

# Is That So?

By OLGA BURNS

If you ever catch a skate or ray while fishing at the beach, don't grab it by the tail once you've got it on the sand. In fact, don't go near the tail at all.

That may seem needless advice to some, but since there are fishermen who still do it, despite a series of dangerous examples beginning with that of Capt. John Smith, the advice can well be repeated.

Probably, if the fish were a skate, no harm would be done, but if it turned out to be a stingray, or any of various other types of rays, you would most likely be in for at least a highly unpleasant session at the hospital. What

happened to the man Pocahontas rescued is a case in point. Captain Smith saw what he thought was a good skate sunning itself in shallow water. To think with the Captain was to act, so he whisked out his sword and ran it through.

But, as they struggled ashore, the skate turned out to be a ray and let him have it right on the sword arm with its tail, sinking in its barbed spines all the way to the bone.

The pain was almost unbearable. As the day wore on, the Captain finally decided he was going to die and ordered his grave dug. During the afternoon, however, he began to get better, and by nightfall, "being a most stubborn manne, he ate the fish for supper.

It is easy enough to tell the difference between skates and rays, but the evidence is such that no one but an expert should bother looking for it while the fish is flapping madly about on the beach. The task of distinguishing them is further complicated by the fact that all skates are rays but not all rays are skates. Most non-skate rays are born free-swimming, and baby skates are hatched out of eggs that have been laid in leathery-looking cases often found lying on the beach.

**Fins Flapped**  
Skates swim by undulating their enormous pectoral fins. In other words, the edges of the fins ripple as the fish moves through the water. Rays, on the other hand, seem to flap them up and down, much as a bird moves its wings.

There are other differences, too, such as those in the mouth, gill and tail, but all of them are equally useless for identifying the creature in a moment of stress. So why make a closer examination until the fish is quite still. Since both skates and rays are good eaters—the fins of either are excellent—there is ample time for that while en route to the kitchen.

(Released by McClure Newspaper Syndicate)

Free: By special arrangement with the editors of the Encyclopedia Americana, my panel of judges will award each week to the reader who sends me 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 your letter to: Is That So? c/o Medford Mail Tribune, Box 1069, San Francisco, Calif.

## COURT RECORDS

**MUNICIPAL COURT**  
Martin Hammond Kasser, disobeyed traffic sign, \$5.  
Helen Hope Rudy, no tail lights or license plate lights, \$5.  
Jerome Walter McQuade, violation basic rule, \$10.  
Clement A. Ricketts, expired license plate, \$5.  
Marvin Grece, Ricketts, disobeyed traffic sign, \$5.  
James Martin Burt, disobeyed traffic sign, \$5.  
John Edward Ryan, operating vehicle without lights, \$2.50.  
Barbara Elizabeth Taylor, violation basic rule, \$10.  
George Washington Sconyers, disobeyed traffic sign, \$2.50.  
Perry Orris Dabbling, disobeyed traffic sign, \$5.  
Darlene M. Paulazzo, no operator's license in possession, \$10.  
William Lindsey Oliver, no operator's license in possession, \$5; disobeyed traffic sign, \$5.  
Robert Lee Walter, disobeyed traffic sign, \$5.  
Donald Ivan Penwell, disobeyed traffic sign, \$5.  
Dennis William Duggan, disobeyed traffic sign, \$5.  
Edward Shopp, violation basic rule, \$10.  
Albert Hamilton Piche, disobeyed traffic sign, \$5.  
Roy Kenneth Hendrick, disobeyed traffic sign, \$5.  
James Reese Miles, violation basic rule, \$10.  
Frances Iva Littrell, disobeyed traffic sign, \$5.  
Michael John Morrige, violation basic rule, \$10.  
Orin Alvin Boyer, disobeyed traffic sign, \$5.  
Francis Vernon Story, violation basic rule, \$10.  
Henry Arthur Becker, violation basic rule, \$10.  
Marjorie K. Mee, disobeyed traffic sign, \$5.  
James P. Lehigh, no operator's license in possession, \$10.  
Emery Donald Bell, disobeyed traffic sign, \$2.50.  
Helen Hall, violation basic rule, \$10.  
Blanch Lantz Jenkins, violation basic rule, \$10.  
Arba Jay McCullough, violation basic rule, \$10.  
Gerold Wilber Melke, excessive noise, pipes, \$10.  
Joseph Leonard Dunn, disobeyed traffic sign, \$5.  
Joseph Stallingwerf, disobeyed traffic sign, \$5.  
Kathryn Lois TerBush, disobeyed traffic sign, \$5.  
Nelson Ernest Cannon, driving on wrong side of street, \$5.  
Donald James Richey, following too close, accident, \$15.  
William Lindsey Oliver, reckless driving, \$10.  
LeRoy Elmer Talbot, disobeyed traffic sign, \$2.50.  
Howard Glen Skinner, disobeyed traffic sign, \$2.50.  
Fred Edgar Waite, improper left turn, \$5.  
Donald Ray Nelson, reckless driving, \$25.  
Frances Belle Houston, disobeyed traffic sign, \$2.50.  
Harold Glenn Aronid, violation basic rule, \$5.  
Frank Iwah Crouch, disobeyed traffic sign, \$5.  
Albert Earl Peabody, inadequate equipment, \$10; violation basic rule, \$10.  
Joseph Greenleaf Cowley, violation basic rule, \$10.  
Bernie Bell Moore, disobeyed traffic sign, \$5.  
Gerald George Matthey, disobeyed traffic sign, \$5.  
Ruth Chrystal Clark, violation basic rule, \$10.  
Jeannene Thomas, no Oregon operator's license in possession, \$5.

