

# Is That So?

By EUGENE BURNS  
Ranger-Naturalist

"Speaking of rocks in the head," said my marine biologist friend, John E. Fitch, looking at me rather sharply, "they're not generally considered to be much of an asset to a man. But in fish, Gene, it's another matter. You'd be surprised if you knew what those little earstones will tell you."

Because these otoliths, or earstones, are made of much the same material as clam shells, they are extremely hard. Usually, they are the last part of a fish to decompose when it dies and sinks to the bottom of the sea or when it is eaten and digested by another creature. As a result of this long-lasting quality—some have lasted 300,000,000 years scientists esti-



mate—they are extremely important to many people.

Nearly every kind of fish, said Fitch, has earstones which are distinctively his and his alone, thus telling the scientist whether the bones he finds came from a halibut, say, or a mackerel, cod, herring or some other fish. And no other. Stranger yet, the earstones reveal whether or not a certain flatfish was "right or left-handed."

As for the many uses:

The scientist who studies ancient fossils and frequently uncovers these hard long-lasting otoliths in deposits of sedimentary rock or earth gets help in placing relative time during which certain geological events took place.

The geologist on the prow for oil who encounters these ancient earbones can often relate one type of formation to another in time and space—and thus perhaps gain valuable clues as to new oil deposits.

The scientist who studies man's past often finds these earbones in the remains of prehistoric man's campsites. By determining from what fish the earbones came from, he immediately knows something about the diet and habits of these early humans.

As yet little exploited but potentially important is the fascinating use these earbones may be put to in making wom-

en's jewelry. The large size of the paired bones, the variety of their shapes, their hardness, their pure white color and delicate beauty—particularly those taken from such fish as the croakers—make them a valuable addition to any woman's earring collection, charm bracelet, or necklace.

**Earstones Are Headache**  
To one profession I know of, these earstones are a headache. Catfood processors find fish earbones a most undesirable ingredient in their product, particularly when the pet food has been made from fish of the croaker family which have the largest otoliths.

"The greatest practical value of these earstones as far as I'm concerned," stated Fitch who is a fisheries expert with the California Fish and Game department, "is that from them we can determine the fish's age, the season of year it was killed, the food habits of carnivorous fishes, marine animals, and fish-eating birds. (By the way, some of you trout anglers may have observed these stones atop rocks or along-side streams—in mink or other droppings.)"

"As well, the earstones prove useful in identifying stomach contents of many varieties of fish, sea lions, seals, porpoises and ocean-going birds."

"This is all very fine," I pointed out, "but would you mind telling us, of what use these earstones to the fish themselves?"

"Oh," said Fitch, "I almost forgot—the fish uses them for hearing, keeping his balance, and maintaining muscle tone . . ."

So now, we have muscle tone in fish . . .  
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## Eagerness To Prime Economic Pump Gets Share of Criticism

By ELMER C. WALZER  
United Press Financial Editor

New York—The eagerness to prime the economic pump through many old devices of credit and spending is coming in for some criticism from market experts and economists.

Those who argue against turning the tide before it has had its flow hold that the future will suffer from the action.

Also, they point out, that injection of zip into the economy through wild spending, budget deficits, and other devices make for return of inflation which has been fought for the past two years by the Federal Reserve Board.

L. O. Hooper, analyst for W. E. Hutton & Co., warns against placing too much confidence in what Washington will do to prevent the cycle from running its course.

Hooper believes that the glowing predictions on the 1960s are legitimate although he finds some of the estimates often "cut it too fine" so far as details are concerned.

"The trouble is," he says, "that economic man still sins in spite of all the regulative paternalism with which he has been surrounded. And when he sins, he must make retribution."

"If the economy makes full pennance now, the probability of great things in the '60s is measurably increased. If this turns out to be a half way adjustment, on the other hand, the prosperity of the 1960s may not be as great."

Market men also recall the situation of the early 1930s when the government used all sorts of artificial methods to stem the depression by saving a lot of businesses that should have been junked. The process, they assert, prolonged that depression by several years, and it took a war to bring a recovery.

But the Market experts agree on the current stock

market which they hold is in no way to be compared with that of 1929-1939.

"It is unlike most bear markets," says Hooper, "in that many real investment portfolios still are held at a profit rather than at a loss, in that most people own their stocks outright rather than on margin, in that government spending contributes much more to the economy, in that labor costs are inflexible, and on account of the big institutional interest in equities."

