

Power Lawnmower Use Shows Increase

Chicago — (U.P.) — A survey shows that there are almost 10,000,000 power lawn mowers in use in the United States.

The total of 9,770,000 at the end of 1955 represents an increase of 27 per cent over 1954, when there were 7,660,000 manufacturing the nation's lawns.

The power lawn mower business is largely postwar development, and has boomed with suburban expansion. In 1946, the first year for which figures are available, 140,000 power mowers were sold.

In 1955 sales of all types totaled about 2,400,000 units. At an estimated average price of \$100, this would amount to a retail volume of \$240,000,000.

R. T. Lueloff, president of Power Products, said a consumer study by his firm indicates 2,500,000 homeowners will buy power mowers in 1956, and that nearly half that number will have owned one previously.

Is That So?

Over the Big Island, with Hawaiian Air Lines—"You're now flying over the Hamakua coast, better known as the Scotch coast," said our purser. "Below us is the most productive soil in the world. As much as 300,000 pounds of sugar cane have been grown per acre on these plantations."

"He could have added that from an 18-mile square area, slightly larger than that of New York City, Hawaii produces over a 1,000,000 tons of sugar, about one-fourth of all the sugar manufactured in the U.S.," pointed out my fellow passenger, Roy Leffingwell, of the Hawaii Sugar Plantations association. "It's Hawaii's main industry."

"I understand Army and Navy dump more solid cash..." I started to say, but he pointedly ignored my barb.

"You wouldn't think, looking at it from up here, that some of that cane below us grows 24 feet high, would you?"

By EUGENE BURNS
Ranger-Naturalist

"It takes a barrel of water to grow cane," he volunteered. "We figure about a ton per pound of sugar. In fact, one of our plantations pumps enough water daily to supply San Francisco and New Orleans put together..."

"Where did sugar get started, anyway?" I asked.

"No one knows, for sure. Perhaps India. South Sea Islanders



Honolulu To Get Part Of Far East Air Force

Tokyo — (U.P.) — A portion of Far East Air Forces headquarters will be moved from Tokyo to Honolulu in June, FEAF announced today.

Reports from Washington recently said the Air Force high command was considering movement of the entire FEAF headquarters to Hawaii but that no decision had been reached.

Ashland Kiwanis Club Files Incorporation

Salem — (U.P.) — Articles of incorporation were filed here today for the Kiwanis club of Ashland. They were signed by Alva Graham, Oliver Green, Sidney Ainsworth and Jack Eaton.

mean, don't you?"

He nodded and added: "If you want to be that exact, it's a little under 18!"

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TESTIFIES—Agriculture Secy. Ezra Taft Benson (above), appearing before Senate appropriations subcommittee in Washington, said that failure to approve a "sound" soil bank plan might lead to further cuts in farm price support levels next year. The hearing was on his department's budget for next fiscal year.

Coos Hotel Ordered Into Receivership

Coos Bay — (U.P.) — Circuit Judge Dal M. King yesterday ordered the Tioga Hotel Corporation into receivership and appointed a former employee to manage what is one of the largest hostels in the Oregon coast.

The court ordered foreclosure on two suits brought by Coos Bay Development Company for about \$38,000. Principal stockholder in that firm is W. A. Rushlight of Portland.

Lee W. Scarlett was majority stockholder in the Tioga Hotel Corp. He said the case would be appealed. New manager is Mrs. Emelent Cole who formerly clerked at the hotel.

Consolidated Plans Headquarters Move

Portland — (U.P.) — Consolidated Freightways, Inc., plans to transfer its executive headquarters from Portland to San Francisco Bay area's Menlo Park on June 1.

J. L. S. Snead Jr., president of the firm, said Portland would remain the operations headquarters for the western region, embracing all highway routes and terminals west of Fargo, N.D. He said a new eastern regional headquarters would be created at Indianapolis.

He said the move of executive offices to Menlo Park would bring the policy level staff closer together with the corporations' principal financial roots in the San Francisco area.

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A Nichol's Worth of... Comment On This and That

By HARMAN W. NICHOLS
United Press Feature Writer

Washington—(U.P.)—The Navy thought about most things except enough hair-oil for the men who went on Operation Deep Freeze in Little America.

A traveler friend of mine who just returned from the Antarctic expedition said to make it clear to you folks back home that the situation didn't approach mutiny. But how did the Navy know in advance that the boys aboard the many ships would start growing beards which need a grease job once in awhile? They look better and oil takes away the itch.

