

THE MILWAUKEE JOURNAL Green Sheet

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Heroic Men Saved Many Lives in Middle West's Worst Storm

By Jay Scriba
Of The Journal Staff

THE worst autumn storm in the history of the middle west began as a cold, steady rain peltin from the southwest. Duck hunters in blinds from Minneapolis to Milwaukee swallowed a last gulp of coffee and snapped the safeties on their guns as they saw it coming—they knew it would bring ducks, and it did, big, ragged flocks of them, whistling in under a dark overcast.

For an hour or two that Armistice day of 1940—a Monday—it was circus shooting. Then, at about 11 a.m., the rain turned to sleet, whipping across the marshes like shotgun pellets in the fast rising gale. Ducks scuttled for shelter as the temperature plummeted—in 12 hours it dropped 45 degrees, from 58 to 13 above zero—and the more prudent hunters dragged their ice rimed decoys out of the waves and headed for the beach.

Of those who stayed, 39 never lived to tell the tale. "The winds of hell were loose on the Mississippi Armistice day and night"—so the late Gordon MacQuarrie, Journal outdoor writer, began the story on the great storm. Twenty hunters died on the Mississippi alone, drowning in capsized duck skiffs or freezing to death while desperately pummeling each other to keep warm. But the winds of

said, "Come on, you can walk to shore."
In 55 mile long Lake Winnebago, the water shifted north, exposing sand bars and sunken islands that hadn't been seen for 50 years. In Milwaukee the hands of the city hall clock wobbled so badly by late Monday afternoon that the clock was shut off and the hands turned to 8:45, the position of least wind resistance.
Guests tipped over two loaded automobile transport trucks between Milwaukee and Racine,

LAUGH IT OFF



"Unfortunately, all I inherited from my father was his rich sense of humor."

hours, trapped by four foot waves. They had a tarpaulin and a kerosene lantern and when night came with no help, they wrapped up in the tarp and used the lantern for heat. Edward Quick, a Milwaukee man hunting near them, wasn't so lucky.

Tuesday afternoon, after being rescued by the coast guard, Roman Zielski told how he and his brother watched Quick die in his skiff, separated from the Zielski boat by 30 feet of fast forming ice which prevented them from giving aid.

'Stamped and Lay Still'

"He just sat there huddled in his boat. He didn't say a word. We shouted at him. He just looked dumbly at us. Every few minutes he would get up on his knees, turn his hands, palms out, toward the sky and look toward heaven. We don't know whether he was praying or not. Maybe he was just looking where the sun should have been. Maybe he thought it would warm him a little."
"Then," Zielski said, "he suddenly slumped against the side of his skiff and lay still."
Orville Strachota, another Milwaukee hunter, wasn't lucky either. About 8 p.m. Tuesday coastguardmen found his frozen body in his rowboat a few hundred feet from the August Briegel resort on the southeast shore of the lake. A third Milwaukee hunter, Arthur Kleis, died on Lake Puckaway.

With the horror came tales of heroism.
Max Conrad, a Winona (Minn.) flying instructor, took off in a light plane Tuesday morning and flew until dark, dipping low over the Mississippi river sloughs to direct rescuers.

Conrad Aided Dossens

"He would fly his plane repeatedly over a spot where hunters were marooned," MacQuarrie wrote, "and the rescue boats would know where to go. He would toss out five gallon cans containing sandwiches, whiskey and cigars. He would open the door of his plane and, with the motor cut, shout down to the men below:
"Hang on, help is coming."
"He would route the little

plane time after time through channels over which marooned hunters could follow in skiffs."

Dozens of men said afterward that they owed their lives to Conrad's persistence. Conrad has since become famous for his 54 trips across the Atlantic in light planes and as the holder of the marathon distance record for light planes, 6,950 miles, which he set last summer.
Calvin Volke, of Winona, helped rescue 17 hunters and probably saved their lives.

He and a friend set out Monday night with a 12 horsepower outboard heading for an island far out in the rampaging river where they could see men moving around a fire. The motor swamped and they began rowing. Ice from sleet and spray caked over them. But they kept

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—United Press International
A debating stool from New Guinea, temporarily occupied by Nuni, a Maltese dog owned by Mrs. Eleanor Connor of New York city, is in the Melanesian art exhibit at New York city's Museum of Primitive Art. The ceremonial stool was the centerpiece of debates speakers struck it with bunches of leaves to emphasize their arguments.



inseparable pets of Mrs. ... of Pacifica, a San Fran-
—United Press International

'ields' or, Soldier

ten cannot keep warm," he wrote. "For my own part, I do not think I have ever been more uncomfortable."
His resistance gone and his strength failing, Dr. McCrae fell of pneumonia in January, 1918, and died within two days. He was buried on a sunny slope facing the sunset and the sea.

