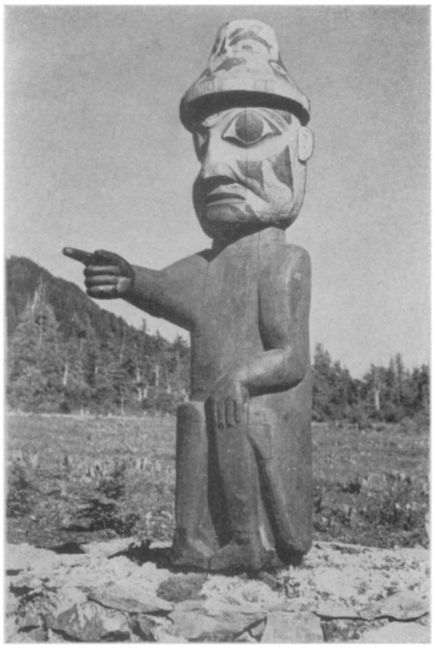

OLD WOMAN POLE

ETHNOLOGY

Totem Pole Restoring Booms in Alaska

RESTORING Indian totem poles to old-time glory is a new intensive project for Alaskan Indians.

Nineteenth century natives who carved the towering cedar poles gave little thought to repairs. While very proud of family crests and personal achievements displayed in carved symbols, the Indians were not accustomed to aggressive paint-up, prop-up and repair campaigns.

A totem pole near the sea might have a 40-year lifetime. Inland, a pole might last a man's traditional career of three score years and ten. And that was that.

Now, supervised by the U. S. Forest Service, 87 Indian boys in the Alaskan CCC have nearly finished reconditioning 100 old totem poles. To insure accuracy, elderly Indians have taught the youngsters how to use the tools with which they themselves carved poles, years ago. The art of totem pole making has had little practice in the twentieth century.

Tourists have evinced so much interest in the young carvers at work, that the Forest Service believes some of these Indians will be able to earn a living by making and selling miniature poles to visitors.

A notable feature of the project is that Indian owners have donated poles as outdoor museum pieces, so that their poles might be reconditioned at public expense. There was a time when a tribal war was fought among Indians bent on claiming and selling a pole.

Old Woman Pole is the name given the unusual example of Alaskan Indians' totem pole art, shown in the picture, restored by young Indians under U. S. Forest Service supervision.

Science News Letter, April 27, 1940

MEDICINE—PHOTOGRAPHY

Super-Speed Shot of Sneeze Latest Weapon Against Colds

Droplets Forced From Nose and Mouth at Speed Of 100 Feet Per Second Evaporate and Spread Germs

See Front Cover

LATEST aid in the war against the common cold, influenza and other respiratory infections is the super-speed picture of a sneeze taken by Prof. M. W. Jennison and Dr. H. E. Edgerton at Massachusetts Institute of Technology and shown on the front cover of this week's SCIENCE NEWS LETTER. It is the first picture ever taken that shows what really happens when you sneeze.

The droplets given off in the sneeze travel at the rate of 100 feet per second for the fastest of them, they reported to the Society for Experimental Biology and Medicine.

Photographic enlargements of the sneeze picture show that the droplets have an apparent diameter of six hundredths of an inch or less.

The size and speed of these droplets and other knowledge the scientists expect to gain from further study of the sneeze picture is important in the fight against air-borne germs such as those that cause colds, influenza, measles and the like. When a person with one of these ailments coughs or sneezes some of the infected droplets immediately fall to the ground, but the smaller ones never reach the floor at all. Evaporating almost instantaneously, they leave behind tiny nuclei, so small they are easily carried about by the lightest air currents. Some of these nuclei are believed to carry with them disease germs. This explains the very wide and rapid spread of colds, influenza and the like, according to Prof. W. F. Wells, University of Pennsylvania.

The speed of the droplets as determined by the sneeze picture would result, in dry air, in nearly instantaneous evaporation, producing droplet nuclei, Professor Jennison and Dr. Edgerton state in their report. The speed of the droplets in relation to evaporation may be much more significant than has been realized, and more important than settling velocity.

Later sequences of the sneeze picture showed that the involuntary closing of the mouth near the end of a sneeze tends to produce more and smaller droplets, and that the number of droplets from the nose is usually insignificant compared with the number expelled from the mouth. This may have an important bearing on the problem of germ infection because of the differences in the germs found in mouth and nose.

The sneeze picture was taken at 1/15,000 of a second by special technic for high-speed photography developed by Dr. Edgerton.

Science News Letter, April 27, 1940

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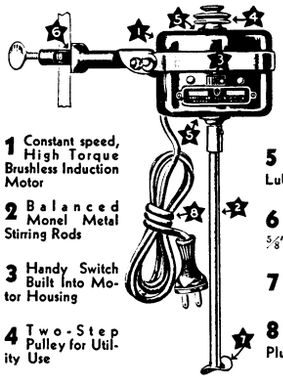

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