The men, of course, weren't



going anyplace. There were no women folks aboard and none to expect. But a man who is growing his first beard likes for it to look pretty. Mostly because his buddies have cameras and mama and the kids back home wouldn't want to see the old man with scraggly fuzz on his chin.

Anyway, according to my informant, the hero of the occasion was Dr. E. N. Ehrlich of Oak Park, Mich. He mixed up an unholly beard-oiling concoction, which wore the smell of witch hazel. The doctor, in order to avoid a fuss with the patent office, didn't reveal his secret.

Not Competitive

He figures there isn't much market for it outside of Little America anyway.

Later, the traveler said, there was another flurry of worry in the expedition. The men were reminded that you can't get away from income taxes even at the South Pole.

Uncle Sam, it seems was thoughtful enough to fetch a big supply of federal forms and enough state forms to take care of all hands.

Idea of this junket, of course, is to establish bases all over the Antarctic continent. That work is progressing nicely, according to my returning friend, who was glad to get away as soon as he did.

"August begins the rough season," he told me. "In fact, soon the sun will go down and doesn't come up again for a long time. In August when we are sweating it out here, those boys in Little America will be bundled against temperatures that will run from 80 to 100 degrees below zero."

Tons and tons of cargo were hauled to Little America. There were washing machines, portable generators and the like.

Batter Up

Recreation centers have been set up where the men can have at billiards, ping pong and—if they wish—play baseball on the ice. When my friend was there he watched a game. A man clobbered a Ruthian ball, but the ice at that time was so slushy that the poor guy got thrown out at first base.

"The fellows have their own fun," he said. "As soon as they learned that Grace Kelly was going to latch onto her prince in Monaco, the fellows got together and had a mock wedding."

It must have been a scream. The boys hooted and hollered. My lad reported they borrowed a table cloth, smeared some red paint on "Grace," he spent half the night learning how to say "Oui, Oui."

"It was not to discredit a gal who had been a Navy favorite," the sailor said. "We all love her. She's pinned up all over Little America. But at this late date, we'd like her to know we were thinking of her."

Happens Every Day

For a sugar man, he seemed singularly unimpressed. I repeated: "Isn't one of your sugar cane fields on fire?"

"Oh yes. Happens almost every day. You see, our growing season is continuous and we harvest the year 'round. Takes from 21-24 months to grow cane..."

"But isn't this a standing crop burning?" I protested.

"Oh, I get you." He tried to keep from being condescending. "Before harvesting, the cane is always burned to get rid of the leaves and trash which hamper milling operations. The fire you see down there doesn't harm the stalks containing the sugar."

He went back to his favorite subject. "About ten per cent of the weight of that stalk will be sugar. Pretty high, isn't it? Years ago, I doubt if it would have gone half that much. Shows you what research can do."

I pointed to some heavy equipment below us. "You're looking at the biggest piece of transportation equipment used in agriculture," he stated with finality. "Some of those rigs, which were developed particularly for us, haul up to 80,000 pounds of cane per load. The eight tires on that rig stand about a third higher than a grown man."

"Then when the sugar cane stalks are sent through the mill, the huge rollers exert close to a million pounds pressure to press the juice from the cane."

"You said a while ago, India..." He wouldn't even let me finish his sentence.

Made Before Christ

"Yep, sugar was first made in India, before Christ. From there the Arabs spread the culture of sugar cane through Asia Minor. It reached its highest peak in Egypt, where they made candies and confections of it. Then during the Crusades, sugar cane spread through Europe. Columbus brought it to the West Indies."

"Understand they've developed sugar beets in Germany. Lots around Idaho and Colorado. Just as sweet as sugar cane, too."

He ignored that sally completely. "You know, the largest sugar refinery in the world, turning out more than 6,000,000 pounds a day, is located on San Francisco bay. Crockett. You ought to visit it."

"That's a lot of calories," "Stored energy," he said blithely. "Mountain climbers and long distance swimmers use sugar as a source of quick energy. Nothing better. But to get back to that calorie business, there's been a lot of vicious propaganda. You know there are only 18 calories to the spoonful of sugar."

"Level teaspoonful, you

Alabama Negro's Home Dynamited

Birmingham, Ala. — (U.P.) — A dynamite blast slightly damaged a Negro dwelling located between two white homes here last night and shook the entire neighborhood, police reported today.

