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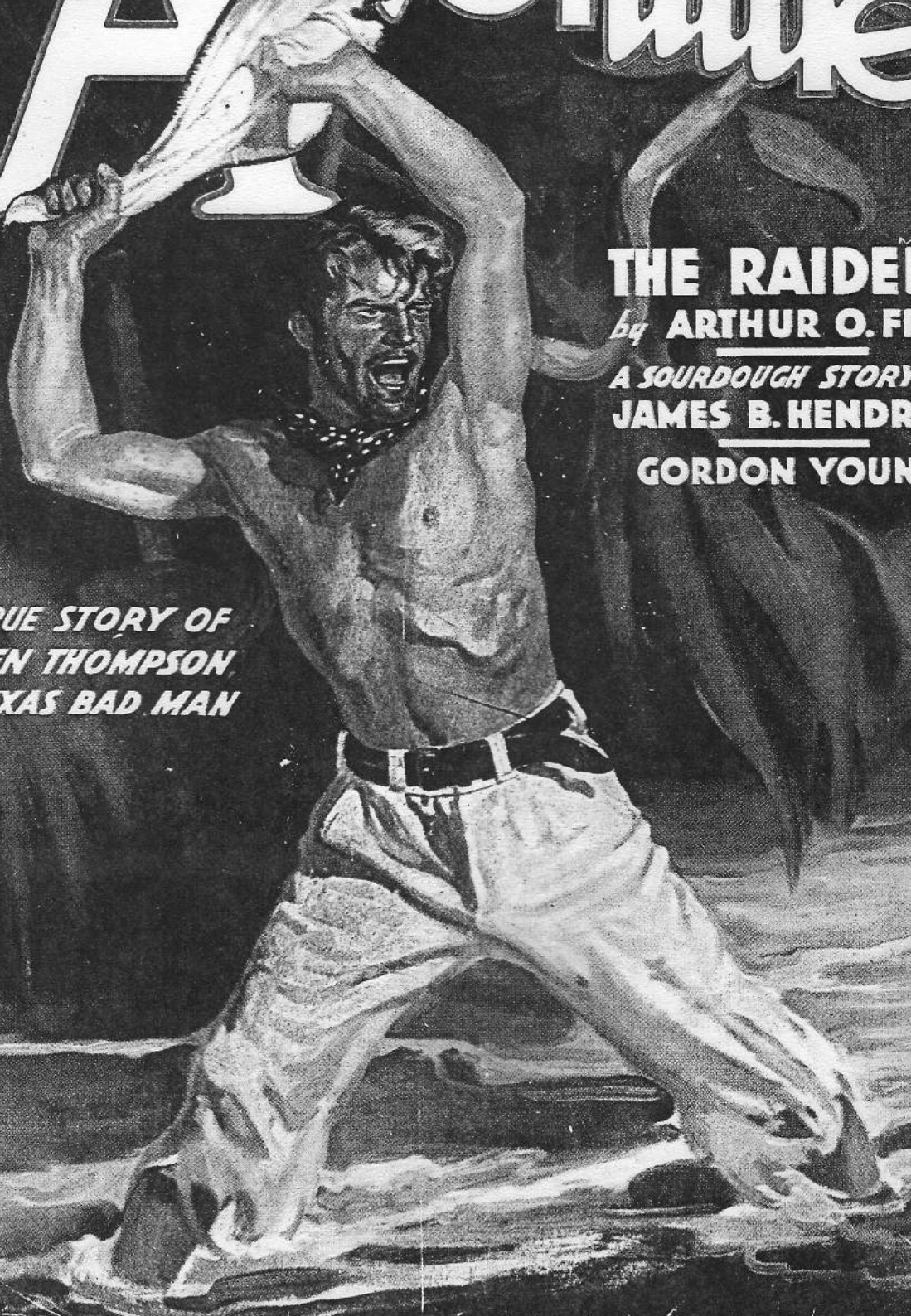
DECEMBER



