

Watch Those Heavy Ear Rings Gals, You May Wind Up With Two Cauliflower Ears

By DELOS SMITH
United Press Science Editor
New York—(U.P.)—An ear lobe alert has gone out to the medical profession, and doctors are staring suspiciously at those parts of the female anatomy where the ear rings hang.

They're looking for the first signs of split ear lobes. The suspicion is that women are going to pay this distressing penalty for wearing heavier and heavier ear rings—unless they are persuaded otherwise.

The heavier the ring, the more powerful must be the clip which

holds it to the ear. And the more powerful the clip, the more chance of killing the body cells where the pressure is applied.

When an appreciable number of cells have been killed, a tiny hole appears in the lobe. If the pressure continues at the same place, the hole enlarges. Finally it is large enough to split the lobe and milady has a feminine version of the cauliflower ear.

The alert was sent out in a scientific publication of the Abbott Laboratories which is mailed to every licensed physician in the country. It was based upon

the fact that at least two cases of split ear lobes have appeared. **Ceiling Needed**

"Danger of split ear lobes ought to impose some sort of practical ceiling on the size and weight of ear rings," it was remarked. "But fashion is fashion!"

The two cases cited occurred in Great Britain where the fashion for heavier and heavier ear rings preceded the current fashion for them in this country, according to an expert on the subject consulted by the writer.

Until these two cases, there had been no cases of ear lobes being split by habitual use of clipped-on ear rings. The alert pointed out that during all the years when women's lobes were pierced for ear rings, only two cases of split lobes were reported.

The two new cases were a girl of 19 who had worn clipped-on ear rings for five years and a woman of 26 who had worn them for eight years. They were reported by a British surgeon, L. R. McLaren. The girl's lobes began splitting at the tips, he said.

Wheat Growers in 36 States Vote Saturday On Marketing Quotas

By GAYLORD P. GODWIN
United Press Correspondent
Washington—(U.P.)—Wheat growers in 36 states will vote Saturday whether to accept government marketing quotas for their 1956 crop.

The outcome may determine whether there will be unrestricted wheat production in 1956 which would add to an already huge surplus.

If quotas are approved by two thirds of those voting, producers in the 36 commercial wheat states who stay within the acreage allotted for their farms will be eligible for price support loans at \$1.81 a bushel. This would be 76 per cent of parity.

Those who exceed their acreage allotment will be subject to marketing penalties of 45 per cent of parity price on wheat grown on their excess land.

Crop Restriction

If quotas are not approved, present law provides for support at 50 per cent of parity, or \$1.19 a bushel for producers who stay within their acreage allotments. If the quotas are voted out, farmers can exceed their allotment without penalty. But if they do exceed acreage allotments, they will get no price support loans. Under law, the wheat crop is restricted to 55,000,000 acres.

Secretary of Agriculture Ezra T. Benson has called the voting proposition a "difficult choice." He has not asked farmers to vote for or against quotas. Earlier this week he told a meeting of the National Association of Television and Radio Farm Directors he would suggest a new wheat price support plan to Congress if farmers reject quotas. He did not elaborate.

The department's wheat experts say the voting "will be close." Approximately 950,000 farmers are eligible to vote during 7 a. m. to 5 p. m. local time in the polling booths maintained by county agricultural stabilization and conservation (ASC) committees.

To be eligible, a farmer must grow more than 15 acres of wheat. One department expert made an "educated guess" that "because of the apparent wide interest, 400,000 to 500,000 farmers will vote." Last year, 285,000 farmers voted, 73.3 per cent of them in favor of quotas. The highest number ever voting on quotas was 560,000 in 1941, with 81 per cent in favor. There were more wheat farmers then than there are now.

The quota system is an attempt to cope with the huge surplus of the nation's most important bread grain. Behind the 76 per cent parity price level is a school of thought that such a guaranteed return is not enough to cause the individual farmer to keep on growing more and more wheat as his major source

Wheat Farmers Vote On Quotas Saturday

Jackson county wheat farmers vote Saturday on marketing quotas for the 1956 crop. Any producer having more than 15 acres of wheat for harvest as grain is eligible to cast a ballot.

Polls in the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee office in the courthouse, will be open from 9 a. m. to 8 p. m.

Local farmers will join wheat producers throughout the nation in deciding whether they want a 76 per cent parity, or \$1.81 per bushel price support to go into effect. Those who stay within the government acreage allotments will receive the price support.

If quotas are not approved, the law provides for a wheat support level at 50 per cent parity, or \$1.19 per bushel.

Talbert Sehorn is secretary for the local ASCS.

Nation in Throes of Severe Shortage of Quality Banjos

By ROBERT SIMMERMAN
New York—(U.P.)—There aren't many shortages in this land of plenty nowadays and it comes as a real shock to learn we're in the throes of a severe banjo shortage.

You'd never guess it by listening to the radio. There hasn't been so much banjo music in the air since the 1920's, when banjoists like Harry Riser, Roy Smeck and Eddie Peabody were men of the hour.

But that's why there's a shortage. A series of hit records featuring banjos—solo or en masse—has revived the primitive cross between a guitar and a tambourine which has been described as the only musical instrument that is truly America's own.

"I can't get enough of them," said Eddie Bell, a purveyor of banjos, new and used, in the theatrical district of Manhattan. "Between the musicians trying to rent them and the college kids trying to buy them I'm hunting good banjos all the time."

The new boom was not an overnight affair. The instrument had been popular in the 20's but then gave way to the guitar, an instrument that is generally less expensive and more versatile in providing accompaniment for a vocalist.

