

# GOING TO PERU TO COUNT TREE RINGS

Dr. Wendall Clark's Expedition Will Be Also His Honeymoon Tour.

NEW YORK, November 12—The tree-ring method of determining ancient dates exactly will be applied for what is believed to be the first time in South America by an expedition headed by Dr. Wendall Clark Bennett of the American Museum of Natural History, which will start for Peru on December 7 and spend probably eight months there.

Incidentally, it will be not only a scientific expedition for Dr. Bennett, but also in the nature of a honeymoon for he and Miss Hope Ranslow of the staff of the museum's library, are to be married late this month, and she will accompany him.

The tree-ring method has been brought to a high point of exactness in the southwestern United States, where it is now possible for scientists to tell the exact date of almost any structure. It is based on the fact that trees add a ring each year as they grow, beginning at the centre of the trunk and working outward. In dry years these rings are small, in wet years they are large, and there are

other differences visible to the trained eye.

It has been possible to compare sections from different trunks, finding the same sequences in each, until now every set of rings is accurately dated. With this knowledge available, an archaeologist can take a piece of timber from a pueblo, tell when the wood was cut, and therefore say that the pueblo was built in that year.

By no means all scientists have the special knowledge to make such determinations, however, and so far as Dr. Bennett knows, they have never been attempted in South America, certainly not in the Peruvian region where he is going. He, himself, does not intend to try to make the calculations, but will take samples of wood from the logs with which ancient Indian graves are roofed over there, and send them back to New York for examination.

If dates of these graves of the old Chimu Indians can be accurately determined, it will be a considerable advancement in a portion of the field of archaeology which is now rather muddled. The best that has been done by way of fixing the times of the old inhabitants of Peru is to divide them into the Early, Middle and Late periods. Within these broad ranges, and even at times concerning them, there is much dispute. Some of the arguments over which manifestation of the ancient civilization precedes another have grown unscientifically vehement.

One South American man of science for example, responded to criticism of his assertions with what purported to

be an archaeological tract, but which as a matter of fact was entirely devoted to saying that his adversary was a thief, a robber; had not paid for the clothing which he wore, drank himself into insensibility every evening and did some worse things.

Dr. Bennett is going to the northern coast of Peru, and is determined only to skim over it. The region is so replete with Chimu remains that its richness has been a real embarrassment. An expedition could settle down in one spot and spend the lifetimes of several scientists working there. Dr. Bennett will force himself to go from one treasure site to another, digging only a few mounds, in order to get a fair cross section of the region.

It is his hope then to be able to fix the times of the various relics of the Chimu which he uncovers, and thus to date, by inference, others like them. Great masses of Chimu material have been found heretofore, but their dates are doubtful, Dr. Bennett hopes to erase some of that doubt.

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# ENGLISH HUNTSWOMEN CRITICIZED FOR MAKING UP AND GOSSIPING

LONDON, England, Nov. 12—When the fox hunting season gets under way here next month there will be nearly a score of women occupying the role of master or joint master of hunts in this country, a state of affairs that leads some of the huntswomen to prognosticate that in another decade their sex will be in control of the hunting field.

Yet the prospect is not entirely without its worries, as many feminine recruits to this costly sport who hail from urban communities are being criticized by their sisters who have inherited their interest in the pastime because they spend too much time gossiping and making up while they are in the saddle waiting outside coverts.

### The Cost

The increased cost of being master of many hunts has resulted in the retirement of the occupants of the position, or the sharing of it with some one else. Masters who have heavy financial responsibilities because of business and taxation and the necessity of providing for their families have frequently been succeeded by women of wealth with lighter claims on their incomes. It is estimated by some persons long identified with the sport that captivated old John Peel that a day's hunting for

certain of the big packs represents an outlay of \$10,000, while hunts which used to get through a season at a total cost of \$25,000 are now confronted with expenses double that sum.

Damage claims in the hunting country are higher than they were a few years ago because fence repairing costs more and also because fowls from poultry farms which are killed in a run after reynard are frequently pedigree stock.

### Packs Dwindling

When the Duke of Gloucester is married on November 6 at Westminster Abbey to Lady Alice Montagu-Douglas-Scott there will be two keen followers of the hounds among the womenfolk of the royal family, as Lady Alice, like the Princess Royal (Princess Mary), has long been identified with this exhilarating outdoor form of recreation. Lady Alice's father, the Duke of Buccleuch, has his own pack of hounds. The number of privately owned packs is, however, gradually dwindling. Not many years ago there were several score of them.

