

Skin Divers Have a Variety of Purposes



Deputies Among Those in Course At Medford YMCA

By JOE COWLEY
Mail Tribune Staff Writer
Splash into adventure!
A diver grips his plexi-glass face mask with one hand, teters on the edge for a second, then topples over backwards, air-tanks and all. A stream of air bubbles indicates the diver's course underwater.

The diver could be one of the two sheriff's officers practicing techniques in Lake Shasta in California recently. He could be one of a two-man team assisting with poisoning a lake of trash fish. Or, the diver could be salvaging sunken logs in a mill-pond. Or he could be just out for fun.

Two Categories
Although most people call the entire operation "skin-diving," there are two general categories. Skin diving could include goggles or face plate, snorkel, rubber flippers on the feet or only a bathing suit for underwater swimming.

SCUBA diving is something else, although often included under the general category of skin-diving.
SCUBA stands for self-contained, underwater breathing apparatus. Such equipment includes an aqua-lung connected with one or two oxygen tanks. The swimmer breathes through a curved hard-rubber mouthpiece. Other basic equipment would include a depth gauge and waterproof watch and a heavy knife.

Two Rubber Suits
Besides this equipment are two rubber suits classified as wet and dry suits. The wet suit is made of porous rubber and holds a layer of water over the body as a type of insulation. Lowest temperature a diver can stand in this suit is 50 degrees. The other is a dry suit, considered the best in the ocean since a diver wearing this suit can stand temperatures of zero degrees. The inside is of gum rubber and the outside layer is a chemically compounded material impervious to sun and water damage. This type of suit is worn over long winter underwear. A certain amount of air is trapped inside the suit adding additional insulation.

Two of the more enthusiastic SCUBA divers in Jackson county are Tad Gandee and Dick Smith. They learned their sport and trade while in the Marine Corps. Schools were being given then for Navy and Marine Corps underwater demolition teams. They claim to be among the first to try this sport in Rogue valley area waters.

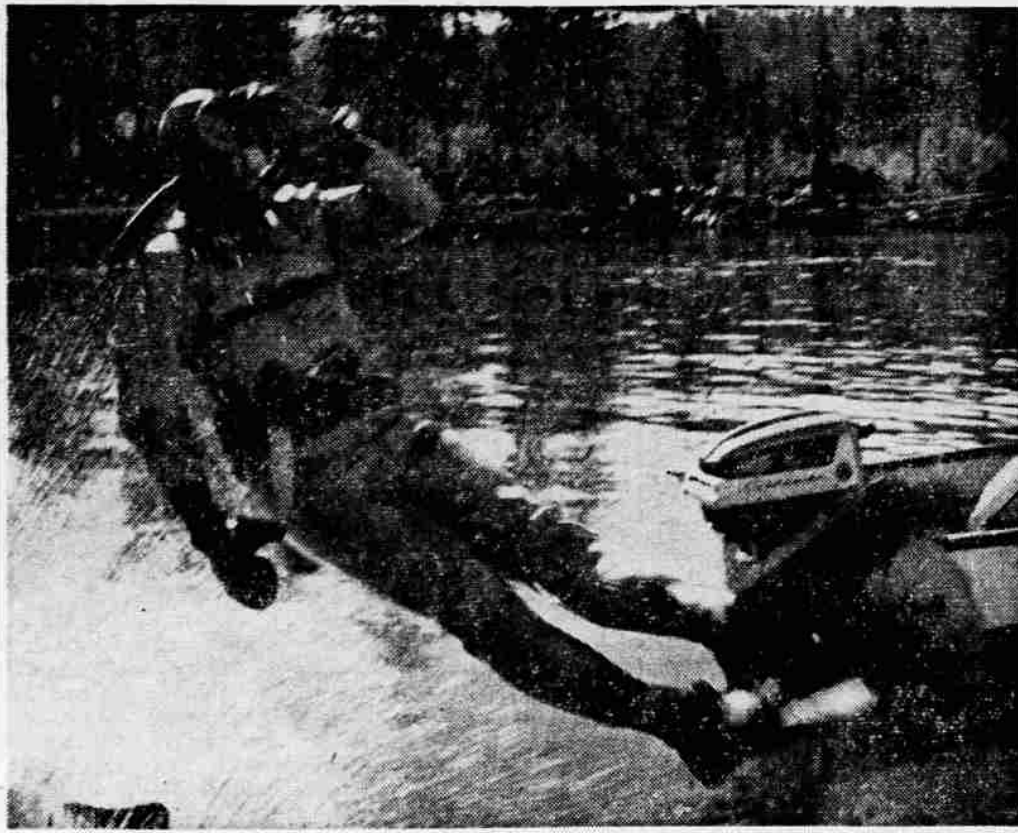
Switchman
Tad is a switchman for the Southern Pacific railroad and Smith is majoring in education at Southern Oregon college in Ashland. Gandee plans to return to SOC later and complete his teacher's training. Smith is married and has a two-year-old son. Dick's family status has caused the divers to heavily insure themselves with Lloyds of London, the only company which will insure such a risky business.

