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HANSCAMS
South Side of
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The Sperm Whale

Before petroleum was pumped from wells, the world got most of its oil from whales. In those days, fleets of sailing ships roamed the seas in search of the ocean giants. Many a fierce battle was fought between men armed with harpoons and the powerful creatures whose bodies could be turned into oil.

The big fellows were waging a game, but losing, battle for existence when two discoveries were made. Men found it easier to get oil from the ground, and they learned that electricity gave better light than whale oil.

Thanks to the rise of the pe-



©1951 National Wildlife Federation
Sperm Whale

troleum industry and the invention of electric lights, whales were spared.

But today, says the National Wildlife Federation, they face a new threat. Whale oil, though no longer needed for lamps, is a valuable raw material in the manufacture of textiles, cosmetics, and candles. In some countries, people buy and eat whale meat.

To meet these demands, 20th century whale hunters roved in deadly packs. Leading the chase, in each whaling fleet, is a factory ship. It is outfitted with machinery to butcher a record haul of whales on a single voyage. The crew is seldom idle, because small killer ships keep bringing in fresh victims—all of them snared by accurate, hard-firing harpoon guns.

Among the prizes caught in this way are the massive Sperm Whales. They live in all of the oceans of the world, staying in warm currents when they can, but often swimming into the frigid Antarctic.

The male is among the largest of the entire whale family. He sometimes grows to be 60 feet long, and he may weigh as much as 60 tons. The female Sperm Whale is about half as big.

Both are dark in color and shaped like gigantic tadpoles.

They have big, blunt heads and powerful teeth. With the aid of their side flippers and their broad, forked tails, they can swim at speeds of three to four knots with ease. When pursued, they can plow ahead at ten or twelve knots. For food they eat mostly squids, or cuttlefish, but sometimes they gulp down larger creatures.

From the time they are born, at a length of ten to 12 feet, until they reach full size, Sperm Whales grow thick layers of blubber around their bodies. It is from this coating of fat that much whale oil is taken. An even finer grade of oil comes from their heads.

Besides oil, the Sperm Whales sometimes produce a valuable substance called ambergris. It is a gray or blackish mass of material which forms inside them when they are sick. Though ugly to look at, it is a highly prized ingredient in the making of fine perfumes. A 400-pound chunk of ambergris once sold for more than \$100,000.

Read Pilot Ads—it pays!

Local News

L. A. Harvey went to Gold Beach Thursday for a medical check-up. He returned the same day.

Mrs. Eugene Ackley entered Seaside hospital, Crescent City, last week for observation and treatment.

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Collins, son, Glenn, and daughter, Judy Cole, have moved to Vallejo, Calif. to live. Myrtle regrets to leave her office as Madam President of the Eagles Auxiliary.

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Any Length!

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Fred Moore, who registered the voters of this area, predicts the heaviest election in years. Approximately 200 persons have registered in the last three weeks the books were open. These had not previously registered in this precinct.

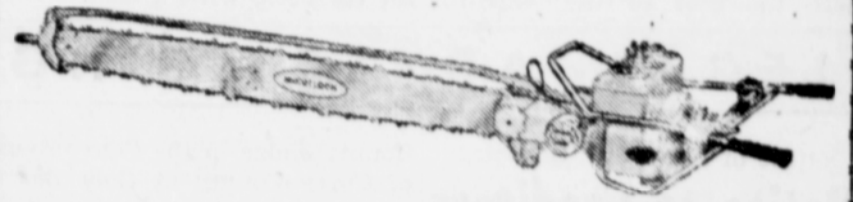
Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Simmons

are visiting the parental home of R. E. Simmons on Cape Ferrello road. Mr. Simmons is General Tire distributor for Santa Clara county. Mrs. Cummings, a daughter and sister, is also guest of her parents.

Harry Lockland, employed at Seattle, has been visiting his family here for a week.

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