Incidentally, Hooper also notes that bear markets provide many bargains, and he wonders why investors should consider bargain sales to be deplored. He notes shrewd women shoppers gloat over January sales.

### Court Records

**MUNICIPAL COURT**  
Raymond Roberts Hubbard, improper passing, \$10.  
Arthur Nemeyer Purnell, allowing an unlicensed driver to operate his vehicle, \$10.  
Ralph Kenneth Snow, operating a vehicle with no Oregon license, \$10.  
Edrd J. RoseCrans, violation of basic rule, \$10.  
Melvin Leland Anhorn, violation of basic rule, \$10.  
Glenna Marie Knorr, disobeyed traffic signal, \$5.  
Jane Vivian Anders, violation of basic rule, \$10.  
Bob Ownby, disobeyed stop sign, \$5; no Oregon driver's license, \$10.  
Kenneth LaVern Bakshas, violation of basic rule, \$15.  
Richard Arthur Sorenson, violation of basic rule, \$10.  
James Arthur Rose, disobeyed stop sign, \$5.  
Richard Elywn Hart, defective equipment, \$2.50.  
Bill Emory Backers, disobeyed stop sign, \$5.  
Robert Walter Castle, failure to obtain Oregon operator's license, \$2.50.  
Clarence Edward Sutton, violation of basic rule, \$10.  
**DISTRICT COURT**  
Herschel George Rainey, operating motor vehicle while driver's license suspended, \$105.  
Will Thomas Feby, defective muffler, \$6.  
Albert James Volk, failure to stop at stop sign, \$10.  
Richard Larson, failure to stop at stop sign, \$10.  
David Don Legg, improper headlight, \$10; overweight, \$15.  
George Lawrence Minter, failure to operate on right side of highway, \$15.  
Merlin Lewis Dewey, violation basic rule, \$15.  
Carrie Rex Yoakley, failure to stop at stop sign, \$10.  
Francis William Terry, no clearance light, \$6.  
**CIRCUIT COURT**  
Hazel McCoy McDaniel vs. Ray A. McDaniel, divorce complaint.

## McKay Doesn't Take Kindly To Neuberger's Critical Article

By A. ROBERT SMITH  
Mail Tribune Correspondent

Washington—Douglas McKay, who is seeking a way out of the impasse with Canada over dam building on the upper Columbia, didn't exactly take kindly to the lambasting article by Sen. Richard L. Neuberger in last month's Harper's, which termed McKay "an even more conspicuous symbol of hostility to federal power" than Len Jordan.

"I was working on federal development when he was a boy in college," humphred McKay. "I was chairman of the Willamette valley project (for developing a flood control program). Served for 14 years. So I know a little about water."

After his unsuccessful bid for the Senate in 1956, McKay succeeded Jordan as chairman of the International Joint Commission. Neuberger claims the IJC hasn't pressed Canada for a solution because the Eisenhower administration, with its "private-utility bias against the expansion of federal power plants," doesn't really care.

McKay dismissed Neuberger's arguments as "political" and declared:

"These left-wingers talk like I'm a tool of the private utilities. Why, when I was mayor of Salem I was president of the public ownership league."

He explained that the issue was whether the city should take over the water works, which McKay favored and which was done.

"And I don't own a share of private utility stock," said

McKay, although he did own some years ago. Then, with a grin and a twinkle of puckish humor, McKay adds his clincher:

"But I do own some public power bonds in Priest Rapids dam."

More flags fly from the main staff of the U.S. Capitol probably than anywhere else in the world, sometimes several different flags each day. And one of them is all set to be run up and brought down again February 14, on Ore-

gon's birthday, especially for the coming centennial.

Rep. Edith Green has obtained a brand new 5 by 8 foot emblem which, according to prevailing practice, can be flown over the Capitol briefly and then sent to the Centennial Commission to be flown over the centennial grounds next year.

Harris Ellsworth and Charles O. Porter, Republican and Democratic opponents for the 4th congressional district the last two elections, keep bumping into one another in Washington these days, to the discomfort of both.

Ellsworth won the first time but Porter unseated him the second try, after which Ellsworth was appointed chairman of the Civil Service commission. Porter is on the House Post Office and Civil Service committee.

At a dinner the other night put on by the American Legion, both men were among the invited. When someone turned to Porter and mentioned the high post his defeated rival had been given, Porter wisecracked:

"Hah, I made him what he is today."