The pair grew up in Ashland and knew each other. After the service their strong mutual interest in skin-diving brought them together and in 1957 they formed a company. Their specialty is underwater salvage. They started by recovering lost outboard motors and fishing lures for resale. Talks with salvage divers in the San Francisco bay area armed them with basic knowledge.

First Enterprise
Their first commercial enterprise was on the upper Klamath lake where they located fresh springs for cabin owners. Another job was locating a boat which had burned and sunk and making a report to the insurance company. The young company also has repaired propellers on boats.

Perhaps one of the most unusual jobs was recovering a lost upper plate in 80 feet of water at Lake Shasta last summer. When the two men had finished their dive they had recovered two upper plates and a pair of glasses. Recovery of these articles paid for the trip which was originally only for water-skiing.

Some of the more interesting and dangerous jobs have consisted of recovering sinker logs for Medford Lumber company. The Jackson county public health department required the divers to take tetanus and typhoid shots before these log salvage jobs. Such stagnant mill-pond water is considered potent with germs.



SPLASHES IN - Dick Smith, Ashland skin-diver, jumps backwards from the wharf at Fish lake. His partner, Tad Gandee, made the splash in the corner of the picture. These two divers carried a hose underwater in Fish lake to help poison the lake with Rotenone to rid the lake of trash fish. This is the first time that skin-divers have been used in such a poisoning operation, it was reported.



UP FOR AIR - Dick Smith and Tad Gandee, the two divers were awe struck by the beautiful underwater colors and delicate design of the underwater moss.



TOPPLES IN - Sheriff's Deputy Veryl Vanoose keeps a careful hand on his face mask as he hits the water with SCUBA, self-contained underwater breathing apparatus. The divers say falling over backwards this way is like falling into bed. Falling forward would be quite a different matter. Vanoose and Chief Deputy Joe Walsh are enrolled in the skin-diving class at the Medford YMCA.

Diving in such murky water makes it impossible to see so the divers feel their way around according to directions already charted on a map. Criss-crossed under-water logs and the chance a log may come rumbling off a log deck into the water to crush a diver are other risks.

However, a man is kept in a boat and signals the divers by striking two objects together underwater or uses some similar sounding device. The dead stillness underwater makes it possible to hear the slightest sounds, Smith said. Such a lookout watches the divers' air-bubbles and warns them if he headed into danger areas.

The two men are enthusiastic over the possibilities of underwater work. They would like to develop it into a full-time job, but now are content to use it for summer vacation money.

Assist State
Recently the pair assisted the state game commission with the poisoning of Fish Lake of all trash fish. They did it by carrying a hose down to underwater springs into which rotenone was pumped. This assured the commission of a 100 per cent kill. The divers also could tell commission representatives how the rotenone poison settled on the bottom of the lake.

This operation was so successful that game commission authorities have indicated the underwater team may be able to conduct similar operations in seven western states.

Their next job in this line is the poisoning of Miller lake near Chemult. There they will have to descend 140 feet to poison lampreys.

who qualify with the SCUBA equipment. Joe Walsh, chief criminal sheriff's deputy, and Deputy Veryl Vanoose, both members of the class, plan to use their underwater ability in their law enforcement work. This would include recovering bodies of drowned persons.

Menshikov Ducks Photo of Stalin

Washington-UP-Soviet Ambassador Mikhail Menshikov refused Friday to be photographed by news cameramen under a huge photograph of Josef Stalin.

Menshikov, known as "Smiling Mike" because of his somewhat un-Russian brand of personal diplomacy, stood at the head of the embassy staircase while he greeted about 700 guests invited to celebrate the 41st anniversary of the Bolshevik revolution.

When asked by photographers to shift to the traditional spot for picture taking, under the Stalin picture, Menshikov politely refused, saying "it's not a good background."

'Kingfish' Actor Condition 'Critical'

Los Angeles-UP-Seventy-year-old actor Tim Moore, who portrays the "Kingfish" on the "Amos 'n' Andy" television show, was in critical condition yesterday at General Hospital with an undisclosed ailment.

The elderly actor, who admitted firing a pistol in his home last January when he accused his relatives of taking a roast beef from his refrigerator, was taken to the hospital last week after complaining of stomach trouble. He was placed on the critical list Friday.

More than 75 per cent of American homes are over 20 years old.

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Good Equipment
Skinner said good equipment can be purchased for approximately \$100. This includes the lung, hoses, tank and mouthpiece, a mask and flippers.

Skinner plans to organize an underwater rescue unit of those members of his classes

Federal Plans for Housing for Elderly Is Topic for Meeting

Oscar Pederson, area director of the Federal Housing administration, Portland, will discuss federal plans for housing for elderly persons at a conference in the board room of Rogue Valley hospital at 8 p.m. Monday, Nov. 17.

