

State Recreation Director Impressed With Local Program

"Medford has a worthwhile and ambitious recreation program and I am quite impressed with the plans for the new swimming pool."

This statement was made by Clayton Anderson, director of the recreation division of the state highway department.

Anderson was in Medford last week end to attend the Southern Oregon Conference on Aging, and while here he looked over Medford's parks and recreation program with Director Robert Haworth.

It will be Anderson's responsibility to get the state's recreation program started, for it has been in operation only two weeks, and he has the dubious honor of being its first director and only employee.

Creates Division
The 1959 legislature created the division for three purposes. The first is to advise and consult those communities and counties that have no recreation program.

Anderson said the second purpose is to advise and consult those communities which have established programs, but with specific problems they desire help in solving.

The third purpose, he said, is to raise the professional standards of people in the field of recreation and keep interested persons notified of recent developments in recreation.

He emphasized the fact that recreation is still a community responsibility and the state will provide only advice and information to interested communities, not financial assistance.

Reason in Division

Anderson said some people might wonder why the recreation division is under the state highway department. He explained that when the original coast highways in Oregon were constructed, the state gave the highway department jurisdiction over the beaches and other coastline which eventually grew into the nucleus of the extensive state park system.

Since parks and recreation must be closely coordinated in any recreation program, that is why the division is under the highway department.

Although Medford is one of the first cities to be visited by Anderson, he said he could tell that the awareness of the mayor and city manager of Medford to the problems in the parks and recreation field is contributing to a successful program here.

Anderson praised the ability of city parks and recreation director, and said Haworth has done a great deal in making Medford's relatively recent parks and recreation program a success.



Small Worlds Around Us

By Lynn M. Watkins

The Star-Fish Has Too Much of Everything

Equipped by nature with five or more "arms" and several hundred "legs," it's no wonder the star-fish makes a nuisance of itself. Along the bottom of nearly all the world's oceans, the tiny tubefoot of the star-fish propels its owner in a constant search for food.

To see the "feet" of this marine creature you must turn it over. There they are, arranged in rows along the underside of the radiant "arms." When they move these "arms and feet," they move in unison.

On the end of each "arm" is a tiny, red spot, seemingly the creature's eyes. The mouth is also underneath, at the junction of the five or more arms. There are several hundred species, pretty well distributed over the earth's oceans, reaching from shallow water near the shore to depths of many hundreds of feet. Underwater pictures taken at great depths show the star-fish is there too; right at home.

Marine Oddities
The star-fish seems to have more lives than the proverbial cat. These marine oddities can regenerate other parts of themselves. The eggs are laid in the early spring and hatch into tiny transparent larvae that swim for a short time before assuming the characteristic star-fish shape and sinking to the bottom.

But having many "arms" and "feet" is not the only accomplishment of these unusual animals. They even enjoy the convenience of having a retractable or reversible stomach. This unusual function comes in handy. When the occasion demands, he can turn the stomach inside out and it works equally well in this position. He may do this when he encounters food in the shape of an oyster.

The star-fish crawls up on the mollusk and clasps it with many arms, in much the same manner a human hand would grip a book. In this position and with its mouth opposite, the two shell edges of the oyster, it begins a steady and relentless pull. The star-fish is in no hurry, so it continues to pull with a steady pressure which may continue for some time or until the muscle of the oyster tires and the two valves open. As the shells open the star-fish projects its stomach into the soft body of the oyster. After the juice has been extracted, the star-fish is said to retract the stomach and go in search of other oysters.

It's easily understandable that even the name "star-fish" is contrary to unusual creatures, for it is not a fish at all but belongs to the order of "radiate animals." The "rays" or "arms" are covered with a skeleton of many loosely connected pieces of rough, limy shell. The "tube-like" feet are actually moved by varying water pressure within

the body, under control of the nervous system. The star-fish reacts rapidly to vibration or even a shadow falling across the water above, causing the animal to "freeze" and remain still until the danger is past.

Turned over on the back by a wave or a foot of some curious beach-walker, the star-fish will wave its arms frantically until it regains a normal position or dies in the sun. Nature favored the star-fish with many perplexing capabilities. This lowly creature does not deserve all the functions, achievements and vigor with which it has been endowed. It has too much of everything.

