

# Sports



Why do wild geese fly in a V formation? The answer is in the Calgry (Alta.) Herald. Why does a dog shake himself each time after swimming? comes from RAC via the Bethlehem (Pa.) Globe Times. Can you tell me how a spider gets his first strand across two trees? asks Mr. TRM, forwarded by the San Francisco News.

A dog shakes the moisture thoroughly out of his fur coat whenever he gets out of the water because it is a part of an unlearned deep-seated pattern of survival and reached back into his beginnings. Other swimmers do it, too. Without it, during the sharp air of a northern winter, many mammals upon emerging would freeze into a solid ball of ice. Hence, cold weather or hot, a dog's first instinct is to shake vigorously and to send a shower flying from nose to tail tip (getting most of it on his owner) and then to roll over and over in the snow or grass until fairly dry.

Brother, that goose question is loaded! Experts used to tell that the leader, a wise old gander, and strong, broke trail in the air mass and that the flock took it easy riding along in his 60-mile-an-hour wake!

More recently, many naturalists say the exact opposite. That in using the wedge, each bird avoids the preceding bird's wake. More important, I think, is that the V enables each bird to see the one ahead more clearly. (Remember how a robin must cock his head to see a worm because his eyes are fixed?)

If geese sought to "ride the wake" they would have to change the angle of the V constantly to fit headwind, tailwind, and side-winds to say nothing of having to change the distance between the birds. Now it is true that when the wind blows on the side of the V, one branch may be much longer—but yet, regular distances are always accurately maintained on both sides.

About that spider question, as a youngster it certainly had me baffled. Actually, a spider thread is so gossamer light that when it is ejected, a wisp of air suffices to waft it across from eminence to eminence. This thread adheres to the first thing it touches.

Another spider may use a more direct approach. He simply anchors his dragline and then runs down one side of the object, across and up the other paying out line. Once there, he pulls up the slack, hand over hand, eating it up as he pulls it in until it is taut.

As for the thread's lightness, young spiders often climb to the tip of a perch and emit a gossamer filament which the breeze hoists up with the little fellows riding right along and off they go ballooning over the countryside with nary a thought of the cannibalistic relatives they have left behind.

The unbelievably complex structure of a flight feather—its intense strength despite lightness, its built in zipper with a million interlocking bars for each feather to prevent air leakage during flight, its placement and shingle-like overlapping for streamlining, its water-proofing, its air-holding fluffy down to keep it warm, its variety of shape and beautiful coloring, and finally its annual renewal—is nothing short of amazing.

Man's "most honored watch" is crude in comparison. Yet as far as the bird is concerned, each of its 25,000 feathers (more or less depending upon the bird), unlike hair, has no vital connection to the body. Fully grown, it is dead matter, without nerves and without blood. In fact, it is already formed before it emerges from the skin which grasps this strange growth tightly in prepared sockets and manipulates it.

Different kinds of birds, of course, have different kinds of feathers, each being so characteristic that its owner can be identified at once by its dress. Birds which winter in the cold north have more feathers which are longer and fluffier. However, temperature has little to do with the feather's rapidity of growth—that is strictly a matter of hours of daylight.

To lessen bothersome pin feathers, a poulterer should confine his birds to October and November daylight hours—say around 9½ to 10 hours—and the bird, accommodatingly, will hasten to grow out of his late summer's pinfeathers and into his appropriate fall plumage.

## Business Heads Do Not Believe Depression Near

By SAM DAWSON

NEW YORK (AP)—Alfred of the big bad wolf of depression? Some folk aren't afraid of the business prospect—on land, on water, or beneath the surface of the earth. They're betting heavily on business staying good.

The outlook's good for surface travel, says the giant General Motors Corp. It announced Tuesday it would spend one billion dollars this year and next in expanding its plant to meet the future demand for motors. That will mean doubling the annual rate of spending it has kept up from 1946 to the present.

The National Assn. of Engine & Boat Manufacturers reports today its members are confident of making and selling 30 per cent more pleasure craft this year than last. They expect the ever-growing multitudes of boat enthusiasts, now estimated at 16 million in this country, to find the money to buy them.

And the oil industry is thumbing its nose at the present over-supply of oil in the world. It says that this year it will spend just about as much as last—a record 2½ billion dollars—in looking and drilling for new oil reserves. Steadily growing world demand will take up any slack in time, oilmen are confident.

Americans are taking to the water as never before, whether it's in a power cruiser or a putt-putt.

The boat-builders president, John W. Mulford, says his association's survey of builders show that boat sales last year topped 1952 by 32 per cent. Eighteen boat builders—this is only a segment of the entire industry—report combined dollar sales of \$8,737,730 last year, which they expect to top by 30 per cent this year.

