

TREE SKIER—Monroe Scurock, a member of the First Naches Ski Club of Beaumont, Tex., almost wound up as history's first tree skier when his kite was caught by an ill wind during an exhibition at Opelousas, La. Scurock managed to avoid the trees but wound up rather ingloriously anyway. In the bottom picture the splash is Scurock, (UPI Telephoto)

Italy's Auto Industry Continues To Boom Due To Price and Tax Cuts

Rome - UPI - The miracle inside the Italian miracle is taking place. At a time when auto industries in many countries of the world are in a state of crisis, Italy's assembly lines are grinding out cars at a record rate. And they are selling briskly.

Like all man-made miracles, the automobile boom had a price. It was paid partly by oil men and partly by the state, and everyone agreed that it was worth paying. What made the continued rise in production possible was a series of cuts in the prices of cars and of gasoline which raised domestic demand for automobiles to an unprecedented level and more than offset a 3.43 per cent fall in exports.

The cuts in the car prices, ranging up to 11 per cent for some makes, were started by Italian companies early last year. Foreign companies followed suit by cutting their prices on the Italian market by similar amounts.

The cost of gasoline price reductions was borne partly by the oil industry - with the state oil monopoly ENI leading the way and the big foreign companies following reluctantly in step - and partly by the state through reductions in gasoline taxes.

The successive cuts lowered the price of gasoline to 96 lire (15.36 cents) a liter (1.056 quarts) for regular and 106 lire (16.96 cents) for high test gasoline, compared to 142 and 152 lire (22.72 and 24.32 cents) at the time of the Suez crisis in 1958.

The price still is high by international standards because of the heavy tax load still left after the cuts. But the successive reductions, coupled with the lower prices of cars, acted as a powerful stimulant for domestic demand.

Overall production of motor vehicles in the first 11 months of 1960 reached a new record of 600,643, a spectacular increase of 32.72 per cent over the 452,586 produced in the same period of 1959.

Sales rose even more briskly than production. New vehicles registered in the first 11 months of 1960, including motorcycles which are not counted in the production statistics, totaled 731,182, an increase of 50.3 per cent over the 473,833 registered in the same period of 1959.

Passenger cars made up the bulk of the new registrations, with a total of 354,988. Motor-

Automobile demand kept steel and rubber production high and stimulated various branches of engineering and of the chemical industry. The growing number of cars is directly responsible for the government's current big super highway construction program which is expected to provide work for thousands and give the country's economy a faster pace through better communications. The auto boom may not be eternal - in fact, it is bound to settle down once all those who can afford a car at the new prices will have bought one - but its effects will be beneficial and lasting.

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MEDFORD TRIBUNE

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Pan American Day Could Mark Milestone in Latin Relations

Washington - UPI - Pan American Day, April 14, may become a milestone in the evolution of inter-American relations, with potential significance to the entire world. The American republics now are deeply involved in every phase of world affairs. President Kennedy has accepted the invitation of Jose A. Mora, secretary of the Organization of American States (OAS), to address the OAS

Council at its annual observance of Pan American Day. Prospects of a major speech were indicated in the President's reply to Dr. Mora. He said in part: "You may be fully assured that I fully share your conviction that the Organization of American States has a vital role to play in assisting the peoples of this hemisphere to realize their just aspirations for progress with freedom."

The implication was that the President will make a major effort to revitalize President Franklin D. Roosevelt's "Good Neighbor" policy, first pronounced at the 1933 Pan American Day celebration here.

\$1 Church Organ Turns Out To Be A Costly Bargain

Topeka, Kan. - UPI - Bob Wilcox is the type of shopper who can't pass up a bargain, even a \$2,500 pipe church organ selling for only \$1.

That's the deal Wilcox made when he stopped by the Grace Episcopal Cathedral here last summer for a white elephant sale. He left the sale \$1 poorer, but the owner of the church's organ.

But since that time, the bespectacled Topeka salesman has been beset by a number of unexpected complications and expenses—none of them at bargain levels.

First of all, he had to hire four moving vans just to transport all the pipes, the one-ton blower and the three-keyboard console of the disassembled organ to his two-story garage-barn.

Then he discovered the garage wasn't built to hold the weight of the massive musical instrument. So he spent, more than \$2,000 on renovation, constructing new footings, installing reinforcement and structural beams for the second floor, and putting in acoustical wallboard.

After the renovation was completed, he used a block and tackle to hoist the console unit to the second floor of the garage, where the organ will be played.

But, even now, Wilcox is a long way from being able to pump up his organ for a neighborhood recital.

The pipes, ranging from the size of a pencil to the size of a 23-foot cannon barrel, are scattered throughout the garage. The pipes were marked by the manufacturer in order of placement, but Wilcox admits he's still puzzled how to put them together.

