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OLDEST LIGHT IN UNITED STATES

Chaplain's Interesting Facts About Sandy Hook.

The military post of Fort Hancock, N. J., is situated on Sandy Hook, a sandy peninsula about a half mile in width and extending five miles north from the mainland of New Jersey. West of the peninsula lie Sandy Hook bay and the Navesink river. To the east is the Atlantic ocean. The north end of Sandy Hook points straight across Ambrose channel to Coney Island. Sandy Hook was first surveyed in 1635, and at that time was only one-fourth its present size. More than half the present population of Fort Hancock is living on ground which, previous to 1764, was the bed of the ocean. Chaplain William R. Arnold has prepared an article for the United States Army Recruiting News, telling the history of the fort. He says: "Before 1778, Sandy Hook was connected with the highlands of Navesink by a narrow isthmus which separated Sandy Hook bay from the Navesink and Shrewsbury rivers, which had at that point mingled their waters and flowed into the Atlantic ocean through Shrewsbury inlet between what are now the towns of Highland and Seabridge. Thirty years later the river broke through the isthmus and emptied into Sandy Hook bay, allowing the ocean waves to throw up a bar across Shrewsbury inlet.

River Made Changes.
The mouth of the Shrewsbury river changed back and forth between ocean and bay at intervals of twenty or thirty years until finally railroad and government engineers built a stone dike nearly four miles long, which compels the Shrewsbury to run parallel to the ocean for three miles at an average distance of 300 feet and finally to empty into Sandy Hook bay less than fifty paces from the ocean shore. A bath house, erected at this point, gives its patrons a choice between salt water and fresh water, with temperatures varying from eight to ten degrees.

Sandy Hook was discovered by Henry Hudson on Sept. 4, 1609. The title to the lands is derived from Charles II, king of England, who, disregarding the rights of the Dutch in New Netherlands, granted to his brother James, duke of York, and Richard Nicholls, the region extending from the Connecticut river to the Delaware. The United States government made its first purchase of land for military purposes in 1807. Additional purchases in 1817, and finally in 1892 brought the entire Sandy Hook peninsula into possession of the government.

Guards Hudson River.
In 1890 the government built Fort Hancock as an important part of the coast defense protecting New York city and guarding the entrance to the navigable waters of the Hudson river. The ruins of an unfinished older fort, dating from 1857 and built of immense granite blocks can be seen near the end of the hook. The most interesting structure on the hook, and surrounded by the more modern buildings of Fort Hancock, is Sandy Hook light, the oldest lighthouse in the United States, and said to be the second oldest on the western hemisphere. It is a white stone tower, 90 feet high, and shows a third order fixed white light visible 15 nautical miles. It was erected by New York merchants for the protection of ships entering the harbor, and was first lighted on Monday, June 18, 1784.

The old lighthouse is a national landmark, and stands witness to some interesting history. In 1776, Capt. John Condon, acting under orders, destroyed the lantern in order that the British fleet might not be guided into New York bay. During the Revolution, on July 2, 1778, the army of Sir Henry Clinton retreated to Sandy Hook from the field of Monmouth courthouse, crossing the Navesink on a pontoon bridge from Gravelly Point at the foot of the highlands near what is now Parkertown, while in the horse shoe were anchored transports and men-of-war flying the royal cross of St. George.

Sandy Hook light and the old dwelling of the keeper was known during the Revolution as the Lighthouse fort, or Refugees' tower. The British fortified it and from there the Tory refugees made their bloody raids. Remnants of log fortifications are still to be seen. About 200 yards east of the lighthouse there is a little burial ground, where lie the soldiers and the victims of shipwrecks.

At a Busy Crossing
Traffic Cop (to jay walker)—Hey, you were born in the country, weren't you?
Cop—Yes, I was.
Traffic Cop—Well, if you don't watch out, you'll die in the city.

How Peruvians Devised System of Enumeration

Most persons are familiar with representations of the hieroglyphics of the ancient Egyptians. By means of the engraved marks found on the monuments and other records the old Egyptians could represent object ideas suggested by objects, and even sounds. This signifying of sounds by means of symbols formed nearly a true alphabet. In Mexico the Aztecs had a crude system of picture writing by which sensible objects could be accurately depicted, but beyond that it could not go, for it was incompetent to convey abstract ideas. Possibly the crudest invention of this sort was the mysterious science of the quipus, which was taught the Peruvian princes by their amautas, or "wise men." While both systems before mentioned seemed primitive, this one is even more so, and yet it served a purpose, and a very good one, too. This quipus was a string of rope, usually about two feet in length, composed of many colored strings twisted together. To this main cord were fastened numbers of strings of different colors tied into knots thus forming a fringe. These knots gave to the device its name, for the word quipus signifies a "knot." The colors represented sensible objects. For example, white might stand for silver, and yellow for gold. Occasionally they suggested ideas abstractly—white signified peace and red war. The chief use of the quipus was for arithmetical purposes. The knots took the place of ciphers and could be combined to represent numbers to any amount desired. The colors of the strings explained the subjects to which the numbers referred, and in this way the Peruvians devised a complete system of enumeration.

