

Poland Honors Two American Aviators for Valor



Polish envoy, decorates Capt. Harmon Borison, Wilmington, N. C., and Lieut. Kenneth Brewsbury, New York, with "Virtuti Militari" for services against the Reds. Paderewski (left) Borison, Lubomirski (right) Brewsbury. Inset, President Pilsudski of Poland.

Today's Geography



COMENIUS: A PICTURE TEACHING PIONEER

The United States commissioner of education has asked that the birthday of John Amos Comenius be observed in American public schools on March 28, in conjunction with its commemoration in Czechoslovakia. The National Geographic society has issued the following bulletin concerning the famous Moravian educator, author of the first picture textbook and the first advocate of teaching science in the schools:

"The births of new nations usually mean the creation of new national heroes. Among the new countries of Europe not only will the men who played parts in their liberation be honored in years to come; but the new nationalities already are planning to pay belated tribute to the outstanding figures of the period of their oppression.

"Take Czechoslovakia, a country which holds a particular interest for Americans, since its declaration of independence was written in a Washington, D. C., hotel, and condensed so it might be printed in full in a Boston newspaper, and its constitution embodies many features of our form of government.

"It may augur well for the future peace of Europe that Czechoslovakia has chosen to commemorate as one of its major holidays the birthday, not of a warrior, or even a political leader, but of a school teacher.

"In reading about him there also will be much about pansophic schools, and the intuitive method, and naturalistic conceptions of education. But if you would get a more vivid picture of the pioneer service of this forerunner of Rousseau, Froebel, Pestalozzi, and Montessori, try to imagine your school today as a place where:

"Pupils devoted nearly all their time to memorizing page after page of dreary texts.

"All teaching had to be done through a foreign language (Latin).

"No objects were studied and only abstract words were used.

"Little was studied which related to the physical world, the child's environment, or his daily experience.

"Nor was there any teaching of science, even geography, nature study, animal and bird life.

"None of the words, dealing largely with things the pupils never saw, were illustrated with pictures.

"And a kindergarten, physical exercise, play periods, attention to hygiene were virtually unknown.

"If you can imagine that kind of school you will gain some conception of the schools in the time of Comenius, which he tried to improve in nearly all of the particulars mentioned.

"Most widely known, perhaps, of Comenius' books is the 'Orbis Pictus,' thought by some to have been the first children's picture book, and certainly the first application of pictures for school teaching of visual instruction.

ORIGIN OF "APRIL FOOL"

Even in these times of turmoil and contention, there is still one day when not only may a man play a fool, but his friends are privileged to give him a headlong push down "fools' hill."

The origin of the custom of playing practical jokes on friends and neighbors on this "All Fools' Day" is variously explained. Some of these explanations may interest those who have eaten cotton pie and bean chocolates.

Some writers trace the custom back to the days of the miracle plays given at Easter time. One of the most popular tableaux satirized Annas, Calaphas, Pilate and Herod. In the decadent days of these dramas actors played largely for the amusement and applause of the groundlings, until Herod, in out-heroding himself, and Pilate, in the performance of his abominations, literally made fools of themselves.

A "Feast of Fools" was held in the early spring by the Romans, and the Hindus, since time immemorial, have celebrated as a saturnalia the vernal equinox, or Feast of Huli. During these festivities the chief amusement seems to have been that of fooling people and sending them on fruitless errands.

Many students trace the origin back no farther than France in the sixteenth century. At any rate, the custom seems to have radiated from France to England, as well as to Germany. If we are to believe what Grimm says about it, France was the first nation to adopt the reformed calendar which decreed that the year should begin on the first of January. Consequently those who objected to sending out their New Year's gifts and felicitations upon the newly chosen date instead of April 1, as they had done previously, subjected themselves to endless taunts for being old fogies by going on visits that had no meaning. The French call the victim of a prank on April 1, "un poisson d'avril," or "an April fish," of which our American slang, "you poor fish," is good translation. The origin of the expression used in this connection probably arose in the obvious comparison between the person who "bites" unwittingly and the April fish, which is a young fish and therefore easily caught.

In Scotland April Fool's day is observed, but under a slightly different name—the day for "hunting the gowk," or cuckoo. Some few of us who, in our unsophisticated days, have gone "snipe hunting" in this country, know how the fellow feels who hunts the gowk, and realize that to be called an "April-Cuckoo" is not a compliment, that bird being a byword of contempt in almost every land.

RIO DE JANEIRO: CITY OF LURE

Rio de Janeiro, first of the three South America capitals to be visited by Secretary Colby on his recent journey of courtesy to our neighboring continent, is described as follows in a communication from Harriet Chalmers Adams to the National Geographic society:

"This city of lure terraces up from a glorious bay—the Bay of Guanabara, mountain-encircled, isle-bejeweled. From the shore, where parks and boulevards are fast crowding out the old Rio of narrow streets, rise the forested hills on whose slopes the lovelier portion of the city lies. Place your hands on the table, fingers spread, wrists upraised. Each finger represents one of Rio's hills; each space between, a canyon up which the city climbs.

