**CHECKING CAN** of food with Geiger counter for radio activity, Richard Hudnut assists in study of uses of atomic energy for food preparation and sterilization at Atomic Energy Commission's laboratory at Lemont, Ill. *(International)*


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# Eastern Railroads Claimed Taking Advantage of Western Companies

By A. ROBERT SMITH
Mail Tribune Correspondent

Washington—In the battle of words and statistics between the railroads and shippers over which is to blame for the freight car shortage, eastern railrads were charged with a practice of taking advantage of both western railroads and their shipping customers who have been crying for boxcars.

In the hearings held by the Senate Interstate Commerce Committee, E. L. Peterson of the Minneapolis Traffic Association presented an array of tables and figures which indicated that eastern roads pretty consistently have more boxcars than they themselves own on their systems at all times. They do this by taking the cars of other railroads, mostly those coming in from the west, and using them on their own systems.

Peterson charged that his studies showed that some eastern roads were doing this instead of repairing their own cars and building new ones at the normal or desirable rate. He charged that one railroad, which he didnt' identify, at one point had 18 per cent of its own cars out of service due to damage but was making up this loss of cars by overusing cars from other lines.

When one railroad uses the cars of another, it pays $2.40 per diem rental for its use—a rate set by the Interstate Commerce Commission. Peterson claimed that these railroads have found it more expedient financially to use new cars of other roads at this per diem rate than to build their own new cars. That way they have the cars they need when they want them, but are not stuck with a surplus of cars of their own if the economy takes a dip and carloadings decline as they did last year.

In a word, while pointing the finger at all railroads generally for not building and repairing enough cars to meet shipping demands of today, Peterson said some eastern lines were especially to blame for letting their western brethren take the brunt of the risks inherent in investing in new rolling stock.

Here is what the statistics showed:

Southern Pacific, on which western Oregon lumber and feed shippers are dependent, owned 28,779 boxcars as of Feb. 1, 1955, but on that date it had only 86.8 per cent of that number of cars on its system. On June 15 it had 87.4 per cent on its system.

Union Pacific, on the other hand, owned 24,434 and had 107.1 per cent of that number on its line June 15—the only western line in that position. The others were—Northern Pacific 19,519, 82.8 per cent; Great Northern 20,773, 82.8 per cent; Milwaukee St. Paul 2,638, 91 per cent; Atchison Topeka and Sante Fe 33,933, 91.4.

Some eastern lines had these figures:

New York, New Haven and Hartford, 5,971, 162.1 per cent—highest in the nation; New York Central 51,896, 111.2 per cent; Erie 9,585, 107.5 per cent; Reading 7,321, 126.1 per cent; Pennsylvania 60,066, 110.6 per cent; Baltimore and Ohio 25,200, 101.6 per cent.

Taking all roads together in the eastern district, Peterson's figures showed that they owned 131,647 cars but on June 15 had 103.8 per cent of that number on their systems. Railroads in the Allegheny district owned 99,682 but had 112.4 per cent on their lines.

Railroads in the Northwestern district owned 109,193 but had 95.8 per cent of that number on their lines June 15. Those in the central western district, which includes SP and UP, owned 139,382 but had only 94.7 per cent of that number.

Peterson's point in presenting this statistical picture was to encourage the Senate committee to recommend that the ICC increase the $2.40 per diem rate, so that it won't be more profitable to rent cars than to build new ones. He said some railroads are currently trying to get the ICC to reduce the rate instead.

## *Rocking-Chair Gardener Cares for Large Plot*

Clinton, Mo. —(U.P.)— M. L. Rissell, 81-year-old retired railroad conductor, is a real rocking chair gardener.

Suffering from rheumatism that makes it painful for him to stand for longer than a few minutes at a time, Rissell sits in a rocker while he hoes his garden.

Upon finishing hoeing in one spot, Rissell scoots the rocker along backwards and wields the hoe at a new place.

He is caring for a large garden plot.

