

INVENTIONS

Explores with Wheeled Boat

A 16-foot boat with a Ford chassis and engine mounted inside, and with Ford axles and wheels with balloon tires outside is the strange vehicle developed by Dr. T. A. Jaggar, of the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory, for use in volcano explorations.

According to Dr. Jaggar, he has wanted a wheeled boat of some kind, that would beach itself, since 1907 when he was exploring in the Aleutian Islands. He was then on a schooner, near a large volcano which he wanted to investigate, but was unable to get ashore as there was no anchorage, and had to put to sea again. Last year he tried a special low-g geared small automobile, and while it proved satisfactory for running along the beach, the harbors, inlets and rocky stretches proved obstacles.

The new boat on wheels overcomes these difficulties, as it can be driven along the beach on its wheels, and then, when it is desired to go in the water it simply drives down to the edge and in. Then a pair of steel paddle wheels, about two feet in diameter, is attached. These are about one-third submerged and drive the boat along in the water. The rear wheels continue to revolve while in the water, though they are largely submerged. The disc front wheels act as rudders to steer the boat with the same steering wheel that is used on land.

Dr. Jaggar plans to use the boat exploring along the Kona coast of Hawaii, near where the lava flow of the recent Mauna Loa eruptions entered the sea. Previous flows have entered the sea in this region, and Dr. Jaggar hopes, by cooperating with the Coast and Geodetic Survey, to locate these definitely.

Science News-Letter, February 18, 1928

ZOOLOGY

The Tortoise Retorts

I note, dear Punch, with pained surprise

You say we war on slugs and flies,
And, having libelled us with pen,
With pencil rub it in again.

Omniscient Sage, for once you're wrong.

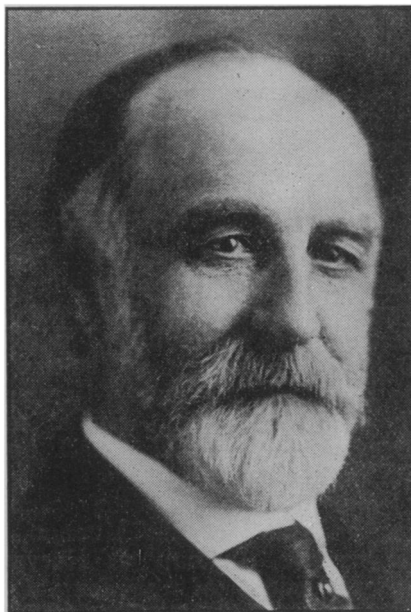
Land tortoises do not belong
To any flesh-consuming orders:
We are in fact herbaceous boarders.

—From *Punch*.

Science News-Letter, February 18, 1928

Chocolate drunk by the Mexicans
is sometimes flavored with red pepper.

ETHNOLOGY



JESSE WALTER FEWKES

Honorary Hopi

An honorary member of the Antelope clan of the Hopi Indians, into which he was initiated with the native ceremonies, a knight of a Spanish order, a member of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States as well as many foreign scientific bodies—these are but a few of the honors that have come to Dr. Fewkes in his long and active scientific life. Though now, in his 78th year, he is retiring from the headship of the Smithsonian Institution's Bureau of American Ethnology, it is not with any idea of writing *finis* to his labors. Instead, it is to give him more time from administrative duties for his own researches, so for many years to come, the scientific world hopes and expects to have the benefit of his work.

Regarded as the highest living authority on the lives, customs and tribal rites of the American Indian, he has passed much time among the Hopis, and has written a number of bulletins about them, especially studying their celebrated snake dances. He was one of the first scientist visitors to the pueblos of the Hopi to call attention to that weirdly mysterious dance, and descriptions of this have been published by him under the imprimatur of the National Museum and the Smithsonian Institution. So highly did the Hopis esteem him that he was initiated into one of the two fraternities of the tribe, the Antelope Clan.

(Just turn the page)

ARCHAEOLOGY

Queen's Tomb Found at Ur

The burial chamber of a queen of Ur of the Chaldees, containing the body of the queen decked in her royal robes, is the latest discovery reported from the Joint Expedition of the Museum of the University of Pennsylvania and the British Museum.

