

# Open-Boat Whaling Industry, Disappearing From Seas, May Depend on Adventure Writers

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By  
**COLETTE BLACKMOORE**  
United Nations, N.Y.—(AP)—  
What probably is the most dangerous peacetime occupation—open-boat whaling in the Moby Dick style—practically has disappeared from the seven seas.

Soon it may depend for its survival entirely on the fertile imaginations of adventure story writers and movie makers.

This rather sad reflection on the growing security of modern life came from Dr. Robert Clarke, an Englishman who has tried his hand at open-boat whaling both in the movie studios and outside.

He stopped by at United Nations headquarters early this week on his way from Europe back to South America where he is now advising the governments of Chile, Peru and Ecuador, under the expanded technical assistance program, on how to develop their whaling industries.

Dr. Clarke was the technical adviser for the filming of Herman Melville's classic whaling epic, Moby Dick. He told a group of U.N. newsmen, to whom whaling was a pleasant interlude from discussion of the South African riots, how the scenes of Ahab's encounter with the white whale were skillfully shot in specially constructed ponds in London.

Moby Dick was constructed in three gigantic parts, Clarke explained, with a very realistic head just as Herman Melville described it. The only thing omitted from the movie model was Moby Dick's crooked jaw. "We didn't put one in because people might think it was a very badly constructed whale," Clarke said.

In real life, sperm whales with deformed, twisted lower jaws sometimes are encountered.

But do white whales really exist? Dr. Clarke has never seen one, and he has no hard evidence that anyone else has. The closest color to white is found in old sperm whales which get more gray-headed the older they become.

Dr. Clarke said he supposed that "in peacetime there is no more dangerous occupation than open-boat whaling."

The only part of the world where it is still practiced is in the Azores and around Madeira Island, off the coast of

Portugal. There whales are harpooned, chased, and lanced to death much as they were in the 19th Century and

the open boats, Clarke said, "are smashed time and again." One of the few precautions is that now, according to Por-

tuguese whaling regulations men must be able to swim before they are allowed out in the boats.

Dr. Clarke has eaten a lot of whale meat in his life and he described it as "very good indeed."

Dr. Clarke, who said he "always wanted to go and see whales" since he was a small boy, has already spent two

years helping Chile and Peru put their whaling industry on a scientific basis. Together these countries

catch about 5,000 whales annually; Ecuador, which had no whaling industry, now wants to join the chase.

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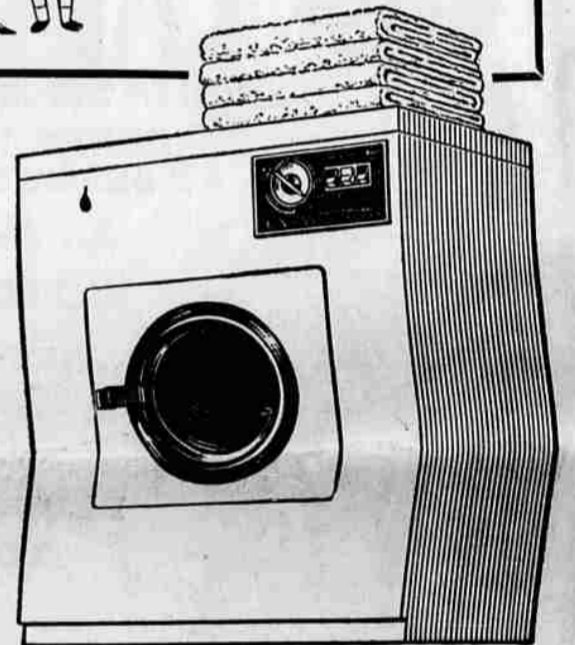
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## Census Taker Gets Into Wrong House

El Paso, Tex.—Mrs. James E. Hammond, a census taker, was about to leave when nobody at the two-story frame house answered her knock.

As she turned to walk away, a man hurried out. "Can I help you?" he asked. "I was just going to ask how many rooms you have," Mrs. Hammond said.

"Oh, we have plenty," he said, and put a fatherly arm about her shoulder. "Now don't you worry about a thing. You come right in."

He led her inside and introduced her to another woman.

"Hello, there," the other woman said. "What can we do to help you?"

"I'm with the census bureau," Mrs. Hammond said. The woman looked shocked.

"Oh, we misunderstood," she said. "This is the Salvation Army home for unwed mothers."

## Neighbor May Aid In Census Count

Washington—(AP)—Memo to working people: "A good neighbor" can help to get you counted in the 1960 census.

Lots of working people just cannot be at home when the census taker rings the bell. This is true not only for city "live alones" but also for suburban families where the wife works and the children are at school.

If no one is home during the day, one way to make sure you will be included in the current nationwide population count is to leave your advance report form with a neighbor. The neighbor can give it to the census taker for you.

If the census taker doesn't get your form from someone else and finds no one at home, he probably will either:

—Leave a note saying when he will be back, so you or another member of your household can be there.

—Ask you to phone or write telling him when someone will be home.

## France Orders 50 Supersonic Bombers

Paris—(AP)—France has ordered construction of 50 supersonic bombers to transport French nuclear bombs, now being developed, the government has announced.

The Mirage IV bombers, designed by the French Dassault Co., will fly at twice the speed of sound. Delivery was scheduled to start in three years.



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