Tree Struck by Meteor Burned for Three Weeks

James Fowler of Springfield, Mass., is responsible for the revival of the tale of the "Burning Elm" of Williams-town. This tree was on his father's farm, and probably had been when Columbus first sailed westward, for the elm was 27 feet around and its first limb was 105 feet from the ground.

On August 4, 1892, it was supposedly struck by lightning, but in reality by a meteor. For three months it smoldered sullenly or vehemently until November 4, the night Grover Cleveland was elected president of the United States, when it burst into a column of fire, sending out from its base streams of what appeared to be molten lava.

The green wood of the tree had resisted the progress of the hot mass of metal through it for three months, though its limbs fell and there was nothing left but the stump, 105 feet high. When the fire reached the base and created a draft, it burst into flame at such a time that the neighboring farmers were jokingly sure that they were celebrating the election of Cleveland.—New York World.

Apples Once Grew Wild

Apples, as we know them today, in ancient times grew wild in parts of Europe and Asia, and their cultivation began in Europe centuries ago, but it remained for Americans to make the greatest progress in this direction. One of the first of these benefactors was Loammi Baldwin. While prominent in his capacity as an engineer, he would long since have been forgotten except for his horticultural experiments, which resulted in the production of the famous apple which bears his name.

The United States now produces the bulk of the world's apple crop and Canada adds to North American supremacy. The European belt extends from Norway to southern France. The fruit is also cultivated in New Zealand, Tasmania and other countries.—Detroit News.

Would Drop Off

A man called upon his medical adviser and said: "Doctor, I can't get to sleep at night."
"Insomnia, eh?"
"That's it," asserted the patient.
"There are ways and means of combating that," declared the doctor. "You think you are hopelessly wakeful, but mental effort has a great deal to do with getting you to sleep. Just imagine you are walking a tight rope a thousand feet from the ground. Step by step you advance on this tight rope."

"Yes," the patient inquired.
"You'll soon drop off."

He Thought So Too

A man who was new to golf turned to his caddy and said: "I say, why couldn't that fellow get his ball into the hole?"
"He was stymied, sir," was the reply.
"He was what?"
"He was stymied, sir."
"Oh, was he?" replied the other; "I thought he looked rather funny at lunch."

Opera 323 Years Ago

The first opera ever performed publicly was Jacopo Peri's "Eurydice." The original performance took place 323 years ago at the festivities which marked the marriage of Maria de Medici with Henry IV of France. Since then "Eurydice" has never been seen except once at Milan.

With Giulio Casacini and Emilio del Cavalleri, Jacopo Peri is regarded as the discoverer of modern recitative. He is also the father of opera, which became possible once recitative was known.

In 1597 he himself appeared in the first work of the kind which he had composed. It was called "Diane." It was performed privately, and no trace of it survives. "Eurydice" was his second effort.—Detroit News.

High-Pressure Boilers

Engineering practice is now making use of pressures in steam boilers that would have been considered out of the question not many years ago. From Berlin comes news of a German boiler designed to generate 15,500 pounds of steam an hour at a pressure of 850-pound gauge. An electric company in the United States has under construction one 2,000-kilowatt and one 4,000-kilowatt turbine designed for steam pressure of 1,200 pounds, and to exhaust into other turbines at from 250 to 350 pounds. A Swedish boiler operating at 900 pounds has been in successful use for about two years.

Briny Was Too Riny

A summer boarder at a small seaside resort took as much interest in the ocean as if he owned a controlling interest in it. He was always talking about "the briny." He was standing on the beach one day when a bathier slipped in and almost immediately slipped out. The recreant one was promptly called to account.

"What's the matter? Don't you like the briny? What's wrong with the briny?"
The other pointed to a plentitude of floating rind and replied briefly: "Too watermelon today."

Offered Odd Security

Roy Chapman Andrews, of the Asiatic expedition in China, overrode the expedition's account with the American Banking company at Peking. When the bank asked for more security Andrews offered two dinosaur eggs 10,000,000 years old. The banker refused to consider the eggs as collateral, and it was necessary to sell the American-made automobiles, which brought half the original cost despite the fact that they had traveled 6,000 miles over the camel trails of northern China.