FAMILY-GO-ROUND

By Bil Keane



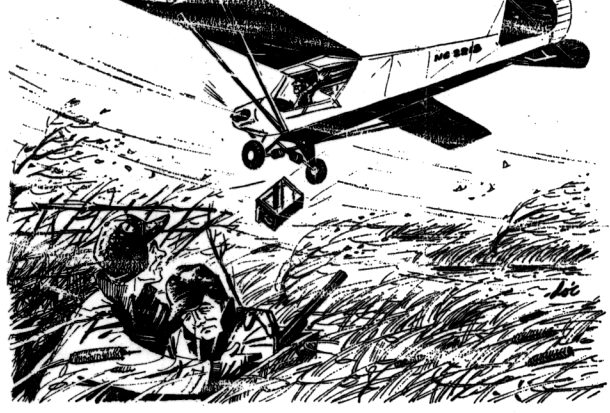
Do You Know?

- The argali is the largest wild sheep. It is found in the Altai mountains of Siberia and Mongolia.
- Italian fliers were the first to use bombs dropped from planes. They flung cans filled with nitroglycerine over Tripoli in 1912.
- The hedgehog is the European porcupine.
- The pronghorn antelope can outrun a man when it is only 4 days old.
- The easternmost town in the United States is Lubec, Me.
- Nickel plating is used principally to protect other metals from corrosion.

COUNTRY PARSON



"Little boys don't mind being dirty—and neither do little minds."



—Journal sketch by Donald O'Connell
Flier Max Conrad's heroic work saved many lives

sky Diver Lands in His Own Yard

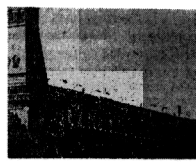
Kingstree, S. C.—P—Douglas Ames, 19, dropped in at his home for dinner one day recently from 2,500 feet above via a tawberry pink parachute.
The youthful sky diver had meant to land in a field a considerable distance from home and had his mother, Mrs. A. K. Ames, stationed there to drive him home for the midday meal.
A strong northeast wind carried him to earth near his own yard.

hell were loose on far more than the Mississippi.
In 48 hours the icy hurricane killed nearly 150 people in the middle west. Seventy-seven more died in Lake Michigan as 75 mile an hour gusts sank seven boats, battered dozens onto the beach and tossed others like tin cans. Excluding cargo losses, the storm cost lake shippers nearly \$2,000,000. In Milwaukee, glass damage alone came to more than \$75,000, as dozens of plate glass store windows buckled and burst.
The wind blew so hard for so long—a pounding 40 to 50 miles an hour most of Monday night—that the water level at the south end of Green Bay dropped four feet. Seven duck hunters, trapped on a mudbank in the bay, blinked frantic distress signals with flashlights not knowing that the water had blown out. Finally another hunter in boots hiked out to them and

and knocked over the screen at a drive-in theater on Blue Mound rd. Railroad engineers coming in late from Minneapolis said that their locomotives labored, bucking south into the wind. In Minneapolis a 16 inch blizzard marooned thousands of office workers downtown for two nights.

United States army studies indicate that it usually takes both a high wind and low temperature to produce the kind of cold that kills. The Nov. 11 storm was just such a killer, a relentless, thrusting wind sharpened to a murderous zero edge. Men trapped in the open withered like leaves before its breath sucking blast, and often a slight twist of fate made the difference between life and death.
Two Milwaukee men, Roman Zielski and his brother, Ignatius, huddled in their duck blind on Big Muskego lake for 36

in Moscow



Whamoodles By Bill Vaughan
A Texas department store advertises "his" and "hers" genuinely good shows, we know that he is about to come

BIG GEORGE!

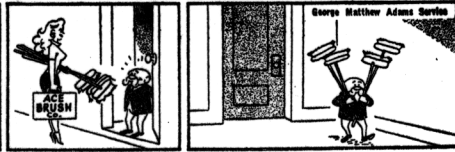
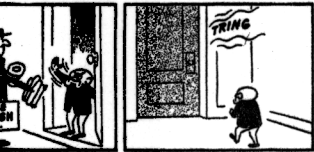
By Virgil Partch



Friday

Mayflower Dropped Anchor in 1620

Today is Friday, Nov. 11, the 316th day of the year with 5 more in 1960.
The moon is in its last quarter.
The morning star is Mars; the evening stars are Venus, Jupiter and Saturn.
On this day in history: 1620, 41 pilgrims aboard the Mayflower anchored off the coast of Cape Cod, Mass.
In 1889, the state of Washington became the 42nd state to join the Union.
In 1918, President Warren Harding dedicated the tomb c



her scrapbook an amusing bit of verse about the wild inconsistencies of English plurals. If anyone can tell us the original author of this "poem," we'll be happy to extend proper recognition. We'll begin with a box and the plural is boxes. But the plural of ox should be oxen, not oxes. Then one fowl is a goose but two are called geese.

Big Man in Pinedale
Pinedale, Wyo. - P - If you have any governmental problems in Pinedale, it's a good bet you'll have to see Robert W. Seivers. He is the county prosecuting attorney, the town attorney, town clerk and town treasurer.

Ask Andy

Andy sends a complete, 20 volume set of the World Book Encyclopedia to John Presto, 8, of Mount Joy, Pa., for his son.

