or the proogue brought seven Baschilele youths with him, who added to my eight, gave us paddlers enough to make it hum. This rather large crew was taken along with a view of expediting our return against the swift current of the Kasai. We carried very little baggage with us.

Before leaving, the Baschilele entertained us with a concert. It is hard for Caucasians to imagine primitive African music as being really beautiful, but one of their songs was simply exquisite. The rhythm, cadence, and harmony blended to make it the gem of all the aboriginal songs I ever heard anywhere. I induced them to let me record it on the Edison phonograph I had with me.

That little Edison was destined to start something in the Kasai. It ought to have credit for the discovery of the diamond fields, as will appear farther along. It sang its way into the hearts of the Baschilele, it scared the wits out of the would-be hostile group, rumors concerning its amazing qualities flew around the valley, until they crystallized into a legend that Ewela could catch a man's soul and put it into a box and make it sing or talk while the man himself was standing by with his mouth shut tight, listening to his soul perform. The Baluba word for soul is "mwese," and their idea of its function is much better defined than one might imagine.

We sped down the Kasai at a speed of about fifteen miles an hour. Going down stream, the native practice is to put the boat in the middle of the river where the current is the swiftest. The paddlers stand up, forming right and left banks. Their paddles are about ten feet long, the blade about eighteen inches. They are often handsomely carved from the best hard woods obtainable, the African ebony being the most prized. All striking together by the time set by the leader at the prow, the impetus given the canoe is wonderful. Sometimes they go faster than the river steamers. I wonder now at the temerity of my younger days when I used to put myself at the mercy of those savages, and go whirling down the middle of a river often two miles wide and thirty feet deep; but I was never overturned but once, and that was when I was steering myself! There is some danger of striking a crocodile or a hippopotamus, but this is minimized by the lusty singing of the crew all the time.

Balya, baiya, tiyai kumanda,  
Bona nzada badi benda,  
Kwata nguvu kushippa ngandu,  
Tiyai! Tiyai! Yo! Yo! Yo! Yo!  
Ha-a-a!

There are many different songs, most of them improvisations, and snatches suited to the occasion. The paddlers often lend emphasis to the chorus by stamping their feet, which usually throws the tenderfoot white passenger into a duckfit, as it seems to threaten to swamp the canoe. The canoes are steered by a short

**HEALTH — DIPHTHERIA:**

Diphtheria! Twenty or thirty years ago the rumor that it was recognized in a neighborhood was sufficient cause for a panic or near panic. In view of the great mortality occurring in some epidemics, this is not surprising for in the hands of the best physicians little was done or could be done other than painful and annoying, and we now see it from a standpoint of results attained, utterly futile mopping and swabbing of the throats and noses of the sufferers. It might be well to state that Diphtheria is a systematic disease with local manifestation as seen on the tonsils and adjacent parts of the throat and nose. Whether its point of departure is primarily the throat and tonsils has not, so far as the writer is aware, been fully determined. This is not however material. It is a disease characterized by great depression, in this like the "Flue" the nerve tissues are no doubt invaded and destroyed as evidenced by past diphtheritic paralysis. Sudden death after apparent recovery such as clearing up of the throat, the invasion of the kidneys producing acute Bright's disease. Any organ of the body may succumb to its invasion — So far as the writer can say we have now but one proven specific viz diphtheria: Antitoxin, it is both preventive and curative. It is established beyond reasonable doubt that it is proper should a case be suspected to have occurred in a family to give the suspect not less dosage than 10,000 units. Also to give to each member of the family and to any who may be exposed to it a preventive dose of about 2000 units. Do not be afraid to give it liberally. The fact that a majority who are exposed to it do not develop diphtheria can be explained by immunity possessed by the person so exposed for cases are on record where the germ has been found by examination in mouths and throats of persons in apparent health who after contracting what is called a "cold" with inflamed tonsils have promptly developed cases. North Carolina in common with other states furnishes diphtheria antitoxin without charge or at a nominal cost, in North Carolina 25c. per dose no matter what size the dose may be. This price puts the remedy in reach of any person. As stated in some previous articles the writer hopes that he may yet live to see other malignant diseases in the same class as diphtheria from the standpoint of control.