Ship Built on Knoll

People looking at the top of a certain knoll at Oakland, Cal., rub their eyes and take another look, for there stands the good ship Mer Trankull, which Fred A. Heroux has built. He has injected all the details of a regular, honest-to-goodness seagoing craft, except that the bottom will be an immovable base of concrete. The eye of a true mariner will not be much offended, however, because the concrete will be hidden in four feet of water in a tank surrounding the vessel.

Had Another Pair

"What do you mean by bringing me an odd pair of boots?" demanded the enraged master, displaying one black boot and one brown.
"Indeed, sorr," said the new Irish valet, "tis a queer thing. But the queerest thing is there's another pair down below just like them."

Babies Come First

Baby must have his sleep, even though the safety of the city be endangered. Evidently so thought the wives of the volunteer firemen of Lorain, O., who have been charged with plugging the electric bells placed in their homes to call the husbands to fires, because the bells disturbed the slumber of the little ones.

Rug Weaving in Turkey

In parts of Turkey and Persia rug-making is still carried on in a very primitive way with a loom made by driving two poles into the ground parallel to each other, the distance between the two determining the width of the rug. Each family has its own design, and the weaving is done by many hands.

Plan Huge Reservoir

Engineers estimate that five billion five hundred million cubic feet of water will be stored in the reservoir to be built by the Canadian government through the running streams commission on the Riviere du Loup, north of Louiseville, in the St. Maurice district of Quebec.

Size of Atom

Scientists say that the actual size of the atom is so small that a million placed in a row, like marbles in contact, would "occupy a length less than the thickness of the thinnest sheet of tissue paper."

BILL BOOSTER SAYS

ALWAYS SAY A GOOD WORD FOR YOUR HOME TOWN! YOU MAY BE TALKING TO A MAN WHO IS LOOKING FOR A NEW LOCATION, AND NOBODY IS GOING TO MOVE TO A TOWN WHOSE CITIZENS KNOCK IT!



Distinct Advantages in Having Cows "Face In"

There are several distinct advantages in having the cows face toward the center of the stable. The animals are more conveniently fed—which is, perhaps, the biggest item. Cows on either side can be served in less time with silage or grain supplied from a push cart or feed carrier, operated in a central feeding alley, than when the push cart must be taken clear around the outside of the stable where the space between the stanchions and walls is apt to be more cramped than in the case with the central alley. Hay, also, can be distributed with less litter and dust.

Next, perhaps, in importance is the fact that where the cows face in there is usually better light for milking through much of the year. Where stables are electrically lighted this factor is not of so much importance. Still, an abundance of natural light in the vicinity of the milk pail is always of advantage. In addition to the factors indicated, is the further one that a barn arranged in this fashion always looks cleaner and more attractive than is the case where the central passageway is flanked on either side by manure gutters. Furthermore, it can be built a couple of feet narrower without interfering with its utility or efficiency.

Good Practice to Teach Calf to Eat Some Grain

It is a good practice in teaching calves to eat grain, to begin by feeding them some ground corn or sifted ground oats. If this is done for a few days, gradually increasing the amount fed, they may be fed whole corn or oats or a mixture of both, this mixture equal parts by weight. Many good feeders give this mixture of whole grain until the calves are seven or eight months of age, then change back to ground feed, claiming that an eight-month calf does not chew its food as well as a younger one does, and loses a considerable percentage of whole grain which passes through it undigested.

Cow Is Best Money Maker

Put the cow to work and she is the most efficient money-maker on the farm today. A cow producing 22 pounds of 4 per cent milk daily makes one pound of butterfat a day worth about 50 cents. This cow needs rations and hay and silage which should not cost more than 15 cents daily, leaving 35 cents daily above the cost of her feed. Where can you invest your time and efforts to better advantage? Give your eyes a change. They will do better when properly fed.

The Retort Courteous

Two high school girls were engaged in conversation on the street. Said the first:
"Tom tried to kiss me last night and I wouldn't let him."
"Did it make him angry?" her companion asked.
"I should say. He said he wished he had called on you."—Maryville Democrat-Forum.

Same Manner for Both

The wealthy uncle was talking over the prospects of his nephew with the lad's mother.
"How is he doing with his studies?"
"Oh, very well. He shows a great talent for music, and his manner is very haughty. His teacher thinks he will become a conductor."
"Ah! Indeed?" responded uncle.
"Orchestra or street car?"—Stray Stories.