Fox hunting first came into real favor in England in the late seventeenth century and, according to some authorities, reached its zenith in the years 1850 to 1860.

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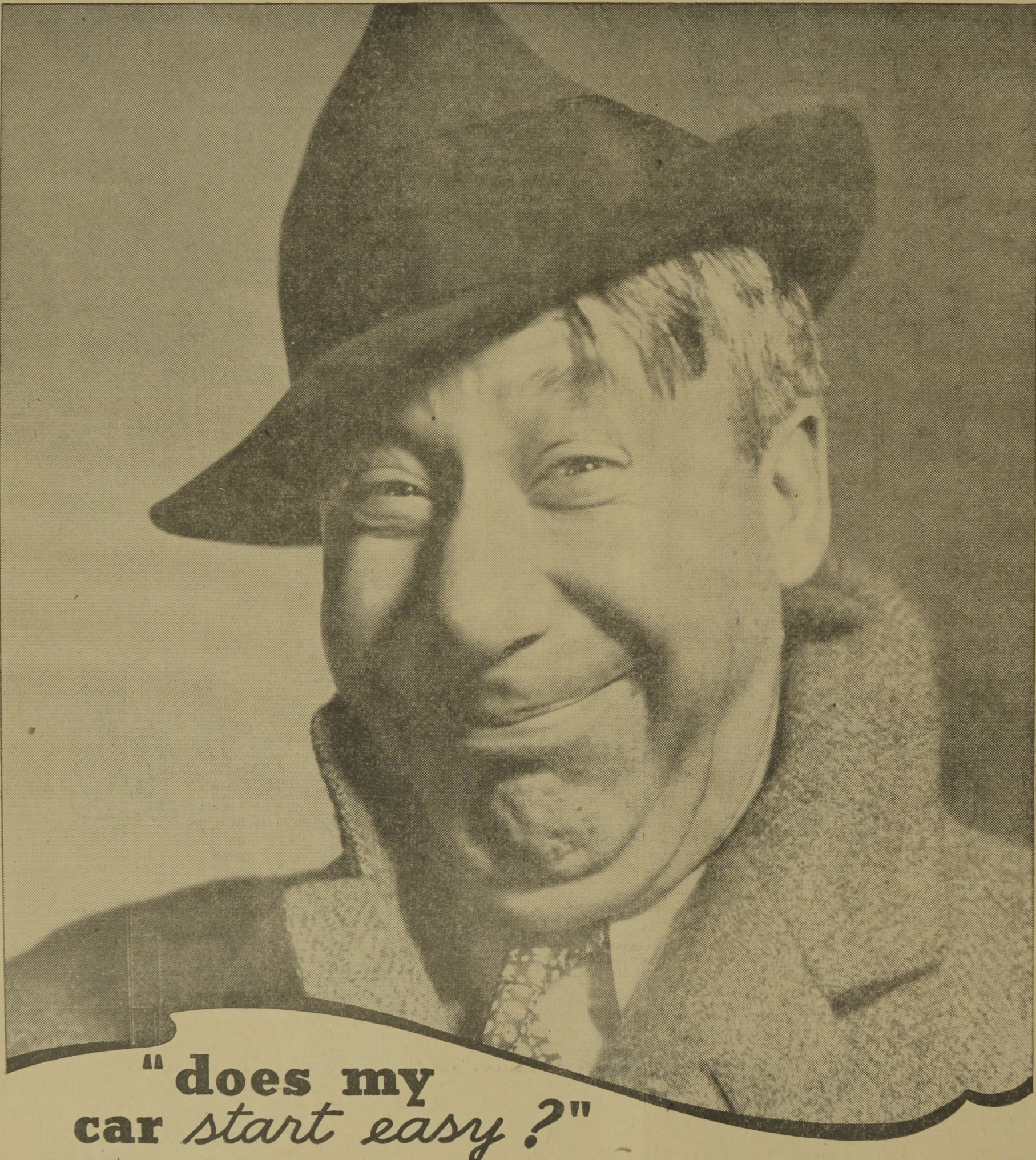
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