

### Pollution of Sea Water by Sewage Not Real Problem

Berkeley, Calif. (Science Service) - Pollution of sea water with sewage may be more of an aesthetic problem than a health problem. A British physician told the First International Conference on Waste Disposal in the Marine Environment here that the general public too often tends to blame sewage-polluted sea water for any intestinal illness contracted at seaside resorts.

Dr. B. Moore of the Medical Research Council, Exeter, Devon, England, cited several instances of incorrect attribution of such illness to sea bathing. These included an outbreak of paratyphoid fever, later shown to have been caused by ice cream, and a widespread outbreak of acute non-bacterial gastroenteritis.

Results of studies on the isolation of salmonellae (a group of bacteria including the typhoid and paratyphoid bacilli), said Dr. Moore, indicate that the risk of contracting enteric fever or other salmonella infections through bathing in polluted sea water is very slight.

**Bathing Histories** Investigation of the bathing histories of children living by the seaside who contracted poliomyelitis was also described by Dr. Moore. Here, the findings strongly suggested that a history of bathing in cases of poliomyelitis is irrelevant, he said.

In another report to the Conference the disappearance of large kelp beds around major sewage outfalls in the ocean near Los Angeles and San Diego was discussed by K. A. Clendenning and W. J. North of the Institute of Marine Resources, University of California, La Jolla, Calif.

The causes of this seaweed recession are being sought in field and laboratory studies. The two scientists said, however, that the disappearance of kelp several miles from the outfalls is not caused by toxic agents. Reduced light penetration, on the other hand, seems to be a more likely cause of the detrimental effects of sewage on kelp. Increased water turbidity and greater random abundances of phytoplankton, or minute plant life, reduce light penetration to deeply immersed young kelp plants. These then die off. But the established kelp plants, having a surface canopy, are better adapted for survival in turbid water.

### Egg Producers Now Need Dealer Permits

Salem - (UPI) - The State Agriculture Department said today that less than 25 egg producers have acquired a but the egg dealer permits needed under a new law effective today.

The department notified 500 known producers and estimated that even more may need the permit.

O. K. Beals, chief of foods and dairies, said producers were required to have the permits who:

Sell to a retailer, eating house or food manufacturer. Sell to schools and institutions which serve food to patrons. Sell to dairies and peddlers who sell eggs at retail. Sell eggs not of their own flock to consumers. No producer needs a permit if he sells eggs of his own production to consumers on or off his premises, if he sells eggs to any holder of an egg dealer's permit who grades them or if he sells eggs outside the state.

### Road 'Rules' in Colorado Different

Denver - (UPI) - "The speed on country roads will be a secret, and the penalty for every mile in excess will be \$10."

This was one of the "Rules of the Road" which governed traffic in Colorado nearly a half-century ago, largely due to the activities of the Farmers' Anti-Automobile League. Other rules in 1912 included:

"Autos running on country roads at night must send up a skyrocket every 150 yards, wait eight minutes for the road ahead to clear, and then proceed with caution, blowing the horn (or ringing a bell), and shooting roman candles."

"In event the road is being used by a horse and said horse refuses to pass said horseless carriage, the driver of the auto will dismantle it as quickly as possible and hide it from view in foliage along the road."



**BLACKENING 8,000 ACRES** of valuable timberland, forest fire is being fought near Yosemite National Park in Central California. This view was made from Signal Point, three miles west of southern tip of park. Hundreds are fighting blaze.

### New Measurement to Sun Being Planned With Radio Telescope

By ANN EWING Science Service Astronomy Writer

Washington - Within two years, man will know accurately for the first time the distance to the sun. This distance, some 93,000,000 miles, must be known with much greater reliability than now before space vehicles can be sent on trips to planets with any assurance of a successful orbit or landing.

To make the most accurate determination to date of the sun's distance, a radio telescope with especially designed receiving equipment will tune in on the radio waves absorbed by neutral hydrogen in interstellar clouds.

The experiment, proposed

by astronomers at Yale university, will be made using the Naval Research Laboratory's 84-foot radio telescope located at Maryland Point Observatory, some 50 miles south of here.

**Astronomical Unit** Astronomers call the distance to the sun the astronomical unit. It establishes the basic scale of the solar system and is fundamental to space technology as well as astronomy.

The initial velocity of a rocket departing from earth must be changed from conventional units into a velocity in astronomical units per second in order to permit calculation of the gravitational orbit beyond the immediate

vicinity of the earth. Thus an exact distance for the astronomical unit is not needed for lunar probes.

This change from terrestrial to astronomical units is now in error by the same percentage amount as the error in the present value of the astronomical unit, one part in 20,000. Using the radio telescope information, astronomers expect to find the sun's distance to one part in 280,000, or an accuracy of about 300 miles in the distance between the earth and sun.

