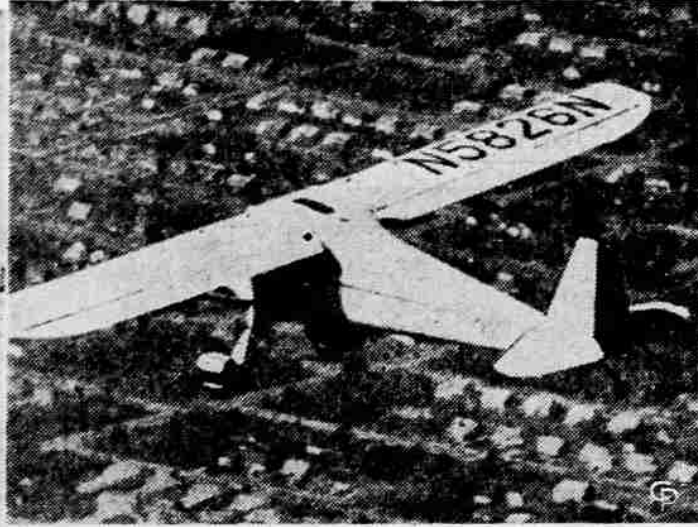




HEADING ACROSS CONTINENT in light plane, Roger Perreau, 54, retired New York college professor, is missing after taking off from Youngstown, O., on second leg of transcontinental flight to Los Angeles from Amityville, L. I. He had but one hour of solo training experience before takeoff; was bound for Grand Rapids. (International Soundphoto)

New Equipment Cuts Fire Fighting Costs

New York — (U.P.)—The U.S. Forest Service estimates that modernized fire-fighting equipment has whittled down the average cost of bringing a forest fire under control to about \$600, with the steel tank truck and bulldozer combination standing out as the most potent of all fire fighting teams.

Steelways, publication of the American Iron and Steel Institute, says steel lookout towers are now replacing the older wooden ones and planes patrol vast areas to spot sleepers—smoldering fires beyond the range of the lookouts.

It points out that once a fire is located, the mechanized power of the ground equipment brings it in check. Thousand-gallon tank trucks, fast fire patrol wagons, hill-climbing jeeps equipped with two-way radios, and big trucks bringing bulldozers onto the scene, combine forces to bring fires under control often in a matter of hours.

Bulldozers, with steel plate top and grid sides to protect the operator from falling snags and

the worst of the heat, are impervious to the glowing ashes under their treads. Tankers, alone, often put out fire within hose distance. But when a tanker goes with a dozer, it throws a protective and cooling spray around the operator, making it possible for the steel blade to tear into the hottest front.

Father, Five Sons Practice Medicine

Boone, Ia. — (U.P.)—The five sons of Dr. Charles Louis Updegraff, an eye, ear, nose and throat specialist, all have become medical doctors. The 68-year-old father has practiced here for 42 years.

The youngest son, Charles Jr., 30, is in partnership with his father.

The others are Thomas, 38, Waterloo, Ia.; Robert, 37, Des Moines; William, 35, Poughkeepsie, N.Y.; and Edgar, 33, Tucson, Ariz.

Noisy Shrimp Form Submarine Shelter

San Diego, Calif. — (U.P.)—The Pacific Ocean off San Diego has one of the noisiest sea channels in the world, according to Dr. Franz Kurie, technical director of the Naval Electronics Laboratory here.

Kurie said the noise is caused by enormous numbers of shrimp snapping their claws. Noise caused by sea creatures becomes so loud at times that submarines can use it to evade detection by electronic equipment being used by surface ships.

The scientist said that a permanent deep sound channel has been discovered in the Atlantic Ocean where conditions are right for sound transmission across extraordinarily great distances. In one experiment, a sound was transmitted from Dakar, in Africa, to the Bahamas Islands, on this side of the Atlantic Ocean.

The five sons also follow in their father's footsteps by being ardent golfers.

Pets, Farm Animals, Have Longer Life Expectancy

Washington — Man's animals, like man himself, show a decided tendency to live longer and grow larger.

Dogs, for one, enjoy greater life expectancy. A dog's life two decades ago averaged out at seven or eight years. Now, though there are no vital statistics on pets, authorities say the average dog lives 11 to 13 years, thanks to better foods and veterinary care.

Scientific breeding and feeding show even more striking results on the farm. Beef cattle are beefier, milk cows milkier. Young pigs and chickens grow faster. The entire barnyard stays healthier, boosting longevity.

Bigger Bobtail Nags

In only a few cases, and then only very gradually, does a breed as a whole seem to be getting bigger. Thoroughbred horses 200 years ago averaged 14 hands high (a hand's breadth is 4 inches). Today that same height would officially class the horse as a pony; standard race horse height is 15½ hands, a growth of 6 inches.

Whether dogs as a canine family are growing gradually larger, as one pet-food firm recently surmised, is doubtful. Selection of mates, environment—even dog-show trends—can work great changes in a given breed. Popularity of various breeds fluctuates, changing the overall dog population. But the ancient wolf-like wild dogs that fathered man's first domesticated animal were quite close in size to today's dogs.

Horses are a different story. Eohippus, the Dawn Horse, grew

some 45,000,000 years ago scarcely larger than a big tomcat. Its early descendants stood about the size of a fox terrier.