The conference was arranged by the executive board of the Rogue Valley Council on Aging, which met last week at the Senior Activity Center.

The council's housing committee has been working on the needs of this area for adequate low-cost housing for retired people with moderate income.

Informal Discussion
Pederson is expected to counsel the group in an informal discussion and question and answer period following his talk. He also may inspect possible sites and confer with sponsors, according to council representatives.

The council is inviting representatives of city and county government, churches, service clubs, the realty board, Jackson County Chamber of Commerce officers, public health officials, medical association and social welfare groups to attend the conference.

The council noted that recent statistics from the social security office show that the 3,420 retired persons in Jackson county receive an average payment of \$62 per month, less than the national average. Council members pointed out that this has increasing significance since Jackson county has more people over 65 than the national average.

Federal Funds
To obtain federal funds for low-cost housing, the project must be non-profit, with a sponsor, such as a church, service organization, lodge, or city or county government.

Frank Glonning, chairman of the local Council on Aging, said the Nov. 17 meeting would take the place of the

regular Nov. 20 meeting at the Senior Activity Center.

Anyone interested in attending the conference at which Pederson will speak and who does not receive an invitation may contact the committee by telephoning: William Hoxie at SPing 2-5100, or Glonning, Talbott 6-2111.

Other Reports
Reports from other committees also were given at the Council meeting last week. Mrs. Chester Guch, health committee chairman, said all arrangements have been made for a training class for a Friendly Visitors corps, which would give weekly service in nursing homes and home for the aged in the county.

Dr. Frank Roberts and Edward Eick spoke on the weekly activities of the two Fifty-Plus clubs at the Veterans administration Domiciliary and in Medford.

Mrs. Fred Rankin reported on the use of the new activity

center, which opened about a month ago. A total of 262 men and women have visited and used the center since it opened Oct. 12, she said.

Sixteen Classes
Sixteen classes in craft, oil painting, wood carving and dancing have been held, and six committee meetings of the council and Fifty Plus club have been held, she noted.

Four volunteer teachers and 10 hostesses have given 104 hours of service to the center, she added.

Tomorrow, a Christmas craft class will start under the direction of Mrs. Audrey Sims between 1 and 3 p.m. It will be held each Monday. Other classes will continue as usual, she said.

Books are being added to the library shelves daily, she noted, and are on loan for anyone who wishes them. Additional information may be obtained by telephoning the Center at SPing 2-4163.

Open House Set at Camp White Monday

Banks I. Paul, acting manager of the Veterans administration Domiciliary at Camp White, today invited valley residents to the VA's open house tomorrow to see that the Domiciliary is more than a place where veterans receive medical attention.

Paul pointed out that to most people the Domiciliary is a group of buildings where veterans are treated and where about 1,000 are housed.

Tomorrow's open house is part of the VA's nationwide observance of Veterans' Day, Nov. 11, and all VA hospitals, domiciliaries and regional offices will be open.

Guided tours are scheduled at 10 and 11 a.m. and at 2 and 3 p.m. tomorrow, he said.

Opportunity To See
"The administrator believes that veterans, their families, and their friends, should have an opportunity of seeing how the Veterans administration treats the disabled men, providing far more than just medical treatment," Paul said.

"The new concept of domiciliaries and the 'planned living program' which is designed to

resocialize and rehabilitate the veteran for return to his own community or to some other community of his choice is stressed by the Veterans administration."

Paul said employees will be available to escort visitors on the tours through much of the Domiciliary.

The tours will include a visit to the admission office, where the visitor will follow the procedure for admitting members. Also included will be visits to various supporting services for both treatment and general care of the veteran while he is a member. The supporting services include the medical laboratory, dental service, X-ray laboratory, social work service, infirmary and others.

Work of hundreds of volunteers who give thousands of hours of time annually in assisting domiciled and hospitalized veterans will be demonstrated.

"Compliments far outweigh the criticisms we get," Paul said. "Criticism would drop if veterans and their families better understood our mission and how we carry it out."

Try and Stop Me

By BENNETT CERF

A MINISTER, returning home from a sick call in the middle of the night, heard an anguished call for help from an alley, and was surprised to find a member of his own flock, sadly under the influence of many, many whiskeys and soda. "I will lead you to your door," said the minister patiently, trying hard to avoid the parishoner's breath.

The journey was negotiated with some difficulty, and the befuddled sinner then pleaded with the minister to accompany him into his house. "It's too late," demurred the minister.

"Please, reverend," beseeched the sinner. "I just want the wife to see who I've been out with tonight."

A cautious garment manufacturer was asked if he intended to invest any money in his son-in-law's new business. "Confidentially," he replied, "I'd rather trust a rabbit to deliver a head of lettuce."

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