**Important Determinations** At present, the two most important determinations of the sun's distance both depend on observations of the asteroid, Eros, but use different methods. The values obtained by the two methods differ by 89,000 miles, an "alarming" amount.

The radio telescope method involves obtaining a precise measurement of the earth's speed in its orbit around the sun. Using this newly determined value and standard equations, the astronomical unit can be found directly.

The telescope's receiving equipment will record the radio waves of hydrogen atoms in clouds in the space between the stars that are absorbing the radiation emitted by so-called radio "stars" at even farther distances.

At one time during a year, the earth's orbital velocity will be directed toward the star. Six months later in the earth's journey around the sun, the earth's velocity will be directed exactly opposite.

**Interstellar Cloud** The faraway interstellar cloud of atomic hydrogen gas will have a velocity with respect to the solar system that will remain constant for both measurements. By taking the difference between the amount of the red shift in the hydrogen lines taken at six-month intervals, the cloud's effect is eliminated and a precise value for the earth's speed obtained. "When combined with the time taken for the earth to make one orbit around the sun, the sun's distance is known."

The radio telescope measurements of interstellar absorption may also give a better determination of the lunar mass in the future, Dr. Dirk Brouwer, director of the Yale University Observatory, and Dr. A. E. Lilley, also of the Observatory, reported to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration here.

NASA has allocated \$110,000 to support the research, which is also supported by grants from the Research Corporation and the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. The Naval Research Laboratory's cooperation is directed by Edward F. McClain.

### 'Little Kinsey' Hearing Expected To End Today

Los Angeles - (UPI) - The hearing of a teacher accused of unprofessional conduct for taking a "Little Kinsey" sex survey among his teenage students was expected to end today.

Cecil Cook, 38, Van Nuys High school physiology and math teacher, was ordered to return today to complete his testimony in defense of the survey.

Cook said in the fifth day of the hearing Tuesday that he held the survey among his mixed physiology students last January after another teacher had used it without incident.

Also, Cook said, his students showed a sincere interest in the subject and "I think young people should have their honest and sincere inquiries answered."

**Could Lose Credentials** Cook, suspended from his post in February after students complained of the survey, now faces loss of his teaching credentials if found guilty of California board of education charges "of unprofessional conduct involving moral turpitude."

The teacher said he believed the survey in which students anonymously answered in writing intimate sex questions would help the teen-agers in setting their moral standards.

"I will fight to the bitter end to prove my good intentions," Cook said. "If you put off answering young people's sincere questions they soon will not look to you for the answers," he said.

**Assigned Sex Studies** He said students asked him what was "normal between married couples," and he responded by assigning a term paper on mental and physical effects of abnormal sexual behavior. Student were told to consult their parents, religious leaders and library on the matter.

The assignment of the term papers drew fire in the hearing from at least one co-ed and her parents.

Cook said the discussion of abnormal sex problems in class was a success and that after the session some students went to him and said, "that was wonderful and it really helped me."

Cook's wife, Carole, testified in the hearing conducted by the Department of Vocational and Professional Standards that should Cook lose his license to teach in California he would be welcomed to return to a former teaching post in Snowflake, Ariz. She said the job offer came Monday night, from H. A. Hendrickson, superintendent of schools in Snowflake.

### Robert Mitchum Tangles With Judo

Dublin - (UPI) - Hollywood he-man Robert Mitchum tangled with a gimp little Irishman in a bar here Monday night and wound up nursing a cut eye and a fat lip, it was reported today.

The Irishman turned out to be a judo expert. He limped up to the actor in a Dublin pub and asked him to sign his wife's autograph book. Mitchum complied by scrawling an unprintable message in the book.

When the Irishman complained, the actor dumped his drink over the Irishman's head, exclaiming "Peace, peace... that's all I want."

The Irishman expressed a few outspoken opinions about Mitchum's manners and probable ancestry, and the strapping actor charged head down like a bull. A skillfully applied judo hold sent him flying, and the Irishman - nobody got his name - limped quietly off into the night.

"Bob is inclined to chalk it all up to experience," a spokesman said today.

**OUTSIDE JOB** Portland, Maine - (UPI) - "Start your gasoline-powered lawn mower when you are out on the lawn," is the advice of Fire Chief Carl P. Johnson. Johnson said that two fires in Maine's largest city within three months were caused by explosions from power lawn mowers which had been started up inside buildings.

### Radiation Safety Rules Formed To Prevent Rare Occurrences

By DR. MARSHALL BRUCER United Press International

Oak Ridge, Tenn. - (UPI) - At Oak Ridge, radiation safety rules are so strict that if the same rules were applied to the speed of automobiles, no scientist would be allowed to drive faster than one-hundredth of a mile per hour.

The precautions at all atomic energy plants are designed to prevent such rare simultaneous occurrences as those which caused injury to the eight men here.

Human error is expected and automatic machinery corrects it, but human error did not cause the accident at Oak Ridge.

