



SHERMAN B. LOWE
Dinner Speaker

Lions Director To Visit Medford Saturday Evening

Sherman B. Lowe, Salt Lake City, Utah, Lions International director, will speak at the 35th anniversary dinner party of the Medford Lions club Saturday, April 30, at the Rogue Valley Country club.

Lowe was elected to the board of directors of Lions International at the annual convention in New York, July 3, 1959. He has served his own club as secretary and president and his district as zone chairman, deputy governor and governor. He is vice-chairman of the executive council of the board of governors and secretary-president of the International Councilors Organization of Utah.

A graduate of Idaho State college, Lowe is the administrative assistant to the governor of Utah, vice president of the Benneville Life Insurance company and senior partner of Lowe Drug company. He is also treasurer of the Utah State Pharmaceutical association.

Other Lion officials to be here for the meeting will be A. Verne Hawn, past international director, Eugene; Lee Murphy, state president, Junction City; and Forrest Losee, international counselor, Roseburg.

Lion officials from Medford planning to attend include Leonard J. Knox, Dr. Lee Mellish, and Eaton B. Humphrey, international counselors; Larry Neely, past international director; and Dave Irving, district governor.

Herbert E. Seltz, chairman of the event, is arranging for more than 200 members and guests. The Lady Lions auxiliary will have charge of table decorations. Elliott Becken will be master of ceremonies for the program.

Relying on Radiation Level Seen Dangerous by Committee

Portland — Even if everything were known about radiation and its effect on biology, it could be dangerous for Americans to rely completely on the so-called "maximum permissible exposure" levels now being developed by federal health and atomic energy experts.

That's the opinion of some members of the new Oregon radiation "watchdog" committee recently assigned the task of developing recommendations for a comprehensive

prevention and control program by Dr. Richard H. Wilcox, state health officer.

They point out that radiation standards are designed for the population as a whole, and are based on exposures which might be experienced by industrial workers over a 70-year lifetime.

Like Speed Limits
In addition, they say, maximum permissible levels are something like highway speed limits. If the posted speed is 70 miles an hour, it doesn't

mean any given person is absolutely safe at 65 miles or necessarily will be killed if the speedometer creeps up to 75.

In any event, the highest known radiation reading in Oregon so far has been only a fraction of any of these maximum permissible levels, or even of "threshold levels," which are other standards designated to indicate the approximate point at which radiation might begin to endanger human health.

But because so much is still unknown about radiation and its effect on humans, the Oregon committee wants to begin collecting data now which will permit health experts in future years to chart precisely what the trends have been and what dangers, if any, may confront residents of this state.

The Oregon work will parallel a brand new radiation study project announced last month by the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare. Main features of the federal program, which will be conducted by the Division of Radiological Health of the U.S. Public Health Service, include:

1. Monthly publication of radiation data collected by the federal government, state health departments, and other sources;
2. Opening of two new Public Health Service radiation laboratories at Las Vegas, Nevada, and Montgomery, Alabama. A third laboratory, for special research work on x-ray exposures, is scheduled for completion by late summer in Rockville, Maryland;
3. Expansion of the milk sampling network from the present 12 to 60 stations;
4. A substantial increase in the numbers of persons from federal, state and local agencies and industrial concerns being trained for work in radiological health at the Robert A. Taft Sanitary Engineering Center in Cincinnati. During the past six months enrollment has totaled 337, compared with 386 for the full year of 1959.

Increase in Research
5. A substantial increase in the amount of research being undertaken at the Service's National Institutes of Health and through grants-in-aid. The total for fiscal 1960 is approximately \$5,500,000 compared with about \$2,000,000 with about \$2,000,000 for last year;

6. Completion of plans for the establishment of a radiological unit in the Food and Drug Administration to conduct research in measurement techniques and methods of decontamination of foods, drugs, and cosmetics. The Food and Drug Administration laboratory which will form the nucleus of the new unit has already been equipped for the identification of specific radioisotopes;

7. Completion of plans for equipping selected Food and Drug Administration field laboratories for identification of specific radioisotopes. This will make possible an expansion of the Food and Drug Administration's continuing program of monitoring foods to detect and evaluate any increases in radioactivity content of foods due to fallout;

points out, already are being used for diagnosis and treatment by Oregon physicians and hospitals. The compounds also are serving industry.

Nuclear Vessels to Call
It is only a matter of time until nuclear-powered vessels will be calling at Oregon ports, and nuclear power plants will be located on Oregon rivers.

Before that happens, Oregon health authorities want to know what the normal radiation levels are for food, water, air, and everything else people use in their everyday lives.

They don't maintain there is absolutely no risk today. Any "expert" who flatly discounts all danger is speaking before the facts have been collected, they contend. As one Oregon committee member put it: "If you're going to use atom bombs, you have to assume a certain risk."

But their considered opinion is that the risk so far is still extremely small — far lower than most other health problems — and there is abso-

lutely no reason for anyone to become alarmed. By the time radiation is in widespread use — and the potential danger is large — they plan to be ready with adequate prevention and control procedures.



