

St. Croix Avis.

77TH YEAR.

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CAPT. COOK'S TURTLE BOBS UP AGAIN.

Capt. E. T. Pollock, governor of American Samoa, informed the navy department that the turtle marked and left in the Tonga islands by Capt. Cook, the English mariner, in 1773, was seen there a few weeks ago. Although turtles have a record for longevity, this particular one shows signs of extreme age and is said, when walking, to creek like an old ox-cart. In addition to being decrepit at the tender age of 150, the animal is totally blind. Generally, turtles of species this live to 400 years and more.

Though there are no official records to prove it, the accepted story, is that Capt. Cook stopped at the Galapagos Islands on one of his numerous cruises and while there captured a number of giant turtles. After carving the date on the thick shell of one he released it in Tongas group. It is supposed that he selected a young turtle for the experiment.—*The Pathfinder Oct. 27th.*

CLOCK 328 YEARS OLD STILL GOING.

A Pathfinder reader, W. P. Quinton, of Pulaski, Ky., boasts the oldest time-piece in America. He says it ticked off the hours before the Boston "tea-party", before the settlers landed at Jamestown, aye, before the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth rock. In fact, just 103 years after Columbus discovered America this "great-great-grandfather's clock" was ticking away, having been made at Plymouth, England, in 1595.

According to Mr. Quinton, the old clock still keeps excellent time, and the only marks of wear that are visible are the worn case, sleek wheels and time-worn face. The clock stands eight feet high is 18 inches wide and 10 inches deep. The entire works save the verge wheel are made of wood. Each wheel, including the axle, is carved out of a single piece of wood. The axles are tipped with ivory to prevent wear.

Above the facial dial, on a three quarter dial wrought in old gold, are emblems of the Masonic order. Though many prominent Masons have examined them two have not been deciphered. Mr. Quinton obtained the clock from his old school teacher who taught him his letters from Webster's blue-back spelling book some 41 years ago and who is still living.—*Ibid.*

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Christiansted, St. Croix, V. I. Oct 1st 1923