## Massachusetts Seeks 43 Nurses To Aid Polio Fight

Boston —(U.P.)— Massachusetts appealed for 43 nurses today to care for the mounting number of victims of a polio epidemic that has stricken 1,060 persons.

The number of victims jumped over the epidemic mark of 1,000 Wednesday as 134 cases were reported. At this time last year there were only 98 cases.

As the appeal for additional nurses went out, hospital administrators prepared for the worst from Hurricane Connie. Emergency generators were borrowed to keep iron lungs operating in the event of hurricane-caused power failures.

Ten iron lungs lent by the Navy Wednesday boosted the total respirators in use in Boston to 52.

"We have reached the bottom of the barrel as far as nurses are concerned," said Dr. Roy F. Feemster, Massachusetts director of communicable diseases.

"The nurses now handling polio patients are tired and need relief," he said. "There is no question but we will need nurses shortly from the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis."

The community nursing committee met Wednesday and determined that 43 nurses would be the minimum number needed immediately to fill vacancies in four Boston hospitals. These hospitals are caring for many patients from outside the city.

The state Nurses Association sent 4,000 letters to trained nurses asking their help.

In Washington, Rep. Thomas J. Lane (D-Mass.) asked the Army surgeon general for military nurses and Medical Corps personnel to help fight the epidemic.

Dr. Joseph P. Reardon of the state Health Department said it was a "mild epidemic."

## Prehistoric Animal Remains Discovered

Ontario, Ore.—(U.P.)—A State Highway Department crew working on road repairs one mile north of Ontario has uncovered what appears to be the skull and jawbone of a huge, prehistoric animal.

Announcement of the discovery was made through Dr. J. A. Shotwell, curator of the University of Oregon's museum of natural history. University paleontologists were scheduled to visit the site.

Highway workmen have roped off the area, pending the study. They said the object was 30 inches long and eight inches thick, and appeared to contain teeth measuring four inches in length and ¾-inches thick.

The apparent fossil remains were unearthed by a road scraper.

Dr. Shotwell also announced that mounds found near Juntura, Ore., which were believed to contain the remains of a 6-foot animal, were instead geological formations.

**BARBERS COLLECT HAIR**

Berlin — (U.P.)—East German barbers must collect hair they snip off customers' heads, package it and send it to the government-run raw material reserves commission. The order printed in the East German legal bulletin Wednesday did not say how the haid would be used.

Dead line Sunday Classified is at noon Saturday; 10 a.m. Monday for Monday; other days 5:30 previous day.

**LEGAL NOTICES**

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR JACKSON COUNTY PROBATE DEPARTMENT
In the Matter of the Estate of Newton Andrew Sharples deceased.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that I have been appointed Administratrix of the above estate by an order made therein on July 20, 1955; all creditors having claims against said deceased are hereby notified to present the same duly verified, and with proper vouchers attached, to me at the office of Roberts, Kellington & Branchfield, 201-5 U. S. National Bank Bldg., Medford, Oregon, within six months from the date of this notice.

Dated at Medford, Oregon, this 28th day of July, 1955.

O. B. Waddell
Administratrix

## Indians To Grow Beards in Protest

New Delhi, India —(U.P.)—Six-thousand grade 3 employees of Indian government offices announced today they would stop shaving Aug. 16 to force the government to raise their wages.

If this doesn't work, they said, they would begin coming to work Aug. 22 wearing only their shoes, underwear and trousers.

They'll carry the progressive strip tease a bit further Aug. 30 and stop wearing shoes and trousers, showing up at work only in their underwear.

If nothing happens by Sept. 20, they said, they will begin wearing loin cloths until their grievances are redressed.

## *Consumer Habits Show Some Impulse Buying*

Chicago —(U.P.)— Impulse buying—the unplanned purchase of items not urgently needed—accounts for nearly one-fifth of all purchases of clothing, furniture, appliances, automobiles, and homes, a University of Illinois study of consumer habits disclosed.

Results of a study just published by the university's Bureau of Economic and Business Research indicate that three of five such purchases are made because they cannot be postponed.