The queen, who ruled in the home town of Abraham some 5,000 years ago, was found lying on a wooden bier, according to a report just received from C. Leonard Woolley, director of the expedition. Her servants who attended her in life were still with her in death, crouched at the head and foot of the queen's person.

A cloak entirely covered with rows of bright beadwork of gold and lapis, cornelian and agate, wrapped the queen's body. And on a seal which clasped the cloak was the name of the queen, Shub-ad. The headdress and crown of the queen is of particular interest, the report shows. Originally she had worn a great wig, and over this was coil after coil of gold ribbon drapping the hair. The coronet was decorated with lapis and cornelian and heavy rings of gold, and above the gems were wreaths of gold leaves with large gold flowers inlaid with lapis and white shell. A choker necklace of lapis and gold and garters of lapis and gold about the knees completed the queen's costume.

The queen's burial chamber with many articles of gold and silver has rested undisturbed through the centuries, but the adjoining tomb of her husband, which the expedition had previously opened, was broken into and plundered long ago.

From the evidence, the archaeologists have concluded that the very persons who buried the queen made her interment the occasion for the sacrilege of her husband's grave, Mr. Woolley states.

The king apparently died first and was buried. Later, when the queen was to be placed near him, the workers who dug the new tomb could not resist the temptation to break through the vault of the king's chamber to where the richest treasures were to be had for the taking. They hid their theft by placing a great clothes chest over the hole.

"The two tombs contribute information of the greatest importance for the history of architecture," Mr. Woolley declares, "in that both

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Queen's Tomb at Ur

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tombs had doorways crowned by a true arch of baked bricks and their chambers were vaulted with arches, of which a few rings still remain. Heretofore, the oldest arch known in the world dated back to the third millenium B. C. and was discovered in Nippur. Excavation of the tombs in Ur now reveals that corbel vaulting, the true arch and the dome were all familiar to the Sumerian builder and were carried out both in brick and stone in the fourth millenium B. C."

Science News-Letter, February 18, 1928

The Indians of the New World had already domesticated the guinea pig, llama, turkey, and alpaca by the time Columbus arrived.

Wireless engineers say that doves have difficulty in finding their way home where there are a number of broadcasting stations.

In order to keep track of the seal population on the Pribilof Islands, 10,000 one year old male seals are to be sheared this year.

An Australian company has imported 15 tons of typical tobacco soil from North Carolina in which to grow tobacco for a series of tests.

Establishment of a division of history in the National Academy of Sciences is advocated by Dr. Michael Pupin, of Columbia University.

False fire alarms are so frequent in Berlin that an inventor has devised an automatic way of recording fingerprints of a person turning in an alarm.

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Honorary Hopi

(Continued from page 101)

Blood fellowship in this allowed him to descend into the *kivas* and underground caverns where the rites and ceremonies of the two clans are practiced, and to which only members are admitted. This enabled him to gain first hand knowledge vouchsafed to no other scientist.

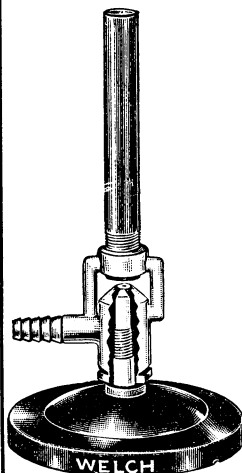
Dr. Fewkes was born in Newton, Mass., in 1850. He took his A. B. degree at Harvard in 1875, and his Ph. D. and A. M. in 1877. In 1878-80 he was a student of zoology at the University of Leipzig, Germany. The University of Arizona conferred the degree of L. L. D. upon him in 1915.

From 1881 to 1889 the scientist was assistant in the Museum of Comparative Anatomy at Harvard. He was editor of the Journal of Ethnology and Archæology 1890-94. For 23 years, 1895-1918, he was ethnologist in Washington of the Bureau of American Ethnology, becoming its chief in 1918.

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