BOOKS RECEIVED—Part of a \$3,000 gift of books from the Oregon state library was received last week by the Public Library of Medford and Jackson county, which will be distributed to county branch libraries. The books, valued at about \$1,400, include five sets of the Encyclopedia Americana, five Webster's unabridged dictionaries and an

assortment of science and non-fiction children's books. The new books are part of the library's current effort to up-grade service to the people of Jackson county, according to Librarian Omar Bacon. Sorting the books, above, is Library Cataloger Mrs. Thayer Tarvine.

Official Plays Down Value Of Military Bases on Moon

Washington — The defense department's research chief says a Soviet military base on the moon would be less of a threat to this country than missile-launching sites in Siberia and Red submarines in the Atlantic or Pacific.

The official, Dr. Herbert F. York, told the American Society of Newspaper Editors the main reason for Russia or the United States wanting to send a man to the moon or to other planets is "just to find out what's there."

"If there is life on Mars,

however, elementary, and sober people think there's a 50-50 chance there is, being able to analyze it would lead to an enormous advance in all of the sciences concerned with life on earth," he said.

York said it is "conceivable" that ways may be found to launch H-bombs from space, but he said "it is not very likely" soon.

Slow Rockets
"I see no practical military use for a base on the moon," York said. "Rockets fired from the moon would take a long time to get here, and reconnaissance observations made from there wouldn't be nearly as good as you could make from an artificial satellite nearer the earth."

York said the primary military applications of space flight would be to use orbiting satellites for reconnaissance, communications relay, navigation aid and weather forecasting.

In reply to questions, York said the \$1.3 billion being spent on U.S. space projects in fiscal 1961 is "about right" and any more money would be wasted. But he said that if expenditures had been doubled several years ago, the United States would not be "behind" Russia in the space race now.

York said this country lags "mainly in the matter of big rocket engines." He said that in sophistication of instruments and payloads "we've done more than they have."

The Pentagon official outlined current projects for development of big U.S. rocket engines and said "it won't be too long — although it will still be some years yet — before we are ahead in this business."

In reply to another question, he said that space travel beyond the solar system is a very remote prospect and would require "much different propulsion systems" than are now in use.

With present chemical rockets, he said, "it would take a space vehicle 500 years to pass the outer most planet of our solar system."

Acting President Of University Named
Portland — Dr. William C. Jones, dean of administration at the University of Oregon, has been appointed as acting president of the University effective June 20.

Dr. Jones will serve as president of the Eugene school until a permanent successor is named to Dr. O. Meredith Wilson who is leaving to become head of the University of Minnesota.

sonar of a highly developed variety, many times more efficient than man the imitator has ever accomplished. (Released by The Register and Tribune Syndicate, 1960)



Small Worlds Around Us

By Lynn M. Watkins

Porpoises Must Have Highly Developed Sonar

There was not even the faint glimmer of starshine; the night was dark as the inside of a pocket. The only way we on the bridge knew there was black water below us, or even that we were on a bridge, was the faint gurgle of the incoming tide as it whispered round the bridge supports.

We knew, from previous daytime observations, that there were many wood pilings that supported the bridge. We knew, too, these pilings were but a few feet apart; in fact they were almost a fence they were so numerous. Yet, in and among this maze of obstructions a group of large animals were playing.

By their grunts, squeals and deep drawn sighs we could picture the school of bottlenose porpoises that were swimming swiftly back and forth under the bridge. We could hear them plainly as they left the bridge vicinity and cruised up the inlet a short distance, and then returned to dash under the bridge. We could also know by the sounds in the water that some of the mammals were traveling at a high rate of speed.

The Secret
They were playing—some even feeding—in the dark night, in the even blacker water. The game went on for nearly an hour, and never once did a sleek body run in, to, or even come close, to any of the underpinnings. The porpoise cannot see in the dark, any more than can any other animal. Neither were these creatures trusting to blind luck. Their secret, of course, has been possessed by the porpoise and his kind since the very beginning. Its ability to maneuver safely in dark waters never was understood or had a name until recently. Now of course it has — it is called sonar.

The presence and definite location of an underwater obstruction by measuring the direction and return time of a sound echo, is essential information to the crew of a submarine. By it the crew knows when obstructions, or even objects too small to be obstructions, are close and can therefore be avoided or detected. It's equally important, too, to an animal that must live in the sea and move fast in light or darkness; otherwise there would be collisions.

Must Have Sonar
Without doubt the porpoise, adjusted perfectly to its environment and to the advantages and hazards of an underwater existence, would have to be equipped by Nature with a highly developed sonar apparatus whereby a high-pitched squeal or squeak, emitted constantly while the animal is in motion, strikes a solid object, bounces back like an echo, and alerts the animal in plenty of time to avoid the obstruction.

To prove what seemed obvious by the observations on bridge on a dark and stormy night, we blindfolded a porpoise and liberated it in a large tank in which several obstructions of various sizes were installed. Without a second's hesitation, the animal cruised at full speed in and between the objects with never a collision or even a near-miss. Other porpoises, under similar conditions, reacted the same way. This seemingly must be a



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