"Many of the new homes cling to the hillside below the streets and are entered from the roof. Others of these cliff dwellings perch high above the thoroughfare and are reached by a long flight of steps or by elevator or an inclined plane. Some bear the name of the lady of the manor over the front door—'Villa Rosita,' 'Villa Lucia'—and the dark-eyed lady herself is often seen leaning from the window.

"Can any other city offer such entrancing vistas as those from the mountain heights back of Rio? I have traveled far and have yet to find it. Turning hawward, we look down through a frame of tangled vines and branches, onto the tree-tops of the sloping virgin forest. A scarlet-winged bird flits to a nearby tree-fern; a big



Sugar Loaf, the Sentinel of Rio Bay.

blue butterfly zigzags lazily by. There are purple orchids within reach and waxen begonias at our feet. Far below, set in verdure, gleams the kaleidoscopic city, with its crescent shores.

"The bay, set in its amphitheater of hills, sparkles like a sapphire. To and fro among the ships at anchor ply the busy paddle-wheel ferry boats to the islands and to Niteroy, the little sister city across the way. In the distance tower the blue spires of the lofty Organ mountains. Today we can see the sharp crag called 'the Finger of God.' Often it is veiled in mist.

"Avenida Rio Branco, Rio's finest thoroughfare, is more than a mile in length and so wide that it consists of two distinct boulevards separated by a row of shade trees. It is thronged day and night with automobiles. The sidewalks, the widest I have ever seen, are black-and-white stones laid in mosaic design, like those in vogue in Lisbon. Both stones and workmen were brought from Portugal, but similar pavements, constructed later in other parts of the city, are 'home-made.'

"At the cinema theaters the people of Rio de Janeiro know real comfort. Unlike most of our moving-picture houses, those in Rio have spacious waiting rooms where you sit, listening to excellent music until the hour for the first reel comes round.

"Rio's climate is often maligned, but it suits those who like spring and summer weather. It is never as warm as summer in many of our Eastern and Middle-West cities, and the nights on the hills are nearly always cool.

"Now and then on the wide world trail we find a scene which dominates. Such is Rio de Janeiro, City of Lure. So long as glory of form and color gladden the eye, Rio will stand preeminent in beauty among the habitations of man."

MONTEVIDEO: CITY OF THE HAPPY MEDIUM

Montevideo, capital of the republic of Uruguay, was the second stopping place of Secretary of State Colby in his recent official visit to South America.

Physically situated so that it is one of the healthiest cities in the world, with an equable climate which makes it a delightful place to live in, and possessing an atmosphere free from the bustle and noise of the more modern and commercial Buenos Aires and the more metropolitan Rio, Montevideo has become the resort city of South America's Atlantic coast. Thousands of wealthy South Americans are to be found there at nearly all seasons of the year, participating in the carnivals, gambling in the great government-owned casinos that may be compared to those of Monte Carlo, or merely enjoying the restful life of this city which still clings to the Spanish habit of looking to "manana."

Since Montevideo is in the southern hemisphere its seasons are the reverse of those in the United States. Visitors are especially numerous for the bathing season, which begins in October, corresponding to the northern May, and is at its height at Christmas.

Detached impressions of Montevideo will bring to mind many smiles and contrasts with better known cities. Like New York, it covers a narrow peninsula from shore to shore; but in architecture it is the antithesis of the North American metropolis, being made up of a seemingly vast number of low stone buildings, a few two or three stories in height, the great majority of them but one story. The principal thoroughfare, the Avenida of the Eighteenth of July, extending along the ridge of the peninsula, with its colonnades and sidewalk cafes, gives a touch of Paris. As a great packing center for the live stock produced on the unsurpassed pastures of Uruguay, Montevideo is comparable to Chicago or Kansas City. Evidence of this fact is sometimes wafted on the winds when they blow to the city from the seat of the gigantic industry across the bay.

In physical equipment Montevideo is modern. It is well lighted, well watered, adequately supplied with transportation facilities, and most admirably drained. Socially it clings to the past, following more faithfully than any other large city outside of Spain and the Orient the old Spanish-Moorish traditions of society's proper attitude toward women.

As in other large South American cities, moving picture theaters are omnipresent. Most of the films they show are imported from the United States.

Montevideo is famed for its port, which is one of the best on the Atlantic coast of the Americas. The city has a population exceeding 400,000, more than a quarter of the population of the entire 72,000 square miles of the republic. In 1800 Montevideo was the largest and most important city in South America. It is now surpassed by Buenos Aires, Rio and Santiago de Chile, while its rank as fourth city is closely contested by Sao Paulo, Brazil.

BUENOS AIRES: CITY OF SUPERLATIVES AND CONTRASTS

Buenos Aires, capital of Argentina, which recently attracted world attention by withdrawing its representatives from the League of Nations assembly, is not merely the capital and chief port of a South American republic. It is a world center—a city of superlatives, contrasts and paradoxes.