The chain of events that led to the accident at Y-12 (the name of the plant where the accidental nuclear reaction occurred) was so long, so involved and so impossible that not even the most conservative safety inspector could anticipate it.

**Murphy's Law** All engineers know Murphy's fifth law: If an accident is impossible, it will eventually happen. We have learned that this law is still in effect.

The accident was short in duration. Considerable medical observation awaited these men although, except for an expected change in blood counts, they seemed normally healthy.

The accident was immediately hailed journalistically, administratively, and medically as atomic energy's biggest accident.

It wasn't, but the Y-12 accident was unique in that it was clean, sudden, and could be repeated as a controlled experiment. Therefore, we can learn important basic lessons.

The phrase "dangerous accident" must be defined. Radiation is dangerous - but so are automobiles; so is aspirin, so is just plain everyday living.

Every day in Oak Ridge some secretary cuts her finger on a piece of paper or a physicist stumbles over a janitor's mop. These could be "dangerous accidents." That is why there are "emergency rooms" in hospitals.

Oak Ridge has enough radiation, if used improperly, to kill many people. Scientists in Oak Ridge own enough automobiles, if used improperly, to kill many people.

But it is more difficult to kill people with radiation than with automobiles - even in Oak Ridge.

Most radiation in Oak Ridge is not dangerous. The atomic energy industry is still one of the safest places to work. All our radiation safety is built around routine, cumulative exposures that few but

the experts will hear about. To protect ourselves we bend backwards, so far backwards that we should be more concerned with overemphasis of radiation danger than with underemphasis of radiation hazard.

All of us are born into and will eventually die in a radiative world. We can't escape natural radiation. Since we have thrived as a biological species in this radiation, it might be good - or at least not bad.

Fallout radiation from atom bomb testing is of the same order of magnitude as natural radiation. It is a tiny addition to our natural environment.

Accidental exposures are different. They involve billionfold increases over the natural amount.

It is not surprising that we have accidents, but it is surprising that we have so few.

If a small fraction of the effort put into radiation protection were put into general accident protection, emergency rooms in hospitals would be deserted.

### Activity Slowdown Puts on Weight

Chicago - (UPI) - A University of Pittsburgh doctor has given some support to people who say they don't eat any more than usual but still gain weight.

Dr. Robert E. Olson blames the weight gain on a subtle slow-down in physical activity. He said the middle-aged male and female unconsciously figure out ways to save steps and avoid physical exertion and that's what adds to their weight.

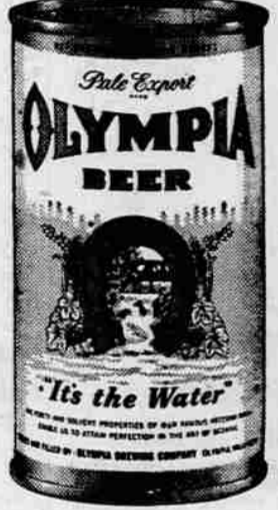
The "Lord's Prayer Rock" stands near Bristol, Vt. It was inscribed in 1891 as a hint to profane teamsters urging their horses up a nearby hill.

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### Grants Pass Woman To Be Committed

Grants Pass - (UPI) - Circuit Judge James M. Main ruled today that Frances Irene McCurdy, 49, is to be re-committed to the Oregon State hospital in Salem.

The judge ruled she was unable to aid in her own defense of a first degree murder charge against her in connection with the slayings of her son and daughter in a local motel in 1948.

Judge Main's action was based on unanimous agreement of three psychiatrists. Mrs. McCurdy was arrested in Portland two days after the bodies of her children, Pamela, 11, and Paul, 9, were found in the motel. She was sent to the state hospital in November of 1948 and was released this year.

### Oregon City Man Dies Of Alcoholic Poison

Honolulu - (UPI) - The Navy disclosed Tuesday that Engineer 3/C Russell Dahl, 32, of Oregon City, Ore., died from acute alcoholic poisoning Monday.

Dahl was stricken aboard the Destroyer USS Sturdevant in Pearl Harbor. The Navy launched an investigation into his death. His survivors include his widow Rachel, of Oregon City.

**CANNONEBALL SPORT** Busksport, Me. - (UPI) - Skindiving members of the Blue Continent Explorers' club have a new sport: hunting for cannonballs buried in the mud of Penobscot river off historic Fort Knox here.

### Sentence Imposition Suspended by Court

Suspension for a year of a jail sentence or a fine was made by District Court Judge Roy Bashaw Monday against Jewell David Kirklun, Grants Pass. Kirklun had pleaded guilty to a charge of assault and battery.

He was fined \$5 court costs but the imposition of further punishment was suspended on condition that he refrain from doing anything to disturb the peace and that he refrain from seeing the plaintiff, Betty Louise Kirklun, his sister-in-law, for a stipulated length of time.

Notre Dame de Bonsecours, the oldest church in Montreal, dates from 1657.

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