

Scientist Joyous Over Finding Ancient Fish

DURBAN, South Africa (P)—A noted fish authority who has been searching 14 years for a good specimen of a fish once believed extinct said Monday his search had ended with "one of the most important discoveries made in science."

The scientist, Prof. J. B. Smith, South African ichthyologist, won a 3,000-mile race in a government plane to reach the dead fish before it decomposed.

Smith announced his success Monday night after returning to Durban from a tiny islet in the French-owned Camero group between Madagascar and the East African mainland.

Smith, weary but triumphant with his fish in a carefully guarded crate, told a crowd who met him at the Durban Airport:

"Yes, it (the fish) is a coelacanth—of a new type. It is one of the most important discoveries made in science. That we are able to bring it back to Africa is due to the prime minister's swift action."

preciation of the fish's significance."

The coelacanth was the first family of bony fish, believed to have evolved anywhere from 200 to 350 million years ago and long known only as fossils. Earlier fish had skeletons composed of something like cartilage, like modern sharks.

The coelacanth is believed to have been an important link in the evolution of sea vertebrates, including man. The fish's scientific name is Latimeria chalumnae.

The specimen, the second caught in African waters within 14 years, is a grotesque creature five feet long with a bluish tint. Smith was delighted to find it in a good state of preservation.

The first specimen, caught off South Africa and also identified by Smith, was so imperfectly preserved that anatomical study was difficult.

The new specimen was caught more than a week ago by an African fisherman. An acquaintance told him it was valuable.

In this way it came into the hands of Capt. Eric Hunt, master of a schooner trading between Zanzibar and Madagascar. Hunt told the world by cable that another coelacanth had been found.

The fisherman who caught the living fossil had silt the fish and rubbed it in salt to preserve his catch. When Hunt received it he had no refrigeration but an ample supply of a preservative.

In a radio interview Monday night Smith told of his agonizing delay in arranging for swift passage to the island and of the government's aid in furnishing the plane. At that time it was feared preservation might be imperfect. Smith began his flight to the Camoros early Sunday.

Within the next few days Smith plans to make a scientific examination of the fish's anatomical structure.

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Kiwanis Visits, Gives Gifts at Kiddies Home

Gifts and a program for the Children's Farm Home near Corvallis were presented Monday night in Salem Kiwanis Club's annual visit.

A group of some 30 persons, club members and their families, had supper with the children, then gave them ice cream and oranges and gave the home an electric floor polisher and money for a table-tennis table in each cottage.

The program included movies shown by Dr. Robert F. Anderson, singing led by Willis Roos, magic acts by Fred Buchanan and Max Suko.

Other Kiwanians attending were President Carlton Greider, President-elect James Hunt, Youth Chairman Francis Wade and his successor Ted Jenney, James Payne, Dr. Ray Pinson, Lester Nelson, Clinton Weeks and Gus Moore, in charge of the event.

MILL CITY THEATRE

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MAKING HIS PITCH—Francis Stanislaw declines from Shakespeare's "A Winter's Tale" in Lodge Gardens, London, while organizing a petition for a London Shakespeare theater.

Inquiry Into Report of Czech Spy Group at Los Alamos Urged

WASHINGTON (P)—Sen. Mundt (R-S.D.) said Monday he will urge further Senate investigation of sworn charges that a spy group, based near the Los Alamos, N.M., atomic weapons installation, was operated "by the Czechoslovakian government through the United Nations staff."

The accusation was made by Harvey Matusow of Dayton, Ohio, a self-styled former Communist and one-time informer for the FBI. Matusow told the story under oath at a public hearing before the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee at Salt Lake City, Utah, last Oct. 8.

He said a man named George Stary, whom he described as "the delegate at that time to the Human Rights Conference of the U.N.," had urged him in the fall of 1950 to ferret out "any atomic secrets that could be obtained in and around Sandia Base in Albuquerque and Los Alamos."

A transcript of the hearings did not say specifically what country Stary represented.

Matusow testified that at the time he was regularly quartered at the San Cristobal Valley Ranch, near Taos, N.M., about 80 miles northeast of Los Alamos, and that the place "catered primarily to members of the Communist Party."

Among others there, he said, was a Czechoslovakian woman secretary to "one of the delegates to the United Nations. She was a Czech Communist here, under the auspices of the U.N." He said he had forgotten her name.

His meeting with Stary, Matusow said, was on a brief visit to New York and "from the way he talked and the fact that this woman from the Czechoslovakian delegation had been at the ranch, I knew that some activity, espionage activity, was being conducted by the Czechoslovakian government through the U.N. staff."

\$5,395 Given In Accident Damage Suit

A default judgment of \$5,395 for injuries sustained in an auto accident was won Monday by Florence Plastow in Marion County Circuit Court against R. Adolph Anderson.

The plaintiff had sued Anderson for \$25,000 general and \$250 special damages after a Jan. 12, 1952, collision on the Coast Highway in Lincoln County, involving the Plastow and Anderson cars and other owned by Fred Lien and driven by Roger Dean Berryhill, both of whom were released earlier as defendants, by agreement of parties.

Mrs. Plastow, who sustained a fractured back and extensive chest injuries, gave testimony yesterday before Judge George R. Duncan. Anderson did not appear. The judgment was for \$5,000 general and \$395 special damages.

In air, sound takes about 5 seconds to travel a mile.

Meany to Meet With Reuther

NEW YORK (P)—AFL President George Meany said Monday that he has agreed to meet CIO President Walter Reuther in Washington after the holidays to discuss proposals to merge the two unions.

Meany, appearing on the NBC-TV program, "The Kate Smith Hour," said the mechanics of such a merger would be so complex that negotiations are sure to be "long winded."

Siltcoos Lake Weeds Subject Of OSC Report

PORTLAND (P)—A weed, gorging itself on its decaying ancestors, is the cause of Siltcoos Lake in Douglas County being ruined for sportsmen an Oregon State College scientist said here Monday.

The lake is weed-filled. Propelled by it. But other nearby

freshwater lakes are relatively uninfested.

F. D. Aldrich of OSC reported on the problem in one of some 165 papers read Monday at a joint meeting of the Northwest Scientific Association and the Oregon Academy of Science.

The matted weed, Anacharis Densa, is the culprit at Siltcoos Lake, he said, and studies of mud from the bottom of the 5,000-acre lake show an unusually high organic content. It is produced by the plant which flowers in the spring, then dies to a root network in winter. The new growth is fostered by the food released as the plants from earlier years decay.

Reproduction is rapid and there is no easy chemical cure, he said.

Another paper, this by Dr. L. E. Detling of the University of Oregon, said that Saddle Mountain, a 3,250-foot elevation in the Coast Range in Clatsop County, is an island of glacial-era plant life.

He said he had collected 190 sapling plants high on the mountain, many of which were typical of areas in the Cascades and the Olympics. Saddle, he said, probably marks the southernmost advance of arctic flora in the Coast Range. In the Cascades, though, the southern advance was greater because of higher elevation and less warming from the ocean winds.

Silk worm moths are about one-half-inch long.

EL SINORE

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