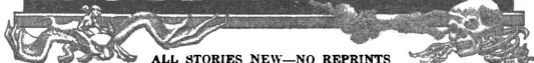


Weird Tales



ALL STORIES NEW—NO REPRINTS

SEPTEMBER, 1942

Cover by A. R. Tilburn

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*Except for personal experiences the contents of this magazine is fiction. Any use
of the name of any living person or reference to actual events is purely coincidental*

Published bi-monthly by Weird Tales, 9 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, N. Y. Reentered as second-class matter January 26, 1940, at the Post Office at New York, N. Y. under the act of March 3, 1879. Single copies, 15 cents. Subscription rates: One year in the United States and possessions, 90c. Foreign and Canadian postage extra. English Office: Charles Lavell, Limited, 4 Clements Inn, Strand, London, W.C.2, England. The publishers are not responsible for the loss of unsolicited manuscripts, although every care will be taken of such material while in their possession. Copyright, 1942 by Weird Tales. Copyrighted in Great Britain. Title registered in U. S. Patent Office.



PRINTED IN THE U. S. A.

Vol. 36, No. 7

W. McILWRAITH, Editor.

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SUPERSTITIONS



WHEN A CHEROKEE INDIAN SORCERER DESIRED TO DESTROY A MAN, HE GATHERED UP HIS **VICTIM'S SPITTLE** ON A STICK AND PUT IT IN A JOINT OF **WILD PARSNIP**, TOGETHER WITH **SEVEN EARTHWORMS** BEATEN TO A PASTE AND SEVERAL **SPLINTERS FROM A TREE WHICH HAD BEEN STRUCK BY LIGHTNING!** HE THEN WENT INTO THE FOREST, DUG A HOLE AT THE FOOT OF ANOTHER TREE STRUCK BY LIGHTNING, AND DEPOSITED IN THE HOLE THE JOINT OF WILD PARSNIP WITH ITS CONTENTS. FURTHER, HE LAID **SEVEN YELLOW STONES** IN THE HOLE, THEN FILLED IN THE EARTH, AND MADE A FIRE OVER THE SPOT TO DESTROY ALL TRACES OF HIS WORK... IT WAS BELIEVED THAT IF THE CEREMONY HAD BEEN PROPERLY CARRIED OUT, THE MAN WHOSE SPITTLE HAD THUS BEEN TREATED *BEGAN TO FEEL ILL AT ONCE... HIS SOUL WOULD SHRIVEL UP AND DWINDLE, AND WITHIN SEVEN DAYS HE WOULD BE A DEAD MAN*

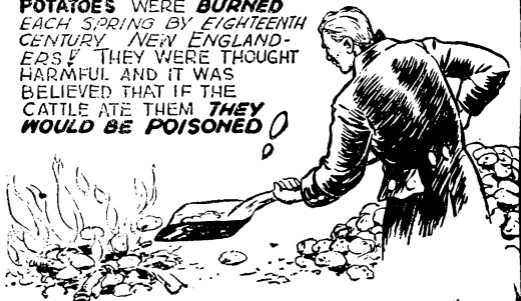


AND

TABOOS

by  III/III

LARGE STOCKS OF POTATOES WERE **BURNED** EACH SPRING BY EIGHTEENTH CENTURY NEW ENGLANDERS! THEY WERE THOUGHT HARMFUL AND IT WAS BELIEVED THAT IF THE CATTLE ATE THEM **THEY WOULD BE POISONED**!



FOR SEVEN DAYS AFTER A DEATH, THE CORPSE BEING STILL IN THE HOUSE, THE **CHINESE ABSTAIN** FROM THE USE OF **KNIVES AND NEEDLES, AND EVEN OF CHOPSTICKS**, EATING THEIR FOOD WITH THEIR FINGERS! THE USE OF **SHARP-EDGED OR POINTED WEAPONS IS FORBIDDEN** LEST THEY SHOULD **WOUND SPIRITS**!

