



BAD MAN—In the eyes of the Indian, this mask represents a big, bad white man.

dancing. They seize women and make violent and offensive gestures. Finally they bolt out the door and the dancing is decorously resumed.

This ceremony was named by the English the Booger Dance. The masks used were originally of wood and were caricatures of white men or occasionally of Negro slaves. Today they are made of cardboard. All are grotesque to emphasize the unkempt, uncouth and diseased faces of the disreputable white man, seen through Indian eyes.

Another unusual type of mask used by the Cherokees is made of animal hide or fur, and represents the face of an animal. Such a mask, used as a hunting lure, is shown on the cover of this week's SCIENCE NEWS LETTER.

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MARINE BIOLOGY

Find Plenty to Eat In Gulf of Alaska

► **FIGHTING MEN** or others cast adrift in the Gulf of Alaska "never need starve to death." They could probably get along by eating the mussels found in masses of floating kelp many hundreds of miles from where the sea plant usually grows.

This is the conclusion of John D. Isaacs, assistant to the director of the University of California's Scripps Institution of Oceanography at La Jolla, Calif. He has just returned from a two-month survey trip exploring the eastern North Pacific, an ocean area never really studied before.

One of the most interesting features discovered, he reports, was the masses of floating kelp far out in the ocean. The kelp was covered with myriads of small mussels. To prove their point, four of the survey party made an entire meal of the mussels found on just one drifting stalk.

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DENTISTRY

No Wisdom Teeth in Future

► **IN ANOTHER** three or four generations, humans may not have any wisdom teeth. Meanwhile, more and more of us are having impacted third molars, as dentists term those last teeth in the mouth.

For their successful removal, a combination of X-rays and geometry is an important first step, Dr. Harrison M. Berry, Jr., of Philadelphia, reported at the meeting of the American Dental Association in Washington.

Just one X-ray picture does not tell whether the roots of the impacted tooth lie behind or in front of the neighboring tooth. Dr. Berry advises taking two pictures.

For the second X-ray shot, the X-ray tube is moved to the right and the rays are directed at an angle less than 90 degrees to the film. The tooth that is behind will seem to move to the right, just as a telephone pole moves to the right of the front one in the line when you step slightly to the right of the line of poles. With this guide, the dental surgeon does not need to go in blindly when he operates to remove an impacted wisdom tooth. He knows its location in the jaw.

Careful X-ray studies are also important, Dr. Berry stressed, before removing teeth that may have curving roots. Unless the operator knows where these are, he may break them and a piece of root tip may be left in the jaw. This can cause trouble later if it is infected.

Some people are "grinders" and others are "choppers" when they chew, Dr. Samuel Pruzansky, special research fellow of the National Institute of Dental Research, reported.

A "grinder" can move his lower jaw from side to side as well as up and down, while a "chopper" cannot.

The patterns of electric currents created by the facial muscles as people chew are being mapped by Dr. Pruzansky, using electromyographic equipment like that previously used to record electrical responses of leg and arm muscles in polio patients.

When the chewing muscle pattern has been determined in patients having difficulty in chewing because of polio or other illness, special exercises can be prescribed in an effort to overcome the difficulty.

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AERONAUTICS

Universal Aviation Speech

► **INTERNATIONAL AIRPLANE** pilots, without knowing the part they are playing, are helping build an international "English" language for aviation for use between planes in the air and control towers in all parts of the world.

Control towers in many parts of the world are now making records of conversations between pilots and ground workers, the U. S. Civil Aeronautics Administration has announced. Out of these samples and certain scientific studies of words will be built a language which speakers of all languages can use in comfort, which will be positive and time-saving, and which will contribute to safe operation of aircraft anywhere.

English is more nearly a universal language in international aviation today than any other, and it will continue to be so under this plan. More English-speaking pilots are on international routes than all others combined because of the large number of American, Canadian, British and Australian planes in use.

Under plans of the International Civil Aviation Organization, which includes over 50 nation members, all international control towers are expected to have operators who understand English as well as their own language.

Member nations of the International Civil Aviation Organization, ICAO for short, have agreed that the English language should be the basis of the proposed "International Language for Aviation." They

have agreed also that words with Latin roots should be given the preference in developing the phraseologies.

The new international aviation language being selected will be an easy-to-use but special kind of English. Pilots and ground workers in any country, whatever the local language, will be able to converse in correct English words and phrases exact in their aviation meaning.

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INVENTION

Boot Extending to Waist Patented as Slushguard

► **ONE-PIECE** "boots-and-bloomers" garment, on which the government has issued a patent, is designed to provide waist-high protection from automobile-splashed slush on winter streets or to protect the lower body in rainy weather. Patent 2,571,202 was awarded to Joseph Clyne, Bronx, N. Y.

The garment is made of water-proof material and has slide fasteners of the zipper type extending from each sole to the waist. The boot is the overshoe type to wear over ordinary foot-wear. Leggings fit snugly around the lower legs nearly up to the knees. Above are the bloomers. They are roomy enough to permit short skirts to be tucked inside.

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