

# FISH STORIES ARE AUTHENTIC

AGANA, Guam, (AP)—Students of Chamorro life in the Mariana Islands who have long been puzzled by legendary allusions of the South Seas people to "strained fish" and "stone bait" have been given an expansion of these terms by H. G. Hornbostel, field representative of the Bishop Museum of Honolulu.

Present-day inhabitants of the Mariana Islands are unfamiliar with the training of fish or the



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## All Because Somebody Stepped on a Match



A brand new house was destroyed, two people were killed and five others hurt because someone accidentally trod on a match and touched off a gas explosion on Christmas afternoon at Topeka, Kas. The people were inspecting the house, which was unoccupied, and there was a leaky gas pipe. Photo shows the ruins, with the damaged wall of a neighbor's house in the background.

use of stones in catching them as are the fishermen elsewhere who whip trout streams or spin the waters of the seven seas. But the ancient practice substantiated until now only by legends and by strange, rounded stones excavated from graves in the old burying grounds of Guam and other islands have been authenticated by Mr. Hornbostel. Furthermore, he has found an island where the natives gain their fish supply in this very manner.

On the island of Rota, which produces so little copra that ships in the past rarely visited it, and now under Japanese mandate, Mr. Hornbostel learned at first hand this olden art. On Rota, prehistoric native customs have persisted long after they vanished from other lands of the South Seas.

Illustrating his story of the investigation which he conducted with some of the fishing stones purchased by him Mr. Hornbostel told of their use as follows:

The bait is a smoothly formed hemisphere of stone about five inches in diameter. It is suspended from four cords of coconut fiber with the flat surface of the hemisphere uppermost. To this side is attached a hollow cone of coconut shell, its edges gummed firmly to the stone. There is a small opening to the top of the point of the cone. Into this hole the native fisherman squirts from his mouth a pulp of coconut meat he has chewed fine. Then the bait is ready for use.

Daily during the months of June and July the natives dangle the stones from their caecoes

## TURTLE FARM IS PROFITABLE

FERTILE Iowa, (AP)—Some 20,000 snapping turtles now lie buried beneath the heavy acreage of the hill country of north Iowa, enjoying their long winter sleep, because the world war broke out in Europe in 1914.

Europe is a long way from Fertile but it is where Hans Johnson, a youthful settler, got his idea for the establishment of a turtle farm that supplies a large percent of turtle fish that eventually finds its way to the dining rooms of America's foremost hotels.

Johnson was a doughboy in the 88th division of the A. E. F. in September 1917 he obtained a

keeping them close to the bottom at a depth of some fifty feet. By jiggling the bait up and down they spread the coconut pulp through the water. A fish called "Achuan," the Chamorro word "achu" means stone, is particularly fond of coconut.

After two months of regular feeding they are trained to follow the stones daily. Then during August and September the stones are brought up to the surface of the water, and the fisherman with a hand net can gather in his unsuspecting victims, and the trained fish become food.

release of absence and wandered down to Monte Carlo, of gambling fame. One night a wealthy American, a steel manufacturer, invited Johnson and a number of companions to dine with him at the Grand Cafe near the Casino. The lona mydas broth, a soup made from the flesh of a species of West Indian turtle, was served. The check for it was large.

Johnson reasoned that if wealthy men paid without protest such high prices for mydas broth, it would pay to go into the business of supplying the market. Thus was born the idea of Fertile's farm, the plans for which Johnson put into effect after he came home. Five years ago Johnson began his work by leasing ten acres of river bottom land, making a success of the venture from the start.

Mr. Johnson derives his chief revenue from the sale of eggs and choice breeding stock. He also has a good income from the sale of turtle oil, supplying many large hospitals. During the winter months he supplies a great many eastern hotels with choice table stock and fattened throughout August and September on sweet potatoes and buttermilk.

The first 500 turtles were placed on the farm in 1920. They were a species known as the "snapping turtle," a reptile despised by fishermen. They were taken from the streams and lakes of north Iowa. Placed on the farm, they have been greatly improved by breeding with a species of chicken tortoise somewhat resembling the leatherback. The resulting strain is a grotesque creature resembling

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Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of La Grande National Bank will be held at their banking house in La Grande, Oregon, on Tuesday, January 12th, 1926, at 10 o'clock A. M. At this meeting a Board of Directors will be elected to serve for the year 1926 and such other business will be transacted as may properly offer.  
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hog, in some respects, the chelydrid and matamoras reptiles of South America. However, their flavor is appetizing. Of the 20,000 turtles now on the farm, possibly 1,000 are of the new hybrid species.

On the farm itself there are ten low-lying acres of hummocks and bog, and nothing more. There are no buildings of any kind, except three dams of stone and wastewood thrown across a rill of mound-spring water that trickles toward a larger stream skirting the south border of the farm. Winding rows of post tops mark the underground fences encircling the three ponds formed by the stone and wood obstructions in the little stream.

SALEM, Ore.—Reports here indicated that Mayor Giesy would cast the deciding vote in the con-

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1—\$30.00 COAT, Age 26	\$21.95		
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Eastern Salt, 4—10c packages	25c	50c 1/2 lb. Ground Cloves	34c
Ehmann's Medium Ripe Olives, tall tin	23c	40c 1/2 lb. Ground Sage	23c
Ehmann's Medium Ripe Olives, No. 10 tin	99c	45c 1/2 lb. Ginger	32c
3—1-lb. packages Corn Starch	35c	45c 1/2 lb. Cinnamon	36c
		2—25c 1/2-lb. cakes Unsweetened Chocolate	39c

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