The 14 reporting unit sales totaled 24,602 craft last year, compared to 20,694 the year before, and say they expect to build and sell 29,665 in 1954.

## Investigator Was Fired For Taking Loan From Actor

WASHINGTON (AP)—Rep. Clardy (R-Mich) said Wednesday Louis J. Russell, veteran investigator for the House Un-American Activities Committee lost his job because he borrowed \$300 from screen actor Edward G. Robinson, one-time witness before the group.

Clardy, a member of the committee, said Russell told the committee about the loan and this led Chairman Velde (R-Ill) to dismiss him last week.

The Cincinnati Enquirer had reported Tuesday night that a loan from Robinson was the reason for Russell's dismissal.

"It was a case of bad judgment on Russell's part," Clardy told reporters, "and made his retention impossible."

Clardy said there was "nothing shady" about the transaction but he didn't want to bring the matter to public gaze because it might subject the committee to undue criticism.

Robinson, who cooperated with the committee in its quest for information about communism within the entertainment world, became a friend of Russell during his dealings with the committee.

## Dinky Creek Hillbillies To Meet On February 9

The next meeting of the Dinky Creek Hillbillies of West Melrose is scheduled Feb. 9 at the home of Carol Manning.

Each member is requested to bring a piece of rope to the meeting to learn how to make rope halters.

At the January meeting at the home of Judy Wulff, Siegfried Mahn, German exchange student at Roseburg High, became a new member.

## Toketee Man Faces Stolen Property Charge

Martin James McGreavy, 54, Toketee Falls, will go on trial in Josephine County Circuit Court Feb. 5 charged with receiving stolen property.

He was indicted by the grand jury this month for possession of a wool shirt allegedly stolen Dec. 22 from the J. C. Penney store in Grants Pass. He pleaded innocent to the charge.

## University Of Hawaii Snaps Whitworth Skein

HONOLULU (AP)—A scrappy University of Hawaii basketball team, using a tight zone defense and fast break, stopped Whitworth College's seven-game winning streak Wednesday night, 84-60, before a slim crowd at Civic Auditorium.

# State Rests Case In Trial Of Bert Owens For Murder

The state rested its case against Bert Owens Wednesday evening before court was recessed for the night.

With a parade of witnesses and evidence, the prosecuting attorneys attempted to prove Owens guilty of first degree murder in the shooting last Aug. 25 of Mrs. Betty Owens, the defendant's 29-year-old Choctaw Indian wife.

During the afternoon, Dist. Atty. Robert M. Stults called four new witnesses — making a total of 12 called during presentation of the case against the Riddle plywood worker and rancher.

Over repeated objections by defense attorneys Fred Bernau and Charles S. Woodrich, the prosecution managed to introduce all articles of evidence brought before the jury for consideration.

Included were the weapon, used and unused shotgun shells, photographs of the victim, photographs of the defendant allegedly re-creating the scene, pellets and wadding from the gun, a map of the area, a footlocker in which Owens allegedly kept ammunition, a wire-recorded statement by the defendant, a written statement of permission for an officer to obtain the footlocker and an officer's notebook containing a statement about Owens obtaining the gun.

Defense counsel's objections to the introduction of most of the evidence were over-ruled by Judge

Carl E. Wimberly as insufficient to be sustained.

Police Testify Testifying Wednesday afternoon were Sgt. Holly Holcomb and Officers William McCullum and Joseph Haystead of the state police office here; James McGinty, Myrtle Creek attorney; Dr. Homer Harris, director of the Oregon State Police Crime Detection Laboratory, Portland; and Lt. Jack H. Beers, firearms expert from the police lab.

Sgt. Holcomb was on the stand longer than the others. He told of the investigation of the crime and of three different statements taken from the defendant the day of the shooting.

Officers Haystead and McCullum helped in the investigation. Haystead brought Owens back to Roseburg after Canyonville officials had lodged the defendant in jail there. McCullum searched the scene, found an expired shotgun shell, and brought the footlocker to Roseburg the day after the shooting.

Dr. Harris told of the autopsy he performed on the victim. He said death was caused by a penetrating shotgun wound on the upper right part of the body. He said some pellets penetrated the body. Some wadding from the shell was found on the victim's clothing.

Tells Of Gun Shell Lt. Beers told how the used shotgun shell came from the gun introduced as the weapon used by Owens in the shooting. The fact

was determined, he said, by comparing marks left on shells by the firing pin.

Attorney McGinty told of representing Owens in divorce action which had been started prior to the shooting. He told of a meeting in Roseburg on Aug. 25 at which time he, Owens, Mrs. Owens and her attorney, William D. Green, came to an oral understanding about disposition of property and the children of the Mr. and Mrs. Owens.