Crowd Has Personality but Little Individuality

It would have been more to the purpose if the critics had insisted upon Walt Whitman's position as the poet of personality, rather than of individuality. These terms are commonly confused in the minds of most people, and even held to be interchangeable. In reality a maximum of individuality implies a minimum of personality and vice versa. The individual, as such, is necessarily isolated and therefore devoid of personal ability to share in the lives and fortunes of others; the truly strong personality is he who is able most fully to share and understand the nature of those with whom he is in contact, and who correspondingly subordinates his individuality to theirs. And the same is true of crowds, as of individuals. A crowd has personality; it has little or no individuality. It is a fact that crowds in different countries reveal individual differences; thus an English crowd is less excitable, restless, noisy, than an American crowd; and a Chinese crowd may be even more reserved, for aught I know; yet, despite these accidents, each crowd expresses certain fundamental reactions, possesses certain elementary desires common to all humanity. Each crowd is at bottom a vast reservoir of blind desire, vague faith, dumb suffering; each crowd is composed of units that breathe, hope, die; each crowd is unindividuated personality in conflict with individual differentiation; each crowd is at once Everyman and No-man.—John Gould Fletcher in the North American Review.

Proof Mark Placed on Weapons Made in Europe

Spanish and German firearms usually have, instead of the maker's name, a seal, frequently of gold, depicting characters—animals and letters—from which, if possessed of a list of such seals, one might determine the manufacture of the weapon, and hence its approximate date. English and French gunmakers, however, if marking the arm at all, did so by placing their name and that of their town on the lock-plate or barrel or on both.

The marks known as "proof marks" were stamped on, usually by a government official, after he had tried out and "proved" the arm to be all right. As a rule the method of "proving" was to load the piece with several times its normal amount of powder and shot, and then discharge the same. If it survived the test it was considered "proved" satisfactorily.

Thus, as different marks were not adopted until a certain date, one may ordinarily be assured that an arm bearing them was not manufactured before that date.—Detroit News.

Glass-Silk Fiber

Venus' basket is a glass-silk sponge which grows in the tropical seas of the Pacific, from the Fujlyama region to the Indian ocean. By the Japanese it is called the mineral silk sponge, and is used for its fiber, which is woven into chemical fiber cloths, into fireproof candlesticks and into delicate fireproof curtains.

In its natural state the glass sponge is covered with these long silky fibers which are used in the arts referred to. A small tuft of these fibers covers the base. The specimens are raked up from the ocean bed, and the frame-work, which cannot be separated into fiber for weaving, is employed in the covering of steamships and in cold-storage insulation, where it has been found equal to asbestos. Certain specimens are said to measure fully forty inches in length and three to four inches in diameter.

A Fast Trip

Having traveled 3,000 miles to England, a New York woman left that country after a sojourn of a few minutes. No sooner was her ship docked at Southampton than she rushed ashore, hailed a taxi, sped to another part of the docks, and caught a steamship for Cape Town a few minutes before its departure on a 6,000-mile trip.

Protecting Her

The minister of a certain church called upon a woman, a member of his congregation, and, finding no one at home, slipped a card through a letter-box, after scribbling upon it the words, "Sorry to find you out." When the woman returned home, Mary, the maid, met her at the door and presented the card with a whisper, "Here, mum, I took charge of this. It would never do for the master to know the minister's found you out."

Was It a Hint?

Elderly Husband—There goes Mrs. Smith. Hasn't she lost her husband lately?
Young Wife—Yes, poor thing. I really believe black would be becoming to me, also, George.

Engineer a Good Risk

In spite of the risks incident to their occupation, life insurance statistics show that locomotive engineers live just as long as the average man. The death rate from accident has decreased very greatly in recent years, and the engineers have also shared in the general reduction in the death rates from infectious diseases. Between the ages of thirty-one and fifty-five there has been a decline in the engineers' death rate of from 32 to 44 per cent. Fatal accidents in 1922 were at the rate of 107 per 100,000, as against 318 per 100,000 in 1912. So the expectation of life of a locomotive engineer at the age of twenty-eight is calculated as forty-one years. Aside from chances of accident, running a locomotive seems to be a healthful occupation.

Origin of Silk Stockings

Up to the time of Henry III stockings were made out of ordinary cloth, and it is said that "the king's own were formed of a yard-wide taffeta." A few pairs of silk stockings had made their way to England from Spain, but they were a great rarity. In the second year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, her "silk woman," Mistress Montague, presented the virgin queen with a pair of black knit silk stockings for a New Year's gift. Elizabeth expressed her gratitude and satisfaction. The "silk woman" informed the queen that she had made them purposely for her majesty and promised to make some more. From that time to her death Elizabeth never again wore stockings of cloth.

