

English Channel Swimming Fever Begins To Inject Signs of Life in Dover Town

Dover, England — (U.P.)—This little town, flanked by the towering white cliffs, smugly expects a boom year in English Channel swimming this summer despite the predictions that, as a sport or stunt, the hard way across the water is finished.



OPTIMISTIC — Former President Herbert Hoover (left) waves a greeting as he prepares to address the annual meetings of the United States Chamber of Commerce in Washington. Mr. Hoover said the Federal budget might be "balanced overnight" if members of his commission on Government reorganization "could have our own way." With him is Russell C. Harrington, vice president of the Chamber of Commerce.

old salt in front of Annie Kidd's East Cliff Hotel, headquarters for channel swimmers.

"My granddad says they were claiming no one would have any reason for trying after Matthew Webb swam it in 1875—and there have been hundreds following him."

The lure of swimming this body of water doesn't appeal to most people. But it must have a terrific pull because some of those who have tried it before are returning for another dose of self-inflicted suffering.

How They Suffer! There are, of course, super athletes like Florence Chadwick of San Diego who finished her 20-odd mile swim with a sprint.

But most of the starters, especially those who fail, are little more than mumbly automatons, numbed by agony, by the time they are hauled from the water.

Nevertheless, Bill Floyd, the Folkestone cop who is head of the Channel Swimming Association, says that he has had notifications from 30 prospective starters and more are expected before the water warms up enough to sustain human life in early June. Floyd is cautious but he feels this 80th anniversary (dated from Webb's swim) will set a record.

Dover's unique industry already is stirring to life. The Burwill family, which provides pilots and boats for swimmers, is laying in a supply of grease and first aid equipment (the grease protects swimmers from the cold).

Steaks and Potatoes The East Cliff Hotel is ordering hundredweights of steak and potatoes—the staple pre-swimming diet. Strong-armed young men are practicing to row along in the training swims. Retired seamen confide to visitors that a good observation point is just near the ruined Roman lighthouse above the east cliff which lit the way for Caesar's galleys 1900 years ago.

There may be several firsts this year. Miss Chadwick, the handsome, former stenographer, is going to try to swim the channel both way non-stop and set a woman's record each way.

Dr. George Brewster, 64, is going to make his 15th or 16th try to become the oldest successful channel swimmer.

Adenoid Sufferers May Be Only Allergic

Detroit — (U.P.) — A professor at Indiana University's medical school says that many children believe to have adenoids trouble merely are allergic to such things as household dust.

Dr. Kenneth L. Craft said that because of these allergies too many unnecessary operations are performed on children for the removal of adenoids. He voiced his criticism in a talk before the American Laryngological and Otological Society.

Before adenoids are removed, Craft said, children first should undergo tests to determine if they have allergies.

"If an operation has to be done," he said, "it is better to apply the allergy treatment first so that the child will be in better condition for the operation. If the adenoids are not part of the trouble, they can be left in and will atrophy (waste away) eventually."

State Forestry Men Attend Meetings Here

Three state forestry department officials from Salem left today after being in the southwest forestry district since Monday for a series of meetings with loggers and lumbermen.

They were Dwight Phipps, deputy state forester; Lee Harter, head of the inspection service, and Frank Hamilton, supervisor for this area. Hamilton formerly was district warden in Medford.

The last in the series of meetings, held to discuss forest laws and regulations, particularly those enacted during the current legislature, was in Grants Pass last night.

Ted Maul, district warden, accompanied the Salem men to the meetings.

Trailer Owners Set Meeting on Saturday

A meeting of local members of the Organized Trailer Home Owners of Oregon will be held at 8 p.m. Saturday, May 7, at the Valley Center Trailer court, 3410 North Pacific highway, according to W. R. Mitchell, publicity director.

He said a report will be given on a meeting of the group's state directors held in Roseburg last week, at which time organizational work in a number of other counties was discussed.

The trailer owners group has been working for a reduction in taxes imposed on trailers, and this will be brought up at the meeting. An invitation to all owners of trailer homes was extended by Mitchell.

Ike Believes Salk Vaccine Shots Wise

Washington — (U.P.) — President Eisenhower said yesterday that on basis of all the evidence given him by government medical authorities he considers the Salk polio shots safe and wise.

He emphasized that scientists are continuing intensive studies of many questions about use of the vaccine.

There is a possibility, he said, that the scientists might decide it is unwise to administer vaccine to anyone at certain time. In a news conference discussion, he put it this way:

"It may be that they (the scientists) will decide there is a certain period of the year when they shouldn't give this at all." They have not reached any such conclusion so far, however.

Fort Wayne Ind., and Boston, Mass., are among 10 major markets which receive all livestock shipments by truck. More than half of the 63 U. S. markets depend on motor trucks for 90 per cent or more of incoming livestock.

Quality, Flavor Of Western Beef Upheld in Report

San Francisco — Western grain-fed beef is equal in quality and flavor to beef produced anywhere in the nation, E. Floyd Forbes of San Francisco, president and general manager, Western States Meat Packers Assn. asserted recently.

Forbes' assertion was in reply to an article published recently in a western newsmagazine in which the claim was made that "eastern corn-fed beef is superior to western beef."

In a special bulletin to association members, Forbes blasted the claim as "erroneous and entirely misleading to the consuming public" and "detrimental to the producers, feeders and packers of western-fed beef."

Forbes cited results of a test program at the University of California College of Agriculture at Davis, which scientifically compared beef from western grain-fed cattle and eastern corn-fed cattle.

"Judges scored the samples for tenderness, juiciness, texture and overall desirability," Forbes said. "The result of all tests showed there is no significant difference between barley-fed, or western beef, and corn-fed beef."

"The differences were so very small, some favoring barley-fed beef and some favoring corn-fed beef, that the majority of consumers would be entirely unable to detect them, either in appearance of the raw meat or in the eating qualities of the cooked meat."

No Justified Basis "Therefore, there is no justified basis for favoring eastern corn-fed beef over western-fed beef when the animals are finished to the same degree as is constantly being done in our western feedlots," Forbes said.

Legionnaires Plan For State Convention

Medford American Legionnaires who plan to attend the state Legion convention in Redmond the last week in July should notify Adjutant Joe Hosick of Medford Post 15, he said today. He will make reservations for housing and handle registration.

Those wishing to compete for a free air trip to the national convention must have turned in at least five new or renewal memberships for 1955, he said.

Nominations for new officers for the post will be made at the next post meeting May 10, and elections will follow on June 14.

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