Even the last "prehistoric" horse, the not-quite-extinct wild Przewalski's horse of Asia's steppes, is only 4 feet high—pony size.

It is possible to breed horses—or cattle, hogs, or dogs for that matter—downward in size until dwarf animals appear. This is done sometimes for sideshows, sometimes for serious breeding purposes. Small-sized turkeys for small families are increasingly popular, as are hackney ponies for horse shows.

On the other hand Shetland ponies, shaggy midgets because of long centuries on sparse, cold, island pastures north of Scot-

land, tend to grow larger generation by generation when transported to greener fields.

No Aged Giants

Neither dogs nor cats, no matter how they thrive on today's growth feeds, serums, and wonder medicines, are apt to become giants or to match man in longevity.

Dogs rarely live beyond 20 years; cats—surprisingly enough—more often. In 1946 a search was made for the oldest dog in America. Highest authentic age found was 26. But one cat-whiskered Methuselah—among tabbies—lived to 31.

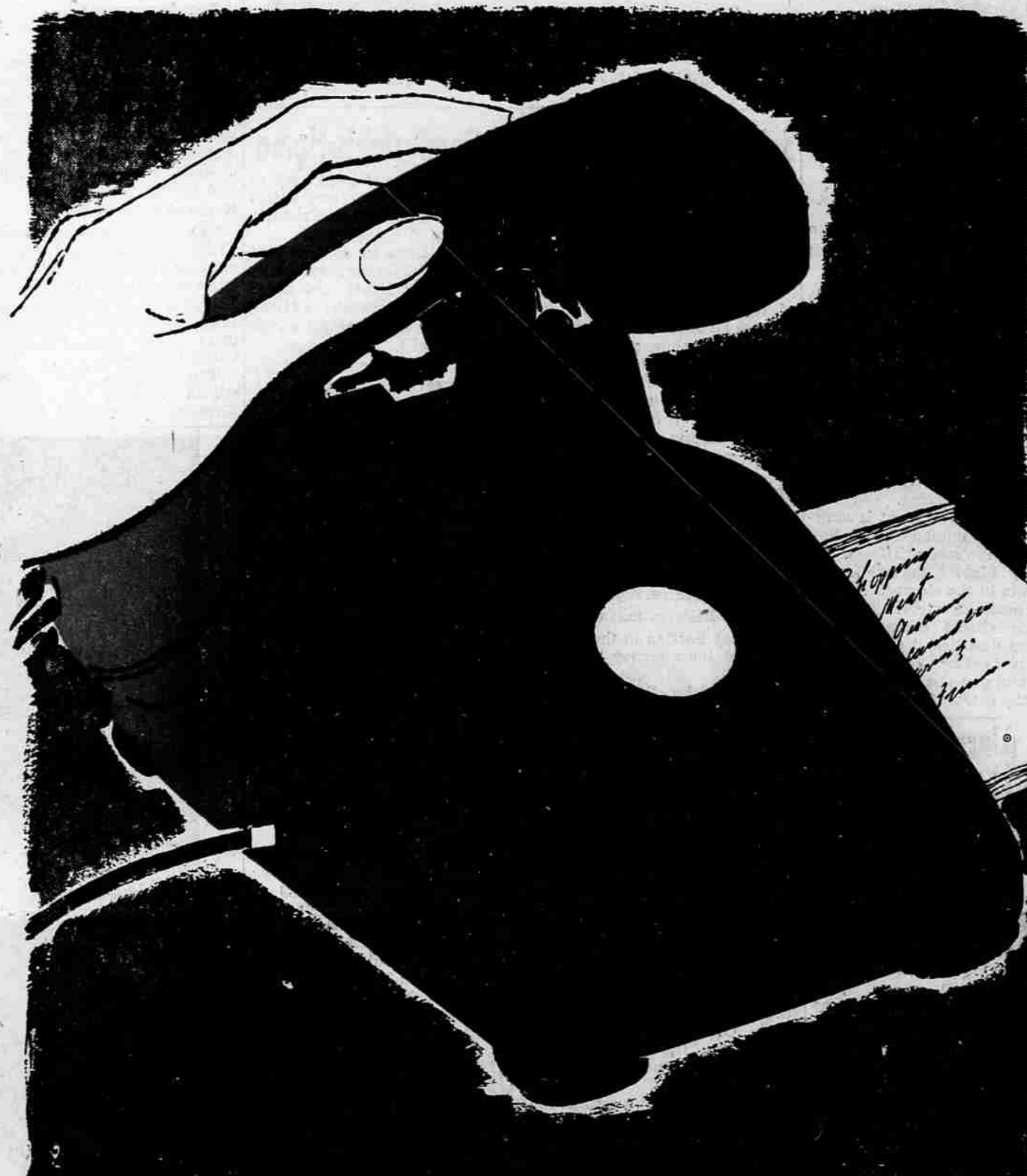
Cat longevity in modern times doubtless is higher than in the superstition-ridden Dark Ages, when cats were dropped from the highest towers of Flemish

towns on the second Wednesday in Lent, were roasted alive in cages beside roaring fires in England, and roasted on spits in Scotland—all to do away with the spirits of witchcraft.

The first national presidential nominating convention in American history was held by the Anti-Masonic Party on Sept. 26, 1831, in Baltimore.

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