

**MENTAL AVERAGE PLACED AT 17.7 BY NEW STUDIES**

**War-Time Tests Which Revealed Average of 12-Year-Old Intelligence Now Declared Too Ambitious**

By Sigrid Arne  
WASHINGTON (AP)—Mr. Average American is entitled to hold his head a little higher. His intelligence is not that of a mere 12-year-old child as he has been told for the past decade. The average man and woman of this country has a mental age of 17.7 years, says Dr. David Segel, specialist in tests and measurements for the federal bureau of education.

Furthermore, the average mental age is not synonymous with the all-around ability which continues to improve until quite a late age, Dr. Segel says.

**Playing Mental Tricks**  
The ability to learn has been set up as an important criterion of a man's mind. But several factors enter into it, such as experience, observation, reasoning and the instinct to survive. And a combination of those factors can play tricks on the mind.

The average adult, as he grows older, may find his interests sharper in the work he has chosen, but less sharp in purely extraneous fields. If he is an accountant, he may find it quite simple to learn a new accounting system. But he might stumble over a foreign language or medical history which had no direct relation to his work.

**Supplies War Tests**  
Dr. Segel's conclusions are drawn from two wide group tests which have been made since the World war, one by Edward L. Thorndike and another by Harold E. Thorndike and Herbert C. Conrad.

The general belief that the average man is only 12 years old mentally arose through the Stanford-Binet tests which were given to the army during the war.

But measurement experts now believe those tests were gauged too high because the original averages were drawn from tests made on a group of too high caliber.

**A Learning 'Peak'**  
Mr. Average American took them when he entered the army. He won a low rating and the "12-year-old" man became a part of the national consciousness.

The results of the new studies show that the ability to learn reaches a peak between 22 and 23 years of age. Then it falls off slowly but it never falls to the level of 12 years for adults.

However, if all around ability were considered, Dr. Segel says, the curve might continue to go up after 23 and not show any decline until around 30 years of age.

The ability to learn also varies according to the subject studied. In work where experience is important, and the handling of people counts, such as politics, or sociology, the ability to learn remains high for a longer period. But in mathematics where past experience plays a less important role, the ability to learn reaches its height at an earlier age.

**'Shooting Too Low'**  
Dr. Segel finds that only five per cent of American adults have the mental age of 12 years. But 71.8 per cent have the mental age of adults, that is 16 years or more.

The announcement is likely to do more than merely relieve Mr. Average American of any excessive modesty about himself.

The information is being bruited around and already several industrialists have written Dr. Segel to ask in effect, if they have been "shooting too low."

Dr. Segel assures them they have, if they have been shooting at a 12-year-old adult.

**SAVAGE RAPIDS DAM WATER TO BE FREED**

GRANTS PASS, Sept. 27.—(Spl.)—Gold miners along Rogue river were warned Wednesday by E. Reed Carter, manager of the Grants Pass Irrigation district, that the water will be released from behind Savage Rapids dam October 1.

Although care will be taken to release the water slowly, over a period of three or four days, Carter said, the release will materially raise the river's flow below the dam and may prove dangerous to wing-dams, mining machinery, boats and other equipment that is movable or that may be submerged and destroyed.

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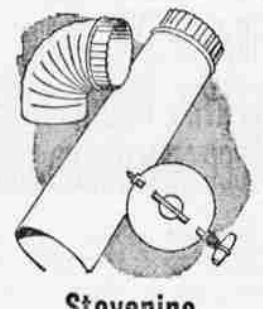


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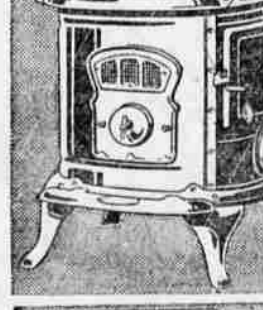
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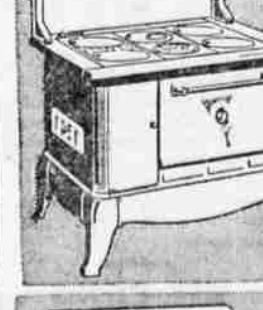
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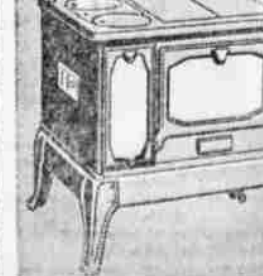
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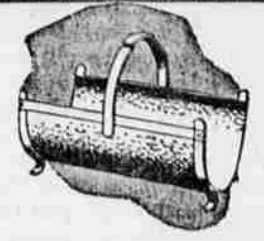
**4-5 Room Wood Heater**  
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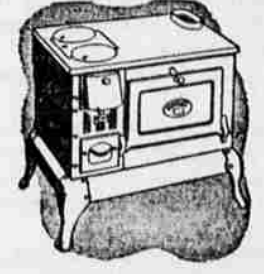
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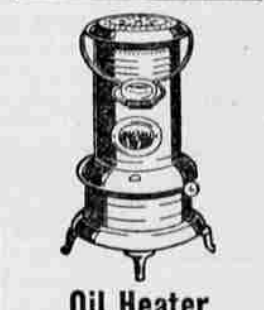
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