When New Orleans jazz enjoyed its postwar revival, the banjo did too. It is a staple in many New Orleans jazz groups. Not until last year, however, did the banjo itself begin to hog the spotlight.

An Ames Brothers recording of "The Man with the Banjo" became a hit. Then followed "Hey Mr. Banjo," recorded by the Sunnysiders. Banjoist Somethin' Smith turned the old tune "It's a Sin to Tell a Lie" into a new

record hit ranking 8th this week on Billboard's list of tunes most often played on juke boxes.

Television helped out. Jackie Gleason staged a production number using 15 banjos. Sammy Kaye's band is scheduled to appear on television this Saturday night with an array of banjos playing "The Banjo's Back in Town."

Banjo-dealer Bell is doing a brisk business in new banjos, which sell for as high as \$250, and used ones, which can be had for \$25. Good banjos are so scarce that part of his job is getting old, neglected banjos back into playing trim.

\$40,000,000 Merger Of Oil Firms Revealed

Houston, Tex.—(U.P.)—A merger of Johnston Oil & Gas Co. and Texas Oil & Gas Co., involving property and leases estimated at \$40,000,000, was reported today.

Directors of the two Houston concerns were reported to have agreed on the merger contingent on approval of stockholders.



PROUD KISS is given Redmond O'Hanlon, New York policeman, by wife as he displays check for \$16,000 won on television show for answering questions about Shakespeare. (International)

Hardwood That Resists All Cigaret, Alcohol Damage To Be on Market by Fall

By TERESA REESE
U. P. Staff Correspondent
Chicago—(U.P.)—Genuine hardwood furniture tops that resist burning cigarettes and alcohol will be in the stores by fall, the Fine Hardwoods Association predicted today.

The group announced approval of a process for manufacturing table, chest, bar and desk tops with "super resistant genuine hardwood surfaces that can be finished in any color or effect."

The association said you can burn a cigarette completely to ash, spill nail polish, polish remover, alcohol or fruit juice on the hardwood surfaces without damaging them.

"For example," said the association, "in the alcohol proof tests, pure 100-proof and even unlikely-to-be-spilled 190 proof alcohol were used in addition to the standard whiskeys, without surface marking occurring."

Association President Burdett Green said the hardwood surfaces are made with a combination of "approved finishes and a process of laminating aluminum foil into hardwood plywood construction."

Many Can Use

The advantage, he said, is that any plant which makes plywood can use the new process. The furniture tops can be constructed with the rest of the piece and finished at the same time.

He said that 28 firms making walnut, mahogany, oak and cherry furniture are in "various stages of production" and will have some of the retail market "within a few months."

"The association so far has approved the finishes of five manufacturers for use in the process. "It's a synthetic finish," he said. "It's not a varnish or a lacquer."

He said that furniture tops made with the new process can be finished in a high gloss, a dull patina or one of the new natural open-pore "in-the-wood" finishes.

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MEDFORD (OREGON) MAIL TRIBUNE—THREE

Vote of Confidence in Salk Vaccine May Speed Up Program

By MICHAEL J. O'NEILL
United Press Staff Writer

Washington—(U.P.)—The government's ringing new vote of confidence in the safety and effectiveness of Salk vaccine seemed to signal clear sailing again today for the nation's polio vaccination program.

In a formal statement, U. S. Surgeon General Leonard A. Scheele officially reaffirmed his faith in the vaccine even though its safety was challenged this week by three of America's most distinguished polio scientists.

"The Public Health Service repeats its belief that the present Salk vaccine is effective and is safe for use," Scheele declared. "In short, we continue to endorse the manufacture and use of this vaccine."

He emphasized his confidence by calling the government's vaccine clearance committee into secret session Thursday night to consider millions of doses of vaccine which have been submitted for federal approval.

Immediate Release Doubtful

Insiders said they doubt that much, if any, vaccine will be released immediately since testing data on most of the batches is incomplete. But the committee's study is expected to lay the groundwork for the release of a great deal of vaccine in the near future.

Scheele issued his statement late Thursday after a panel of polio experts voted 8-3 in favor of the vaccine at a round table hearing before a House commerce subcommittee.

His purpose was to try to check a new wave of doubts and anxiety set in motion among parents and physicians by the charge of the three dissenting scientists that the present Salk vaccine is not sufficiently safe and should be discontinued temporarily.

Chances Are 'Negligible'

Scheele said the chances are "negligible" that any vaccine re-

leased under the government's new testing standards would give a child polio. The risk is "far less," he said, "than the one a child runs if he has not been inoculated."

The surgeon general said the Public Health Service agrees the Mahoney virus now used in the Salk formula should be replaced. Critics said the vaccine never could be completely safe until this virulent strain is eliminated.

Dr. Albert R. Sabin, veteran virologist of the University of Cincinnati, led the fight for temporary discontinuance of the Salk vaccine during the two-day round table before the subcommittee. In the informal vote, he was joined by Dr. John F. Enders of Harvard and Dr. William McD. Hammon of the University of Pittsburgh.

FAITH CENSUS

New York—Of all the peoples of the world, an estimated 780 million have accepted Christianity as their dominant religion.

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Austrians Authorized To Discard ID Cards

Vienna, Austria—(U.P.)—Austrians were authorized today to discard the four power identity cards they were compelled to carry during 10 years of Allied occupation.

The Austrian Ministry of Interior announced Thursday that the cards are not necessary since signing of the Austrian state treaty.

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