Its population of close to 2,000,000 makes it, by a wide margin, the metropolis of South America and the Southern hemisphere. It is the greatest of Spanish-speaking cities, having nearly three times as many inhabitants as Madrid. It is greater than any Latin city except Paris. In the New World it shares third place with Philadelphia; only New York and Chicago surpass it. And now that Petrograd and Moscow have shrunk, while Berlin and Vienna are marking time, it probably ranks or soon will rank as the sixth city of the world, led only by the two metropolises of Europe, the two of North America, and Tokyo in Asia.

This great city is the focus of the culture, thought, politics, economics and social life of Argentina, as well as the funnel through which pour the millions of pounds of dressed meats and the millions of bushels of wheat which make up the contribution of the republic to the hungry peoples of the Old World. In its general aspect it is a combination of New York and Paris. Its language is the language of Spain, but many other things Spanish have been thrust aside. Its inhabitants would laugh at the idea of a mid-day siesta—so generally observed in most Spanish-American countries. The obsession of "manana" has been discarded; the people of Buenos Aires live in the throbbing present, going strenuously about their business in streets whose bustle and whirl are as balm to the heart of the homesick New Yorker, who feels that, after all, he cannot be far from Broad and Wall or Forty-second and Broadway. Subways, computers and taller buildings than can be found in any other city in South America heighten the illusion.

In progress and the possession of vision the people of Buenos Aires are unsurpassed even by the restless builders of North America's greatest cities. For centuries after its establishment Buenos Aires was without a port. Ships anchored miles from the shallow, sandy shore and all freight was handled in lighters. Within the last 25 years the municipality has constructed the largest artificial docks in the world. These provide adequate facilities for the thousands of ocean vessels and coasting craft that put into its port annually.

The narrow checker-board of streets in the business center which the colonial Buenos Aires bequeathed to the world-city of today has been a constant embarrassment in the face of the demands of modern business. The municipality has widened some of these narrow ways at a cost of many millions of dollars, into stately and handsome avenues, and is carving other arteries of traffic diagonally through the closely packed squares.

In the newer parts of the city streets of ample width and numerous broad avenues have been laid out. Many of the avenues are lined with the costly palaces of Argentina's multimillionaires. It is in this part of the city and in such semi-business residences as the tree-rimmed Avenida de Mayo, with its mile or more of fine hotels, clubs, cafes and business buildings de luxe that Buenos Aires reminds the traveler of Paris.

Albania's Devastating Earthquake



This photograph from scene of recent earthquake in Albania, which claimed more than 200 deaths, destroyed 2,000 homes and made 18,000 people homeless. The picture shows the desolation in the town of Tepelene.

STOWAWAY PRISONER.



Jon Jacobson, born in Roumania, is a stowaway, ineligible to entry into the United States, on the S. S. Eldenn, now docked at Brooklyn, N. Y.

President's New Airedale Pup



Well Liddle Boy is the name of a blue-blooded Airedale pup presented to President Harding by a Toledo friend. He showed his pep immediately upon arrival by chasing a Wilson cat up a tree.

OCCUPATION ARMY AID



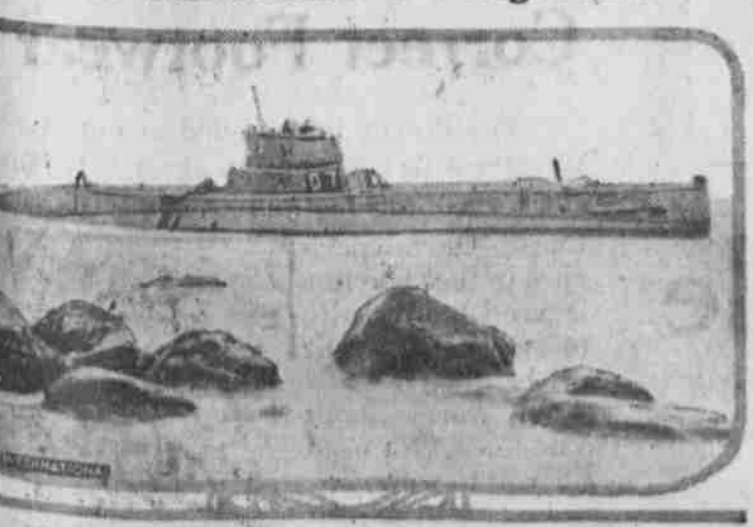
General Weyand, aid to Marshal Foch during the great war, will aid Marshal Foch in directing the allied occupation of German cities.

MISS ALICE ROBERTSON



New Washington photograph of Miss Alice Robertson, Oklahoma representative, the only woman in congress.

U. S. Submarine O-7 Aground



The United States submarine O-7 aground on a sandbar 50 yards off White Point, Fisher's Island, N. Y. The crew of 28 were taken off by naval tug.