What Keeps Canned Goods Fresh?

Food is spoiled by tiny plant microbes, too small for us to see. Some are bacteria, some are yeasts and some molds. These little microbes teem in the air and on the surface of everything we touch. There are millions of them on the cleanest hands and countless numbers in even the purest water.

Microbes share our world with us and they have a very important job to do. They are the microbes that cause decay. They attack fallen leaves, dead animals and all sorts of organic material and break these materials down into simple chemicals. These chemicals are the food for growing plants.

When they can't, these teeming microbes attack our food and multiply at a great rate. This is what causes food to lose its flavor, get a bad smell and turn rotten. Accidentally, the microbes are breakers of food down into simple chemicals but it is now spoiled, and decayed and no use to us.

Most of our food is preserved in cans. We call them tin cans, although they are made of steel with only the thinnest coating of tin to prevent rusting. Cans use two tricks to stop the microbes from spoiling the food.

gassing and, in relays, finally got everybody ashore. "The men on the island were lying on top of the fire," he said. "Not beside it, on top of it. They had been shooting off bouqs for fuel with shotgun shells. Two men would shoot at once and knock off a bouq."

It was said that some of the bouqs brought in had their faces and hands bruised from beating each other to keep warm, probably even when their hands were frozen clubs.

"Thus," MacQuarrie wrote, "they died on the Mississippi on the night following the Armistice day when the ducks came."

Charles Northington of Marshfield, a hunter who survived, was so grateful for his rescue that he gave the town of Alma a boat for rescue work. Later, at the urging of sportsmen's clubs, Senator Alexander Wiley suggested in the senate that federal agencies build shelters in the Mississippi bottom lands to prevent other tragedies.

Even in the city the storm made it dangerous to go out of doors. Chimneys crashed in Milwaukee and showered bricks into the streets; hundreds of trees fell, smashing parked cars and blocking traffic. Chunks of roofing and building cornices littered the downtown area, and dust devils of debris whirled in the streets.

Police, fire and sheriff's departments answered 500 emergency calls in one 25 hour period. Traffic came to a near standstill. Lights dimmed out as power lines snapped and many families shivered around fireplaces and gas ovens when oil burners and stokers failed.

At the height of the storm, the operating room at Mercy hospital went dark just as Dr. F. J. Cychling headed quarters.

FROM NINE TO FIVE

By Jo Fischer



LI'L ABNER

IN A FIT O' JEALOUS RAGE, MARION (MARRYIN' SAM'S MULE) DONE CHAWED UP HIS MARRYIN' HANDS---



AH HEREBY SWEARS YO' IN AS DEPUTY MARRYIN' MAN, SON!!



WE SPLITS TH' FEES!!-- AN' YO' GATTA TAKE SOLEMN OATH YO' WONT HELP NO CRACKER-- DOGPATCH BACHELOR



NANCY

I HOPE OUR DANCE WILL BE A BIG SUCCESS



ARE WE GOING TO HAVE A BIG-NAME BAND?



THE BIGGEST NAME IN THE BUSINESS



By Ernie Bushmiller

Storm Hit Lake Michigan With Awful Fury

From page 1, column 7

F. Dollert was performing an appendectomy.

"Quick, a flashlight," the doctor said, and in the light of several flashlights he operated for two minutes before the power came on again.

Elsewhere in the city candles glowed softly in windows and children scurried upstairs to the attic to rummage for long forgotten kerosene lamps.

By Wednesday morning the worst was over. It was still 10 above zero, but the wind had died to 15 miles an hour. Children went back to school--one

fifth grade class in South Milwaukee had to meet in the city hall council chamber while its school building was being repaired. Business districts rang with hammering as carpenters boarded up windows that the glaziers wouldn't be able to get to for days. Harried insurance adjusters stuffed their telephones under pillows to stop the jangling.

The only big news left was of disasters on Lake Michigan, and as skippers compared notes, the storm emerged as probably the

worst in the big lake's grim history.

Previous storms sank more boats -- a legendary 1913 gale sent 27 to the bottom--but sailors who could remember storms back to the big blow of 1905 agreed that they had never seen anything like the fury of Armistice day.

One captain told of his freighter being washed right over shallow Gray's reef, a famous ship's graveyard. Another declared that no ship ever built could have withstood the focus of the storm in the 150 mile stretch between Frankfort and South Haven, Mich.

Bodies washed up on the Michigan shore all winter from a wreck off Pentwater. Ship yards were busy for months repairing the strained braces and buckled plates of the boats that staggered into port. A generation later men would still speak in awe of the great Armistice day storm of 1940.

Roomy Lifts

Newport News, Va.--P--You aren't crowded on the elevators of the navy's new atomic powered carrier Enterprise. Each of the four elevators has a surface more than 4,000 square feet in area--large enough for two average city lots. Built of aluminum to save weight, each weighs 105 tons and contains one and a quarter miles of aluminum beams one to ten feet deep.

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