Very sincerely,  
W. J. WALLIS.

Women at the Ohio State university say they do not desire wealthy husbands, merely good providers. In these days of the high cost of living, that's a distinction without a difference.

paddle in the hands of a paddler sitting at the prow, who special duty it is to be on the look-out for obstacles.

The scenery from the canoe on such a trip show one the vast enclosing wall of eternal green on each side of the river, the forest predominating with occasional stretches of riparian grass. The grassy banks are cut up by the deep gullies made by the tracks of generations of hippopotami. Greenish yellow crocodiles lie concealed in the herbage along the shore. Sometimes a long shelving sand-bank projects into the stream, and occasionally the river contracts into a narrow rocky passage with barely width enough for a steamer. Sharp curves are met where the swirling and eddying water is the most dangerous part of navigation.

The Baschilele went right on, apparently indifferent alike to rocks, snags, sand-banks, whirlpools, sharp turns, river beasts, whirl or depth, but in reality guiding the craft with a knowledge of each locality that was almost uncanny.

All the pilots on the Congo steamers are recruited from river paddlers. I have seen a twenty year old black boy at the wheel of a two hundred ton steamer, with a cargo of ivory, rubber, copper, and gold, worth a million dollars skirting a rocky promontory with all the sang-froid of the grizzled veteran of the deep at the wheel of an ocean liner cutting the placid waves of the Atlantic.

**ITEMS OF TOXAWAY**

Mrs. N. A. Zachary of Brevard, visited friends at Toxaway Saturday and Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Horace Keaton of Brevard are moving to Toxaway this week.

The County Superintendent and Superintendent of Public Welfare visited the Toxaway High School on Friday afternoon.

Miss Pennie Sue Norton left Toxaway for Florida last Thursday where she will attend school this coming winter.

Miss Virginia Owen returned home last week, from Saluda, where she has been visiting her sister for the past week.

Miss Annie Galloway of Brevard visited Mrs. J. C. Owen last week.

Miss Edith Monteith of Sapphire was a Toxaway visitor Sunday.

Miss Beezie Bracken and Miss Marie Gillespie visited their parents of Brevard Saturday and Sunday. Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Reid and family have moved to Sapphire.

Last Saturday night a number of folks of this community attended the entertainment given at Oakland School. The report is that the occasion was a splendid one and that the proceeds realized from the refreshments sold after the literary program was \$180.00.

On Friday, October 7th, the Lake Toxaway Literary Society will render its first program. Everybody is invited to attend. The Society hopes to meet other societies of similar kind in joint discussions of important subjects during the coming fall and winter.

Varied preparation is being made for the Community Fair which is to be held here on October 11th. The public is cordially invited. It is predicted that the coming Fair will be the best of its kind ever held in Transylvania. Corals are now under construction. The exhibits will consist of every kind of farm and home products. The Athletics promise to be the best ever given in the community. The contestants, now, under the supervision of the principal of the school are striving hard in order that each may reach the highest of efficiency and be able to combat successfully his opponent and be the honored Knight of the occasion. Come everybody; the brief exercises will be elevating as well as making you laugh until you split your sides. Come and see every thing from the riding of the wild ox to the catching of the greasy pig; from fleetest foot boy of six to the man of mature years.

Since woman is surely coming into her own—the day would not be complete without athletics for the girls. Therefore a number of contests are scheduled for the girls and they are striving with all their might in order that they may show the masculine sex what has long been neglected.

Come one and all and enjoy the most splendid occasion ever given among the beautiful Sapphire Hills. Don't forget the date, October 11, All Day.

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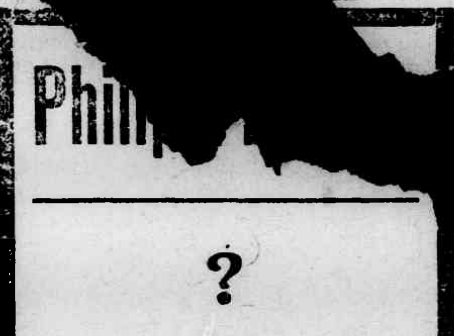
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