

Strange Siren Of The Coos Road

BY HENRY CALDWELL CUSHMAN
 Many years ago, perhaps more than a hundred and sixty, a road was built from Chester to Coos, New Hampshire. The contract for the road was given to Jacob Esquire then of Andover, Mass.

hardy souls that we learn of the strange siren on the Coos Road. The road was grubbed out of the wilderness, bridging brooks and streams. It went through Sand Town, through Phipp's Canada, now called Jay, through Tyngton 'not far below the Upper Mills. Thence the road was built through townships 4 and 5, the last of which is now called Weld. And from Weld the road was continued through

Andover to the New Hampshire line. One of the most essential pieces of road building equipment in those days was the indispensable barrel of rum. If the barrel was left in the rear, two or more men went back and brought it up suspended under a long pole. There was nothing inconsistent in the fact that Mr. Abbott was also a professor of religion. He took his Bible with him and a hymn book and several volumes of sermons—so well as the barrel of rum. Think of Eleazer Wheelock and the founding of Dartmouth College—according to the song that also took a Bible and five hundred gallons of New England rum.

After the men had passed through Tyngton and started in the direction of what is now Weld, they had advanced almost a day's journey beyond the barrel of rum. So two of the stronger men were sent back to bring up the barrel. Hours elapsed and there was no sign of the men. Soon the road crew began to get mutinous. So Mr. Abbott sent two more men back. By then it was almost dark. So they made a camp in the wilderness, built a roaring fire to cook their food and to get warm. There seemed to be a strange chill in the air.

Although the waiting men were thirsty and muttered among themselves about the lack of a man's drink, they were also very tired and soon fell asleep. Not long after midnight, one of the men woke up with a start. He felt that someone was watching him just beyond the light of the fire. The horses were acting as if there were a bear near or maybe even a lynx or a loup cervier—called Lucy-V. He grabbed his rifle and started for the horses.

Beyond the horses the two ox teams were tied—and even the usually placid oxen were pawing the ground as in fear. Just then the man felt something icy on his neck. To his amazement he found the hemlocks covered with snow. But it hadn't snowed anywhere else—only in that thicket of hemlocks. He went closer. There lying in the snow and all of them gloriously drunk were the four men who had been sent for the rum—and astride the barrel of rum was a girl wrapped in white fox fur laughing in a voice like a lion's cry. Whenever she waved her arm, more snow fell.

The nearer that the man came the colder he got. When he reached out to grab the girl, his hands shook so hard that she eluded him and fled into the night. He followed her for more than an hour—easy to do because wherever she went she left a path of snow. Next day when the four men had slept off their rum, they told of meeting this girl who had begged them for a drink. She told them she was cold, had been cold for centuries. Naturally when they drew a draught for the girl, they drew one for themselves. But she didn't drink hers—whenver she got it near her lips, the rum turned to solid ice. But she did lead them to camp—and even helped them carry the

IN HOMETOWN AMERICA



barrel. The man who followed her in vain, and cold sober at that, said very little. He didn't stay with the party very long either. He seemed restless and unhappy all the time.

One day he took off across the mountains following the direction of that strange siren. No, he never came back. But some surveyors who were mapping out grants in the area told of meeting him, and of seeing that path of snow. They said it led right to the base of Sugar Loaf Mountain—and disappeared. Whether that snow siren has anything to do with it or not, the snow on Sugar Loaf is still a marvel to all skiers—who follow her trail wherever she leads.

and handling operation.

QUESTION: How can you control lice on beef cattle?

ANSWER: By spraying in the fall and repeating in late winter or early spring. Either of these formulas will make a satisfactory spray: one pound of 25 per cent Lindane per 100 gallons of water; or eight pounds of 50 per cent DDT wettable powder per 100 gallons of water.

95 Per Cent Of Vets With Circulatory And Heart Ailments Are Rehabilitated

Ninety-five out of every 100 veterans with heart and circulatory ailments, rehabilitated through Public Law 16 training are working today as productive wage-earning citizens, a Veterans Administration survey disclosed.

Only a few doors to employment have been barred to these veterans because of their disabilities, VA said. They can be found in farms and factories, offices and laboratories—virtually everywhere in America.

Eighty-six per cent of the employed veterans are using skills they acquired in training, and 88 per cent like the kind of work they are doing, the survey showed.

Of the veterans not working, half said they were unemployed for reasons not related to their heart or circulatory disabilities. VA's follow-up study was made to find out what happened to disabled veterans after they finished or stopped Public Law 16 training and started making their own way in life.

It covered a representative sampling of the 800,000 disabled World War II veterans who received vocational rehabilitation training under Public Law 16. About 40,000 of the veterans suffered from heart and circulatory disabilities.

The work record of veterans with heart and circulatory conditions has paralleled the record of veterans with other disabilities who were rehabilitated through Public Law 16 training, VA said.

The proportion holding jobs was about the same for both groups—nearly 95 per cent. Again, in both groups, nine out of ten of the employed veterans were working full-time. The tenth

more than \$70 a week. Veterans with heart and circulatory ailments changed jobs at a slightly higher rate than did veterans with other disabilities. According to the VA survey, 37 out of 100 of the heart and circulatory group changed jobs once, compared with 22 out of 100 of the rest of the disabled.

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Senator Scott Hits Brief-Case Farmers

Washington, January 25 — Senator W. Kerr Scott introduced legislation today aimed at "brief-case" farmers.

According to Scott, the bill would "put an end to the government paying for fancy gentleman farming operations" by amending the Internal Revenue Code.

An identical companion bill was offered in the House by Rep. Charles B. Deane of the 8th District of North Carolina.

"Under existing law," Scott said, "it is permissible to deduct up to \$50,000 a year in farm operation losses from other income. This simply means that people with high incomes can operate farms on an expense account basis strictly as a hobby or as a means of getting around income tax laws."

Scott said "there is no way of knowing how many hobby farms have been bought and operated under this loophole in the law, but I am confident that the number is unreasonably high. In almost every community there are several farms with absentee ownership. Many of them are run strictly on the side by people who don't even pretend to be farmers."

Scott said his bill would not affect farms already in operation, "but it would make it a lot more difficult to set up expense account farms in the future."

The Scott measure would reduce the amount of allowable deductions of farm operating costs from other income from \$50,000 a year to \$5,000 a year.

State College Answers Timely Farm Questions

QUESTION: Can Tar Heel egg producers compete with producers in other states?
 ANSWER: Yes, if our hens averaged 220 eggs per year we could ship eggs to any state and make a profit. Some states sending eggs to North Carolina have already passed an annual rate of tax of 200 eggs per hen. The average for the U. S. in 1934, was 184 eggs per hen.

QUESTION: Should a newly-planted apple tree be pruned at planting time?
 ANSWER: Yes. It should be pruned when it is planted or at least before growth starts in the spring. The reason is that the root system has been materially reduced in size and volume by the digging

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