



READY FOR PRISON—A Joliet, Ill., prison barber uses electric clippers to shave the head of Chester (Rocky) Weger, 23, as the convicted slayer begins to serve a life sentence for the murder of one of three Riverside, Ill., women. Weger will be eligible for parole in 20 years. (UPI Telephoto)



Irrigation Water Outlook Better

Portland — (UPI) — Oregon's 1961 irrigation water supply outlook is reported improved because of greater-than-average snowpack increases in most portions of the state.

The Soil Conservation Service said forecasts of expected stream-flow in the April-to-September irrigation season had been raised 5 to 20 per cent.

It said the outlook was now "fair" to near "average" except for the following areas where "short" water supplies are apt to hold the outlook to "fair" only: Crooked River-Ochoco, Lost River-Gerber, Drew Creek-Lakeview, Silvies and Silver in Harney Basin, Malheur River and Owyhee.

Water supply forecast meetings are scheduled Thursday in La Grande and Bend, Friday in Canyon City and Klamath Falls, Saturday at Burns and Monday at Medford.

Earthquake Felt Off California

Berkeley, Calif. — (UPI) — A fairly strong earthquake, apparently centered in the Pacific Ocean off the northern California coast, was recorded Wednesday night on the seismograph at the University of California.

Seismologist Don Tocher said the tremor occurred 225 miles northwest of Berkeley. It hit at 8:05 p.m. (PST) with a Richter magnitude of 5.

Project Mohole Attempts To Unlock Earth's Secrets

Washington — (Science Service) — U. S. scientists are now deep in a large-scale drilling project designed to unlock the secrets of the earth.

Drilling a 560-foot deep bite out of the ocean floor more than two miles beneath the wind-swept surface is a major feat in itself. However, the tests off the Mexican coast are only a prelude to poking a hole through the earth's outer skin into its unknown interior. Dubbed Project Mohole, the hole would yield material now unobtainable containing information about the earth's history and inner structure.

Ultimate goal of scientists is to bring to the surface a sample of the earth's mantle, a dense plastic-like material underneath the earth's crust. For the first time scientists would then have evidence to shatter or confirm some of the present theories of the earth's interior. All that is now known is by indirect evidence.

Dividing Line

Seismic waves have told scientists there is an irregular dividing line separating the earth's crust from the underlying mantle, which is known as the Mohorovicic discontinuity, or Moho. It was named after the Yugoslav scientist who discovered that earthquake waves suddenly increase in velocity when they pass through this boundary.

Below the 1,800-mile thick mantle, the earthquake waves reach the earth's core. The core is supposedly composed of iron and nickel.

The earth's crust is a thin, slag-like veneer of light granitic rocks averaging ten miles in thickness. Scientists believe the crust, with its jagged peaks and valleys, "floats" over deeper plastic material. The Mohole cannot be drilled on land, because the weight of the continents has pushed the mantle to a depth averaging 20 miles, very difficult to drill. Scientists have a good chance of reaching the mantle underneath the buoyant oceans where the crust averages only five miles in thickness.

The world's deepest hole was 25,340 feet below the surface, or nearly five miles, barely denting the earth's crust that shields the hidden mantle.

Information from the Mohole would solve such problems as whether the magnetic poles have wandered throughout geologic history or whether the planet is becoming hotter or cooler. Geophysicists

will be able to estimate the density of earth's material all the way to the earth's center from samples of rock taken deep in the crust. And the age of the earth's crust and mantle will no longer be in doubt.

Although the actual drilling of the Mohole to pierce the mantle, is still a few years off, preliminary test drilling now underway will yield a

wealth of scientific information. Already, drills have gone through the ocean sediments called the "most fabulous history book of all time."

Core samples taken from the ocean's bottom ooze and layers may reveal an uninterrupted record of the earth's development for two billion years.

Somewhere, buried under tons of sediment, is the earth's original face, dotted by a layer of ancient meteorites that

fell from the heavens many eons ago. Whether or not the Americans beat the Russians in the race to earth's inner space is a moot question. Although the Russians claim they now have the necessary equipment to reach the mantle, U. S. scientists do not know whether the attempt is being tried, because the Russians are not talking.

However, U. S. scientists are not waiting for an answer but will soon start another test hole, even deeper, through the ocean bottom sediments.

MEDFORD TRIBUNE

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Early Smoke Filled Room Stands Intact

Mentor, Ohio — (UPI) — One of the earliest smoke filled rooms in American political history stands intact in this small town, 23 miles east of Cleveland.

A one-room farmer's cottage was the national headquarters of the Republican party 80 years ago. It was the campaign office of James A. Garfield, elected 20th President, and it was only a few steps from the porch from which he made his speeches. GOP bigwigs crowded into the single room headquarters on the night Garfield was elected.

FISH GETTING ULCERS

Fishy Facts Brought Out During Hearing by House Subcommittee

By DICK WEST

Washington — (UPI) — If you've been looking for someone to fill you in on the latest developments in the ichthyological world, I'm your man.

I can tell you, for instance, that studies being carried out under the auspices of the Interior Department have determined that certain fish have ulcers.

I also can inform you that experiments in the artificial cultivation of bivalves have been so successful that they may lead to the creation of commercial "oyster farms."

And, if you still thirst for information, you might be interested in knowing that one of the problems of underwater warfare is how to find submarines that are hiding behind schools of fish.

These are a few of the fishy facts that hooked my attention as I was reading the testimony taken by a House appropriations subcommittee at hearings on the new Interior Department budget.

Talk About Seafood

The Interior Department has jurisdiction over just about everything that flies, swims or crawls, and there was, consequently, a lot of conversation about seafood.

One of the more fascinating programs the department is sponsoring, at a cost of \$527,000 during the next fiscal year, was described as "research on fish migration over dams."

I'll admit that doesn't sound very fascinating. But when I tell you that it involves building elevators for salmon, perhaps you will find it so.

Half of the research is directed at finding some way to

build big dams in the Pacific Northwest without interfering with the right of a salmon to swim upstream to spawn.

The other half is directed at finding ways for the baby salmon born upstream to get downstream to the ocean without bumping into a dam or getting lost in a reservoir.

Conducts Tests

The Bureau of Commercial Fisheries has been testing all sorts of elaborate equipment, such as "fish ladders" and locks, or elevators, that might enable salmon to surmount high dams.

In the experiments, "salmon ascended a fishway equivalent to a mile in height without evidence of fatigue," Donald L. McKernan, the bureau director, told the subcommittee.

But, he said, in actual practice "the highest dam we have successfully put fish up over and back down is about a hundred feet."

A Long Way To Go

Since one of the dams proposed for that area would be 700 feet high, you can see that the bureau has a long way to go.

As for the baby salmon, Mc-

Kernan said one of the most promising methods of guiding them safely past dams "is through the use of electric screens which divert them into bypasses."

Although the two subjects were not connected in the testimony, it occurred to me that problems like this may be one of the reasons that fish are getting ulcers.



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