"It's kind of bad since I don't know much about the organ," he said, explaining that he has had only one year of training at an organ.

However, he has enlisted the aid of Max Eisberry, an organ instructor at Washburn University.

"He's not teaching me to play it just yet," said Wilcox. "The main thing we're concerned with is just putting it together."

Wilcox said he hoped "to have music coming out of it one way or another" by the end of next summer.

And even after the expenses incurred by owning the organ, Wilcox still retains his enthusiasm for the "bargain."

"How often does a man have a chance to buy a church organ for \$1?" he asks.

Early Man Wasn't A Tasty Morsel

Washington (Science Service) - The reason mankind is around today may well be that early man was not a tasty meal for the wild animals that lived in his day.

It is the theory of Dr. L. S. B. Leakey of the Coryndon Memorial museum, Nairobi, Kenya, that early man may have survived because animals did not seek him for food.

Dr. Leakey, who is visiting in the United States, told scientists he has seen today's wild animals, such as lions, sniff at sleeping humans and then go away without attacking them. Lions only attack humans when wounded, when they have young and feel threatened, or when they are very old and cannot hunt other "game" for food.

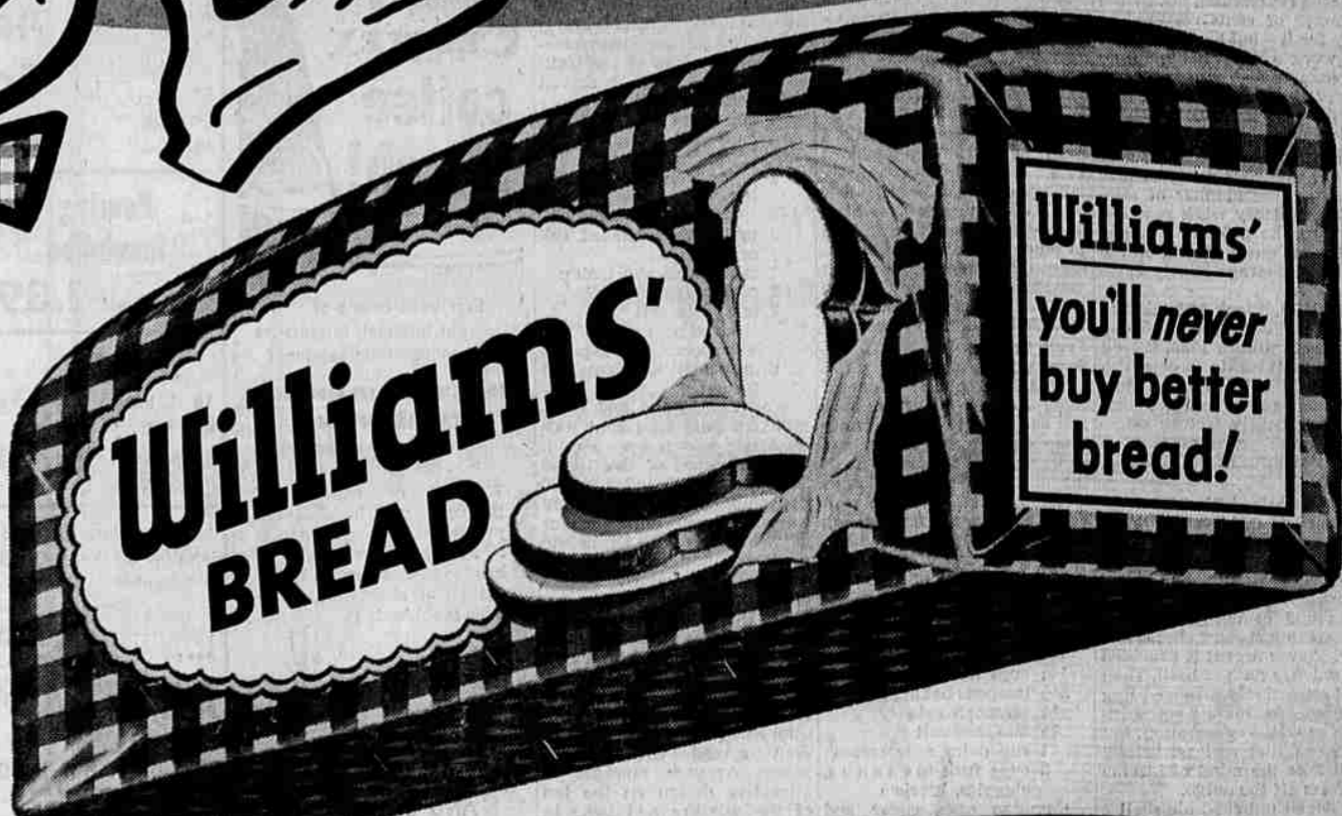
Dr. Leakey is the discoverer of an early man who lived more than 600,000 years ago in East Africa.

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