Of these "necessary" expenditures about one in three—usually for clothing or automobile accessories such as tires — has caught the purchaser by surprise.


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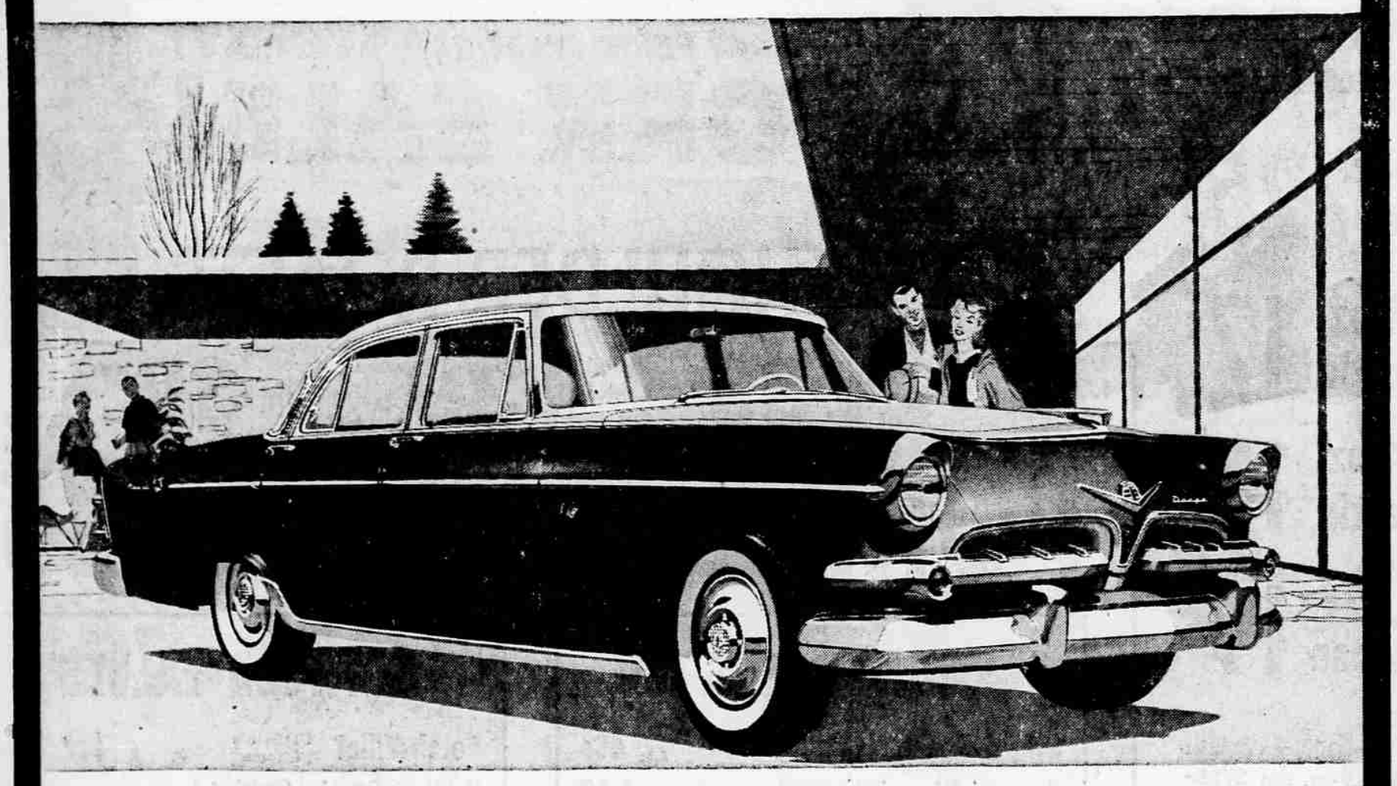

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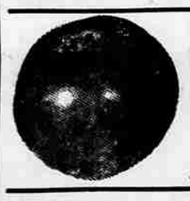

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