He Wasn't the Foreman

The foreman had come across Murphy slacking and smoking on the job, and spoke his mind thus: "Look 'ee here, Murphy. This 'ere's a contract job, an' it ought ter 'ave been finished by now. Jest you shove that pipe away an' get on wiv yer work, else it will be the sack for you." "Well, gaffer," said Murphy, deliberately, "yer know Rome wasn't built in a day." "Don't want none o' yer back answers," said the foreman; he paused, and then added: "Slides, I wasn't the foreman on that job, neither."

A Valuable Food

Scurfield urges the greater use of watercress, which contains all three vitamins, as a food. Watercress is a cheap green-vegetable which, like lettuce, is eaten unspiced by cooking but which, unlike lettuce, is available all the year round. Its more extended use may, therefore, be an appreciable help in remedying dietary errors caused by urbanization.—British Medical Journal.

"No More Than 5 in 1 Bed"

The museum of the city of New York has an old-time tavern sign on which is printed the following: "Four pence a night for bed. Six pence with supper. No more than five to sleep in one bed. No boots to be worn in bed. Organ grinders to sleep in the wash-house. No dogs allowed upstairs. No beer allowed in the kitchen. No razor grinders or tinkers taken in."

"Come to Canossa"

Canossa, in the Duchy of Modena, is where in the winter of 1076-7 the kaiser, Henry IV, stood barefooted in the snow for three days, a penitent awaiting the forgiveness of Pope Gregory VII. The expression "come to Canossa" has since been used to denote coming to a place of humiliation—in other words, "eating humble pie."

American Bill of Rights

The first ten amendments to the Constitution of the United States became effective June 15, 1790, and constitute what is known as the American Bill of Rights. Freedom of speech and religion and the right of peaceable assembly are set forth in the first. The right of jury trial is guaranteed in subsequent articles.

Betsy Ross

Betsy Ross was a flagmaker by trade. When consulted about "sewing the new American flag," she suggested that the five-pointed stars be used. Mrs. Ross received a contract to make government flags and her daughter, Mrs. Charissa Wilson, continued the business until 1857.

One on Mamma

Little Jimmy, aged two years and three months, climbed on a chair and after a breathless moment of balancing just escaped a fall. Seeing this, his mother reproached him tenderly. "Aha, Jimmy, aha!" she said. "Who just had a scare?" "Mamma did," replied Jimmy coldly.

Gold Vs. Labor

One ounce of gold pays wages for twenty hours' work in the United States; fifty hours work in Great Britain; ninety hours work in Japan; one hundred hours in France and two hundred hours' work in Germany.

SPRING CLEANING IS FAVORED FOR BARN

Now is the time to prepare to fight the fly by giving the dairy barn a thorough cleaning. The dairy barn is supposed to be clean at all times, but the spring always finds the ceiling and corners covered with cobwebs and considerable dust and dirt. Right now, says S. W. Mead, assistant dairy husbandman of the New Jersey agricultural experiment station, while you have the time before the spring plowing, is the time to brush the walls and ceiling and then give them good coats of whitewash.

The following mixture will give good results:
Stake half a bushel of unsalted lime with boiling water. Cover during the process to keep in the steam. Strain the liquid through a fine sieve and add a peck of salt previously dissolved in warm water. Then add three pounds of ground rice boiled to a thin paste and stirred in while hot. Next add one pound of clear glue dissolved in cold water hung over a fire. A half-pound of whiting will give it luster. To the above mixture add five gallons of hot water and leave standing for a few days. Cover to keep out dirt. Applied hot a pint of this wash will cover a square yard. The whitewash may be put on with a whitewash brush, but can be applied in half the time and just as well by the use of a spray pump. The spraying outfit used for your fruit-trees will do, but must be cleaned thoroughly after using.

The floors, mangers and gutters of the dairy barn should be scraped free of all dirt, washed and scrubbed, after which, when dry, they should be sprayed with a 2 to 3 per cent solution of some good coal-tar disinfectant. Be sure to soak well all cracks and crevices.

The disinfecting should be done at least once each month and the whitewashing every three or four months. This will go a long way toward discouraging the fly and will also help to prevent the spread of disease. There are, of course, many other means of controlling the fly, such as carting the manure away from the barn each day to as great a distance as may be practical. This is very important, especially during the warm months. Spraying the cows and also the walls and floors with a good fly repellent will help. No one thing can be said to control the fly except sanitation, and there we have the keynote to the whole situation. Flies breed in filth.

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