



**MEDITERRANEAN BOUND**—Marine Pvt. George Sheldon of Patriot, Ind., plays his guitar as a work party arrives at the dock in Morehead City, N. C., to load his unit's gear aboard ship bound for the tense Mediterranean area. The men and equipment of the 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, will join the 6th Fleet.

swift-diving cormorants. Around each trained bird's neck is a string, one end of which is held by a man standing at the bow of each boat.

**Flaming Wood On Pole**  
Illuminating the weird scene, casting red light on the flowing water will be baskets of flaming wood on a pole. These torches, reflecting in the water, attract the trout-like eight-inch ayu. As they arrive, the birds dive and with remarkable speed and agility catch them and swallow them whole—that is, swallow them as far as the string around the neck will allow. Then they surface and the owner forces the birds to surrender their catch.

Meanwhile, as cormorants are diving and working, the boats are being paddled upstream slowly followed by your spectator-filled pleasure boats whose passengers become gayer and gayer as the hour advances and become more pleasantly stuffed with the good-tasting freshly-grilled ayu, straight from the cormorant's neck. The best time for this trip? June, July and August.

**Teeth Dyed Black**  
Women only: Occasionally along the more remote countryside, you may find a woman with blackened teeth. Until quite recently, many women upon marriage dyed their teeth black. To go with it, some used a bright green lipstick. Topped off with chalk-white rice powder.

Like fresh strawberries? A novel way of growing strawberries almost the year around has been developed in Shizuoka prefecture, about 100 miles south of Tokyo. This province has much mountainside land exposed to the warm sun. But as farmland, the steep-sloped sides were almost useless, until...

Terraces were cut out, faced with 18-inch stones, brick or concrete tile with inverted V-shaped spaces left at the joint. In these, strawberry plants were inserted. Mixed with the rich soil were various materials used to retain the sun's heat and at night the plants were covered with straw mats in order to conserve the heat. The plants were watered daily.

**Herring Fertilizer**  
The result? Large, well-flavored strawberries, produced almost the year around. Once the plants fail to bear, they are removed forthwith; the tiles are loosened, bean-cake and herring fertilizer introduced behind the tile, and the new shoots taken from the discarded plants placed into the V'ed notches.

Beckoning cats: In shops throughout Japan which depend upon the fickle public's favor, such as stores, teahouses and restaurants, you'll often see porcelain cats with their left paw raised outward. The meaning?

In Japan, this palm-out gesture beckons: come on in. When summoning a person in Japan, the hand is waved palm out instead of palm towards the waver. And to complete the picture,

**Embargo on Oregon Turkeys Released**

Portland—(U.P.)—Oregon turkey growers will begin shipping eggs and poults to Washington early next week as a result of action taken yesterday by the Washington State Agriculture department.

The embargo placed on the importation of Oregon turkey poults and eggs after ornithosis was discovered in two Oregon flocks two weeks ago, was eased yesterday, allowing the importing of turkeys or turkey eggs certified free from the disease.

J. F. Short, Oregon state director of agriculture, said that certification by his department means a veterinarian will inspect flocks from which poults or eggs are exported to check for mortality and the general health of the flocks.

Oregon, Washington and California state farm officials met in San Francisco yesterday with representatives of the U.S. department of agriculture to discuss mutual problems arising from psittacosis and ornithosis.

**Grand Rapids Seeks All Fluorescent Lighting**

Grand Rapids, Mich. —(U.P.)—Grand Rapids may become one of the larger cities in the United States to replace all of its old-style street lights with fluorescent street lights.

Fluorescent lights have been installed in one small section of the downtown area and members of city commissioners said they have been impressed by the amount of light they give. Commissioner Bernard Barto said a proposal may be placed on the ballot next spring to finance installation of fluorescent lights throughout this city of 200,000.

**Old Coal Mine Fire May Be Extinguished**

Medora, N. D. —(U.P.)— Plans are being made to extinguish a fire in a coal mine in the Roosevelt Memorial Park which is believed to have started in 1952 as the result of lightning.

The park superintendent, John cats are supposed to bring good luck.

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Free: By special arrangement with the editors of the Encyclopedia Americana, my panel of judges will award each week to the readers who send in the best true-life nature adventure, the best nature observation, or the best question on nature and wildlife, a complete 30-volume set of this world-famous reference work in a handsome Sealcraft binding. Each week new submissions will be considered. Sorry, I simply can't answer your many friendly letters. Please address our letter to: IS THAT SO! c/o Medford Mail Tribune, Box 575, Sausalito, Calif.

Jay, said the fire should be extinguished now because in 10 to 15 years it might become a serious prairie fire hazard. The fire was discovered this spring. Rangers at the park tried to extinguish the fire, but the burning vein of coal was too large. Now, more elaborate measures will be taken.

Largest denomination of U.S. currency is the \$10,000 bill.

**Silver Lake Pumping Operation Due May 1**

Lapine — (U.P.) — May 1 has been set as the date pumping operations through use of Bonneville power will start in the Fort Rock-Silver Lake area, officials have announced.