(Released by The Register and Tribune Syndicate, 1959)

Fashion-Page Flash



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by Marian Martin

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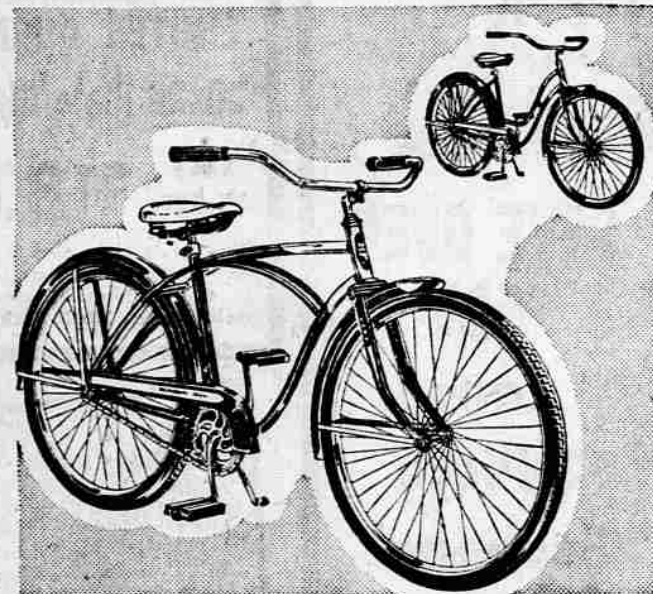
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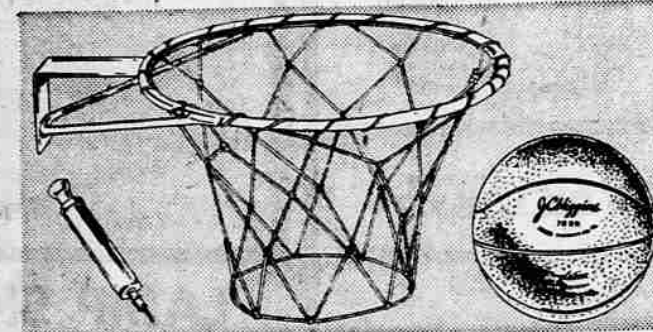
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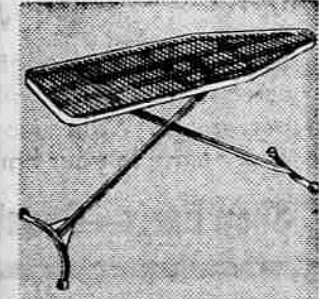


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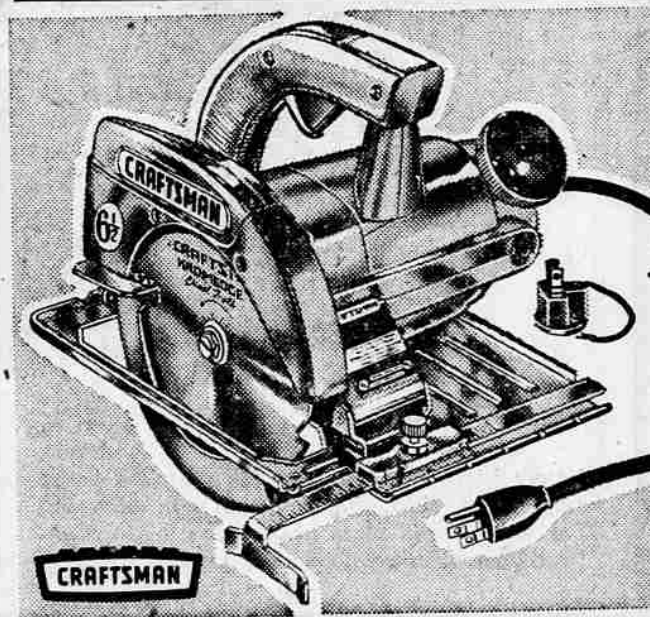
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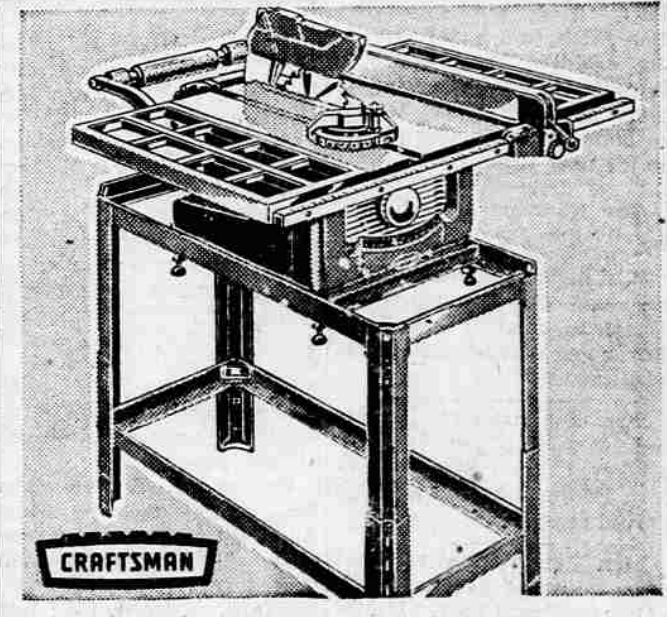


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