Adventure

THE RAIDERS
by **ARTHUR O. FRIEL**
A SOURDOUGH STORY BY
JAMES B. HENDRYX
GORDON YOUNG

*TRUE STORY OF
BEN THOMPSON
TEXAS BAD MAN*



exactly scientific to flatly deny that such a habit exists. Technical literature certainly does not contain well-authenticated descriptions of such a procedure while there are many ways of explaining how such a belief might arise. Snakes commonly eat young of other species and sometimes even their own young. Also it is easy to see how one could be fooled by killing or cutting open a female on the point of giving birth to living young. In such a case the young might literally wriggle out and crawl away. A study of the literature on snakes would show that the vast majority of references to or discussions of the habit in question occur in the popular section. In other words it is the untrained observer who "sees" it happen. I have observed snakes on four continents but remain unconvinced.

The statement that a snake strikes no more than two-thirds of its length is only meant to describe the average length of the stroke, not its absolute or possible length. Under favorable conditions many snakes can do better than that as you say. The statement is chiefly meant to convey the truth that snakes do not spring from the ground as many people are prone to believe.

I am sorry not to be able to tell you of a market for rattlesnakes or their by-products. You might be able to sell a few to zoos.

THE Arabian tent hasn't changed in centuries as much, nor as often, as our pup tents.

Request:—I am very much interested in Palestine, its people and customs. I am hoping to assemble enough data to build models of some of their homes and I would like to get the following information:

The tents like Abraham lived in—approximately what size was in common use, of what were they built and what would make a satisfactory substitute for it if that material is not available? How were they put together? Could you help me to get the information for building a model of one?

I have several photographs of these tents, but they are not clear enough for me to make a model.

—W. E. LITTLE, Dallas Center, Iowa.

Reply by Captain Herbert W. Eades:—The ordinary tent of the Arab nomads of modern times is a comparatively spacious ridged structure, averaging from twenty to twenty-five feet in length, but sometimes reaching as much as forty feet. Its covering usually consists of a thick felt of black goat hair or

sometimes of alternate stripes of black and white disposed horizontally. The ridge or roof is supported by nine poles in sets of three, the central set being loftier than those at each end, whereby a slope outward is formed which helps to carry off the rain. The average height at the center is seven feet, and at the sides, five feet, and the cloths at the side are so attached that they can be easily removed, the sheltered end being always left open. Internally the tent is separated by a partition into two sections, that reserved for the women also containing the cooking utensils and the food.

In ancient Assyrian sculptures discovered by Layard at Nineveh the form of tent and the tent furnishings are similar to those which still prevail in the East, so it appears that then, as now, it was a custom to pitch tents within the walls of a city. It is probable that the tents used by Abraham and his people were of this same type.

BEGINNER'S luck—or maybe it was the plug.

Request:—I have recently started bait-casting and to celebrate my first fish on a plug, I hooked a nice five-pound black bass. Naturally I feel pretty swelled up about it.

Costs of mounting such a fish would flatten my pocketbook, so I have decided to preserve only the head. Will you please give me directions and necessary materials for such operation?

I see you you are also an authority on dogs. How can I stop my Samoyede from barking at every little thing without raining his watchdog characteristics?

—J. TRUTOR, Etna, Penna.

Reply by Ozark Ripley:—As you want to mount just the head of the fish, dry it with stick holding open its jaws to natural size, in the sun. When thoroughly dry, give it a light coat of shellac. After shellac is dry, follow with a light coat of valspar. Repeat about every two years. But never put on an extremely heavy coat of varnish, or it will blister and crack.

As for stopping your dog from barking at everything, run a strap from collar to one around foreleg. He will quit the habit soon.

SUNKEN treasure, this fish that got away, that fellow you once knew . . . and your word is as good as mine!

Request:—I have been approached by certain parties with a view of investing in a

treasure expedition to recover a treasure supposed to have been lost by the Bobadilla fleet. Would you be so kind as to send me any information you have in regard to this treasure?

—HUGH WRIGHT, Esq., New York, N. Y.