The explosion tore a big hole in the yard and damaged three front windows of the home of a 26-year-old Negro mail carrier who had lived among White neighbors without previous trouble for some three years, police said.

"We haven't been able to determine how much dynamite was used," a police spokesman said. "It rocked houses all along the block."

The occupants, John H. Sargent, his wife and two children and his wife's parents, all were uninjured, he said.



ACCUSED of slaying his parents, brother, at their Mansfield, Conn., farm, Robert Curgenvin, 11, is now undergoing psychiatric tests. (International)

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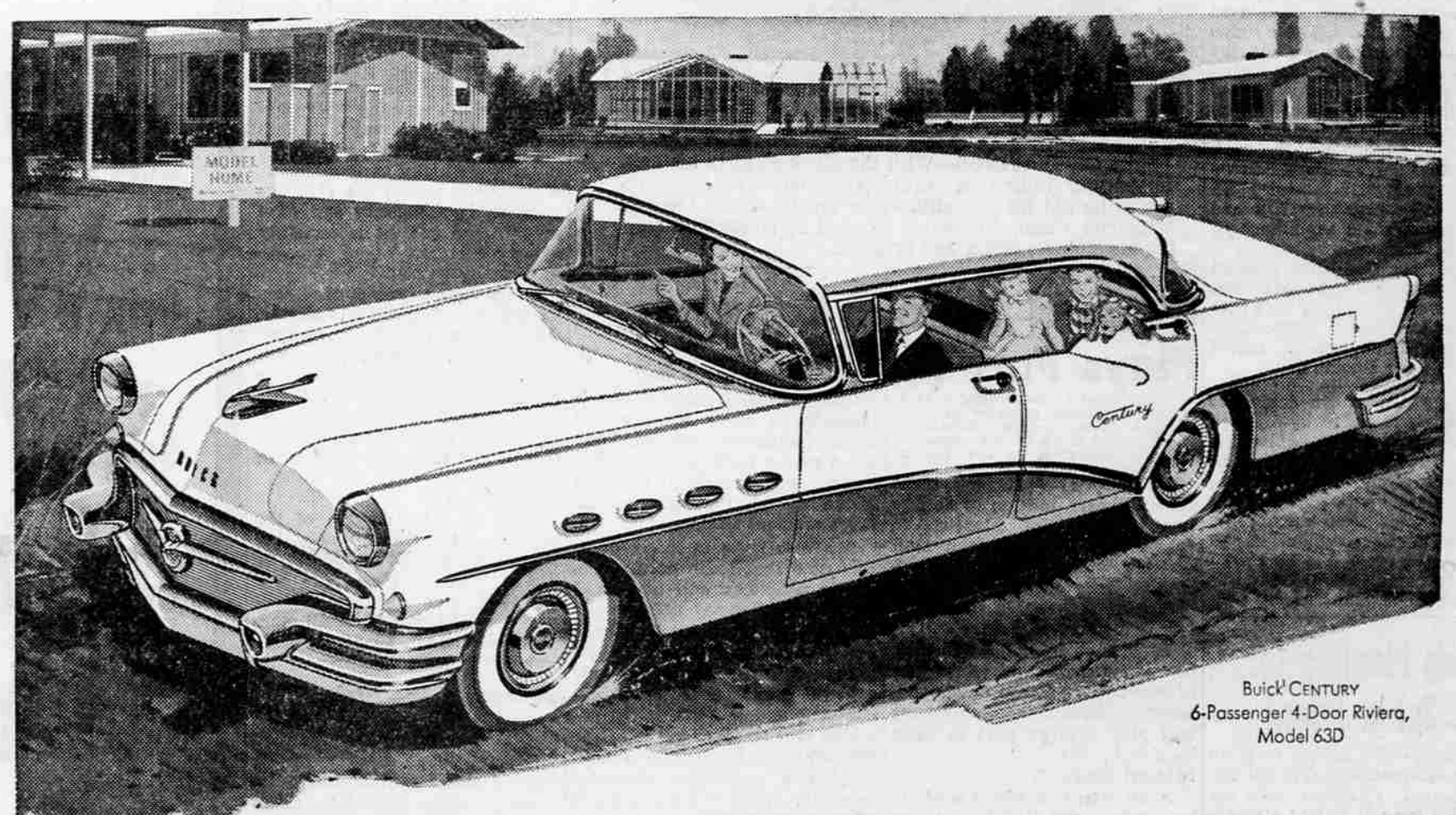
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