A power line from Lapine to the Fort Rock Basin was energized last fall to provide power to the northern Lake county

area which has been reclaimed through irrigation in the past few years. The basin once was flooded by huge lakes in prehistoric days and in recent years has been of considerable interest as farmers and stockmen reclaim the land.

Dead line for Sunday Classified is at noon Saturday

**OFFICIAL STARTER**

Portland — (U.P.) — William P. Kyne, general manager of Portland Meadows, announced yesterday that Eugene (Beans) Kennedy, prominent official at horse race tracks on the Pacific Coast, will be official starter at the track this season. The Portland season opens May 5 and continues through July 7 this year.

**Is That So?**

By EUGENE BURNS  
Ranger-Naturalist

Gifu, Japan, with Japan Air Lines — Japan's countryside is a package chock-full of constant surprises. Want to go for a ride?

Generally speaking, Japan is a poor place to drive a car any distance. Roads have never been overly good and the war with its bombing and heavy trucking was no help. Repair work, on the whole, has been superficial. Hence, for the long haul, better take a plane. For shorter ones, you can't beat the express trains which are fast, punctual, and take you almost anywhere.

Japan has more than 15,000 miles of railways. For the short



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trips into the lovely countryside, buckle on your courage and take a taxi. Believe me, these horn tooting "kamikaze" drivers are a caution.

What'll you see? Here at Gifu, about 150 miles south of Tokyo, is perhaps the most unusual night-fishing in the world. In the first place, you'll ride a gaily festooned lantern-covered boat and be attended by beautiful kimono-clad geishas who will dance and serve you hot sake and river-fresh fish broiled on a charcoal-burning hibachi. And cool your hot brow.

Whether the fish are biting has nothing to do with the catch. Neither has a fishing rod or net. For that matter, you won't even see a fisherman, only fishing birds.

It's this way: you'll be paddled slowly up the Nagaragawa river behind the fishing boats. Instead of being manned by fishermen with rods and nets, each boat is equipped with a dozen or so black duck-like birds.

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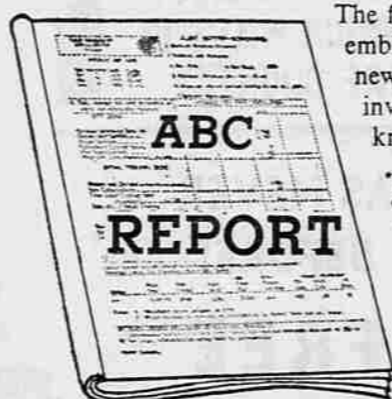


of circulation value

Every industry has a standard by which its products can be measured.

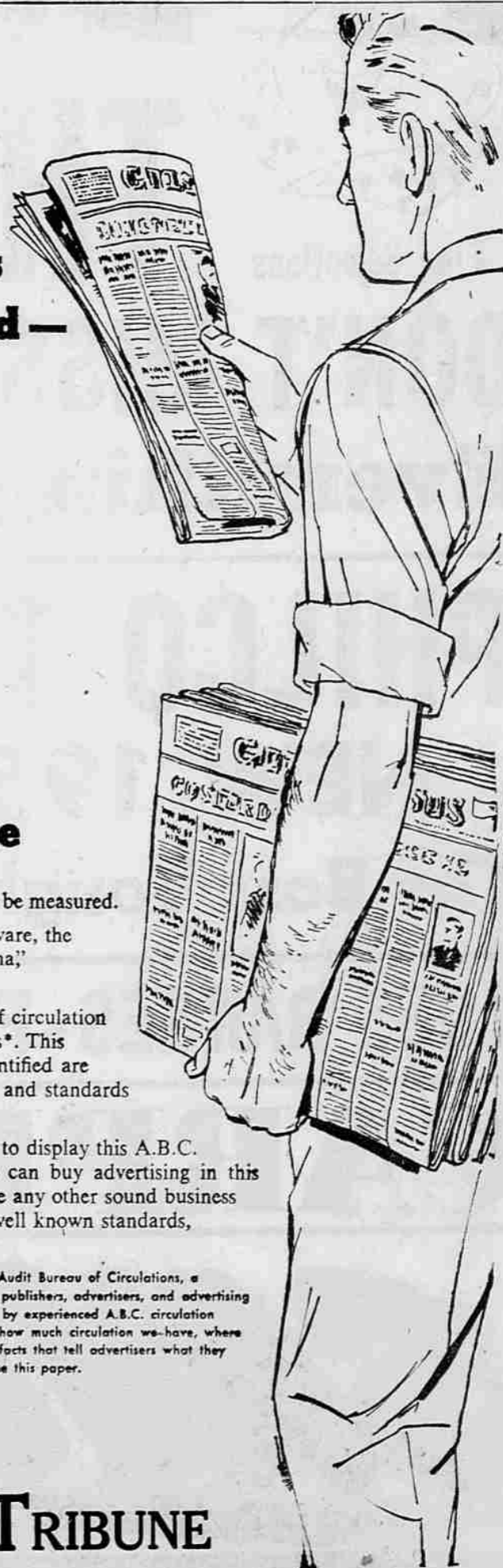
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