Congressman Walter Norblad was tickled with a terse letter to the editor of The Oregonian the other day complimenting him for sending out a questionnaire to get the views of the voters instead of sending out copies of speeches expressing his own views.

Not only did this sound like an unfavorable reference to some of his colleagues who do make speeches and send them out, but it fit in with Norblad's practice of not making speeches on the House floor.

"That was worth six front page headlines," said the hard running Norblad.

**TESTIFYING ON NEED FOR MORE SPEED** in the ballistics missile race with Russia are James H. Kindelberger, North American Aviation Corp., left, and William A. Allen, Boeing Aircraft, before Senate committee in Washington, D. C. (International Soundphoto)

## Ultrasonic Waves Fail To Scare Off Ducks and Sea Gulls

By DELOS SMITH  
United Press Science Editor

New York—It is the stern duty of this science reporter to report a scientific failure in the field of weapons development.

The weapon was for use against wild ducks and sea gulls—to scare the daylights out of them, rather than hurt them. But it turned out that science doesn't yet know enough about those birds.

This is no joke, understand. Wild ducks cost Canadian farmers large sums annually, by helping themselves in grain fields. Sea gulls mess up air traffic by squatting in hundreds on the runways of some coastal airports.

**Weapon Wanted**  
So any weapon which could scare them away and keep them away from places where they're not wanted, would be a Godsend. So G. J. Thiessen and E. A. G. Shaw of the Canadian National Research Council turned to ultrasonics.

They're sound waves of such high frequency human ears don't hear them, but when they're high enough and intense enough, they can irritate ear drums and even damage them.

The scientists began their work by finding out how high and intense these waves had to be in order to "irritate" Peking ducks. Those ducks are domesticated and can be worked with. But the family was developed out of the wild mallard duck and the presumption would be that what irritates the former would also irritate the latter.

Knowing the "irritation thresholds" of the Peking, the scientists moved their ultrasonic generators to farming areas. They discovered they could lift clouds of wild ducks into the air by irradiating their marshy resting places.

## Professor to Meet With Local Groups

Dr. R. N. Lowe, associate professor of education at the University of Oregon, Eugene, will be in Medford, Jan. 23, to meet with leaders of community groups sponsoring parent-education programs.

Dr. Lowe, who conducts classes at the university in child development, counseling and guidance, has served as a chairman of family-life education for the Oregon Congress of Parents and Teachers, the Montana Congress of Parents and Teachers, and as a consultant in this field to the National Congress of Parents and Teachers.

He will confer with discussion group leaders in office rooms of the Jackson county school superintendent in the courthouse between 1:30 and 3:30 p.m.

Dr. Lowe will meet at noon with the Mental Health committee, a group studying the need of family counseling for Jackson county.

Oilmen have developed a floating offshore oil drilling platform that can operate in water to 600 feet deep.

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## Satellite Launching Set By California Tech Men

Pasadena, Calif.—A 20-pound cylinder stuffed with delicate instruments within the next five weeks may become the first successful satellite to be launched by the United States, according to a copyrighted story appearing in the Pasadena, Cal., Independent.

The instrument to record meteoric impacts, temperatures and cosmic rays.

**Second of Series**  
The instrument was termed as the second of a four package series and one destined for the next U. S. launching attempt.

The newspaper made the prediction as a result of remarks made this week by Dr. Lee A. Dubridge, President of Cal Tech, in a speech at the University club here.

**Cal Tech Ready**  
Dubridge said he had told the Army two months ago Cal Tech could put up a satellite within 12 weeks if it were provided with rockets. He pointed out there are five weeks remaining.

The copyrighted story said it was announced last Nov. 15 that Cal Tech's jet propulsion laboratory had been given the responsibility for payload "in high speed propulsion stages" of the U. S. effort to launch a satellite.

According to the Independent, Dr. William H. Pickering, laboratory director, has revealed a satellite of the type to be prepared. It was described as a cylindrical object a foot long and five inches in diameter, jammed with tiny

instruments to record meteoric impacts, temperatures and cosmic rays.

The "made in Pasadena" satellite, according to the Independent, will be lofted at Cape Canaveral, Fla., and, if successful, be placed in an orbit around the earth from which it will broadcast the information of vital importance about outer space. The cylinder would ride behind a blunt cone mounted atop a 60-foot multi-stage Jupiter C rocket, one of the Army's entries in the world intercontinental ballistic missile race.

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