The agreement was to the effect that Owens would give his wife what she had asked — the ranch near Riddle, \$100 per month for support, and permission to put two of the children in an Indian school in Oklahoma. Before a written agreement could be drawn up, the tragedy occurred.

Recording Accepted Earlier in the day, Judge Wimberly ruled a 45-minute wire-recorded statement by the defendant should be played to the jury. Defense attorneys objected to admission of the statement as evidence, primarily on grounds the defendant had not at the time been fully informed as to his legal rights. The judge said the validity of the evidence would have to be determined by the jury.

In the statement, Owens related events leading up to the shooting and the shooting itself.

When the defendant drove up to his residence on Shoestring Road that day, he said his wife came out and sat down in a rocking chair on the back porch. "She

looked at me like she thought I was a fool or something," he said. He told how he said, "The time has come that you've been looking for ... or something like that."

He said his wife just laughed, not saying anything in return. He then raised the gun, he told the officer taking the recording, and fired without aiming.

He said he told Mrs. Owens' half-sister, Willie Woolsey, "You should be the next one," but, after she pleaded with him, he told her to look after his wife. He then went to Canyonville to seek a doctor's help and to turn himself in.

At the doctor's office, he said he told the receptionist "I killed Betty" and asked for the doctor to go to the scene right away. He then went to the Canyonville police station, hailed officers pulling away in a car, and told them the story.

He also told in the statement of first considering shooting his wife a few days before the tragedy and thinking of it again while in the lawyer's office in Roseburg. He also reviewed a story of how Mrs. Owens had tried to shoot him with a rifle. He said she fired three shots at him as he sat in a car. One of the shots, he said, hit the dashboard, barely missing the couple's young son.

The National Geographic Society estimates that parchment diplomas awarded at commencement in the United States cost more than a million dollars annually.

## Donald Ritchie Denies Statement To Authorities

WINDSOR, Ont. (AP)—Donald Ritchie, key figure in the Reuther case, Wednesday denied in a statement issued by his lawyers any knowledge of or connection with the 1948 assassination attempt on CIO President Walter Reuther.

The statement signed by Ritchie, now in the Essex County jail awaiting extradition proceedings, was given to newspapers. It was a complete denial of previous statements made by Ritchie to Detroit police about the shooting of Reuther.

Ritchie's original statements were used by Wayne County Pros. Gerald K. O'Brien as the basis for warrants implicating four men in the shooting.

Named in the warrants were: Carl Renda, 35, Santo (Sam) Perrone, 56, Peter Lombardo, 51, and Clarence Jacobson, 48.

O'Brien, previously said his case against the four would collapse without Ritchie's testimony.

O'Brien said he had heard of Ritchie's statement.

"It's not a surprise. After all the man's a defendant in the case. I plan to proceed with the extradition against Ritchie Thursday."

O'Brien said he did not know the meaning of a portion of Ritchie's repudiation which explained his statements to O'Brien. It read:

"When the complete facts are known it will become apparent

## Compensation Fund Can Meet Emergency Need

SALTM (AP)—The Oregon Unemployment Compensation Commission's \$9 million dollar reserve fund is big enough to meet future emergencies, despite a heavy drain caused by this winter's unemployment, the commission said Wednesday.

The fund, out of which benefits are paid, is three times the highest annual benefits.

About 13 millions is paid into the fund each year. Most of this money is paid by employers, with about a million dollars of it coming from interest.

The commission is sending out 30,000 checks each week to jobless persons, most of them running between \$20 and \$25.

The commission said most of this money is paid by the jobless to grocers, landlords, retailers, and to others who sell basic necessities.

## TO VISIT IN U.S.

SOUTHAMPTON, England (AP)—Turkish President Celal Bayar left Wednesday aboard the Mauretania for a month's visit to the United States at the invitation of President Eisenhower.

that the methods adopted to obtain the statements will explain their existence."

Authorities said this, apparently, was a reference to the \$5,000 reward which Ritchie received from the CIO United Automobile Workers after he made what he claimed was a "confession" to O'Brien.

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## Fights Last Night

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS  
MIAMI BEACH, Fla. — Charlie Norkus, 197, Jersey City, N. J., stopped Danny Nardico, 181 ½, Tampa, 9.

MEXICO CITY — Manuel Armenteros, 123, Cuba, outpointed Lino Botello, 122, Mexico, 10.

## Pro Basketball

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS  
Wednesday's Results  
Milwaukee at Baltimore postponed.

Statistics show that the average football player at Brandeis University is 19 years old, weighs 190 pounds and stands 5-11.

OWNES OFF FORM  
WALLA WALLA, Wash. (AP)—College of Idaho's R. C. Owens, the nation's No. 1 rebounder, managed only 25 Wednesday night as his team fell 87-74 before Whitman in a Northwest Conference basketball game.