Reply by Commander Edward Ellsberg, U.S.N.R.:—In my opinion, no authentic information regarding the supposed treasure of Bobadilla exists except perhaps among the official records in Spain.

Bobadilla, recalled governor of Hispaniola, was wrecked off the northeast coast of that island, now Haiti, on his way back to Spain in 1502. The legend is, that fearing royal displeasure on his return, he was carrying with him a considerable treasure with which to appease the Spanish monarchs, and that while the treasure was lost in the wreck, Bobadilla himself was saved. According to promoters this treasure ranges from a billion dollars down to a paltry few millions.

Having due regard to the facts that neither Haiti nor the adjacent islands produce gold or silver in any quantity, that Columbus himself from these islands never obtained enough treasure to avoid dying in dire poverty, and that the wreck occurred within ten years of the discovery of America, before the real flow of gold and silver from Mexico and Peru started, I am inclined to believe that with his ship lost and no means of checking up, the legend grew out of Bobadilla's efforts to square himself back in Spain for his misdeeds.

You will find some discussion in "Doubloons" by Driscoll. An old account by Peter Martyr also discusses the case. Cotton Mather's biography of Sir William Phipps also mentions it.

THE unsuccessful search for the Krueger expedition—as told in the official report.

Request:—I was reading in Gordon Hayes' latest book "The Conquest of the North Pole" an interesting but brief history about the Royal Canadian Mounted Police patrol's search after the missing Krueger expedition.

I should like to know if anything in more detail is published about those patrols?

—HUGO LEVIN, Chicago, Ill.

Reply by Mr. Herbert Patrick Lee:—Up to now there has been no definite information regarding the fate of Dr. Krueger's expedition. I will quote you from Commissioner MacBrien's report of the patrol made by members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police from the Ellesmere Island post:

"During the winter 1931-32, patrols were

made from Bache Peninsula in search of the Krueger expedition. Eskimos from Greenland assisted in the main search and the long patrol was carried out by Reg. No. 6316, Corporal H. W. Stallworthy, and Reg. No. 10196, Constable R. W. Hamilton. These members of the force and seven Greenland Eskimos, with eight sleighs and one hundred and twenty-five dogs left Bache Peninsula on March 20, 1932. This patrol later divided into two separate parties. Corporal Stallworthy, with three Eskimos, encircled Axel Heberg Island and was successful in locating a written record left by Dr. Krueger on April 24, 1930, on the most northerly point of that island.

"Constable Hamilton and party proceeded to the west, visited Cape Southwest on Axel Heberg Island, and continued to Amund Ringnes and Cornwall Islands from which points they returned to Bache Peninsula via Mackinon Inlet.

"These patrols encountered extremely bad ice conditions, and owing to the scarcity of game, particularly polar bear, they were forced to travel for days without obtaining dog feed. During a long spell of severe cold weather they had to resort to killing some of their dogs in order to feed the others. Twenty-nine dogs were sacrificed to that purpose.

"Had it not been for a break in the weather, and the fact that a few seals were obtained and that a cache of provisions had been established at Cape Southwest, these patrols would have lost all their dogs through starvation, and would have been subjected to the most severe hardships.

"Corporal Stallworthy's patrol returned to Bache Peninsula on May 23, 1932, after traveling approximately fourteen hundred miles, and Constable Hamilton returned on May 7, 1932, after traveling nine hundred miles.

"Owing to traveling conditions encountered, the patrols were unable to visit Meighen Island and Isaachsen Island which was part of the plan discussed previously by the late Inspector Joy and Corporal Stallworthy.

"From the route taken by the missing party, it is the opinion of Corporal Stallworthy that the Krueger Expedition perished during the winter of 1931-32, somewhere in the vicinity of Meighen Island and Isaachsen Island."

The Commissioner praised Constable Arthur Monro, who while remaining at the detachment at Bache Peninsula had his part to play in securing dog feed and building caches.

I am interested personally in the fate of Krueger and his companions. I was one of the original police expedition there in 1922 and spent two years at Craig Harbor, to which point the detachment at Bache has now been removed.