## New Veterinarian Gets Appointment

Salem—The appointment of Dr. Frank Lieuallen as assistant state veterinarian was announced this week by Director Robert J. Steward of the state department of agriculture. A graduate of Colorado State university, and former Pendleton resident, Dr. Lieuallen replaces Dr. Delbert Holloway, who has returned to private practice.

Assigned to the Livestock Disease Control section, Dr. Lieuallen's initial assignment will be with the brucellosis control program in Morrow county. He will be reassigned upon completion of the Morrow county coverage.

The first county east of the Cascades to be declared a modified, certified brucellosis-free area, Morrow county, which met certification standards in mid-January, 1956, requested a complete re-testing to meet the 1959 re-certification deadline.

Meidert Hobbema, the Dutch landscape painter, died in poverty and obscurity at Amsterdam in 1709.

## EARLY CHRISTMAS

Chicago—(UP)—Silas Bruce, 53, was arrested by police who found him lying by a sidewalk collection pot, dressed in a Santa Claus suit and mumbling "H'ray for Christmas."

## Nationalist China Aid To Be Boosted

Taipei—(UP)—U. S. economic aid to Nationalist China will be increased by \$10 million during the current fiscal year, the Council for United States Aid disclosed Wednesday.

The council announced that the U. S. government will give President Chiang Kai-shek's government \$70 million in economic assistance during the fiscal year which ends next June 30. This is \$10 million more than Nationalist China received in the last fiscal year.

## Astorian Guilty Of Embezzlement

Portland—(UP)—Mrs. Barbara E. Hauser, 27, Astoria, mother of three children, Wednesday pleaded guilty in Federal Court to two counts of embezzlement while employed by the Astoria Branch of the First National bank.

Federal Judge Gus J. Solomon ordered a pre-sentence investigation. The government had charged that on Feb. 7 she took \$1,100 from a savings account and on April 18 took \$200 from another savings account.

**RULES OUT INMATES**  
Springfield, Ill.—(UP)—Illinois Attorney General Latham Castle ruled Wednesday that junior colleges cannot include in their enrollment figures for state aid prison inmates who take televised courses.

## POOR HIDING PLACE

Halifax, N. C.—(UP)—Airman John V. Malloy of Seymour Johnson AFB, N. C., faced a number of motor vehicle charges today because he was careless about the hiding spot he picked. Malloy, being chased by a highway patrolman, swerved into the courtyard of a building here and parked behind the structure. It was the local highway patrol station.

Earth satellites of the future may be powered by a new chemical battery that uses a dye to convert sunlight into electricity.

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