



P.O. Box 252
By **NORMA CLARK**



ICE-DIVING
What is it like to spend over 20 minutes in water thirty feet under a ceiling of ice? "Very pleasant," says C. Kent Brown, experienced SCUBA diver of Clarksville, Indiana.

One afternoon last winter Mr. Brown, with five diving companions and a score of curious on-lookers, gathered at a 90 year old stone quarry that had been flooded with water of sufficient depth for SCUBA diving. A six-inch layer of ice covered the water.

"We put the guests to work cutting a large hole out of the ice," Mr. Brown writes, "while my fellow divers and I carried over 100 pounds of gear and tanks from the cars to the diving area."

"The dives are executed on a pre-arranged plan, and we always station a diver at the surface for each diver under the ice."

"Those on the surface act as tenders, and they sit patiently, barehanded and cold, throughout the dive to 'fish' the nylon safety lines (our only connection with them) to read our every tug and movement. One tug from a diver below means 'all OK, let out more line'; two tugs, 'coming in, take up slack'; three tugs, 'hold steady'; four tugs, 'in trouble, send diver'."

Mr. Brown recalls an "anxious" moment during this particular dive when the port side diver signaled to "hold steady" - that he was in trouble. The stricken diver pointed to his right calf. His comrades rushed to squeeze and twist the leg moments passed before they were able to continue on their way.

It was shortly after this interruption that they spotted the old pit car tracks. "In these quarry operations," Mr. Brown explains, "the workers installed miniature railroads across the floor of the pit. Ore cars were pulled to and fro with donkeys, moving the rock from blast areas to the crusher. But now the cars were sitting on their tracks rusting out the decades, mute testimony to the activity that once thrived there."

"On our way back to the surface we 'flew' up through flats of color created by sunlight and water layers, and when we tilted our heads back, we could see the exhalation bubbles wobbling toward the ice above. Together we had exhaled over 100 cubic feet of air and left the bubbles pooled against the ceiling in luminous globules, where they would remain trapped until the spring thaw."

safety lines are almost a necessity. While the divers might follow the dive plan exactly, they have only 10 to 20 feet visibility and could miss the entrance, could be too far from it to see it. Even the most seasoned diver is tempted to panic and swim about frantically searching, wasting precious air and energy."

He describes swimming the last few yards. "With over 20 minutes in ice water, our breathing had become labored and the regulators whistled with each breath. Our fine steel tanks, built for over 2200 pounds per square inch working pressure, were loud and resonant when they rang against the ice."

"Back at the surface our tenders reached down for our equipment as we tripped the straps and buckles. They helped us swing the heavy tanks up and out and then literally 'rolled' us out of the water. Their alert faces broadened into 'welcome back' grins of approval for a good swim."

Mr. Brown concludes his letter by saying that the camp fire on the shore, wool blankets and hot coffee were comforting sights to three divers chilled to the bone after a thrilling afternoon's adventure.

Police Check Three Wheel, Tire Thefts
Medford police Thursday checked three reports of stolen wheels and tires in the city.

Russell Edward Heysell, 2904 Fairview dr., reported to city police that four wheels, valued at \$15.95 each, and four tires, valued at \$37.34 each, were stolen from Courtesy Chevrolet company, 227 East Ninth st.

Heysell told officers he believed the theft occurred sometime between 6 p.m. Wednesday and 6:35 a.m. Thursday.

Cecil Eugene Smith, 906 South Holly st., reported to police that a wheel and tire, valued about \$30, was stolen from the back of a pickup truck owned by Kogap Manufacturing company near Melrose and Holly sts. Smith reported the theft about 2:30 p.m.

Police received a report of third theft about 4:15 p.m. Charles Arthur Haley, 1129 West Ninth st., told officers that a wheel and tire was stolen from the back of his pickup truck while it was parked at the rear of his residence. Haley valued the items about \$30.

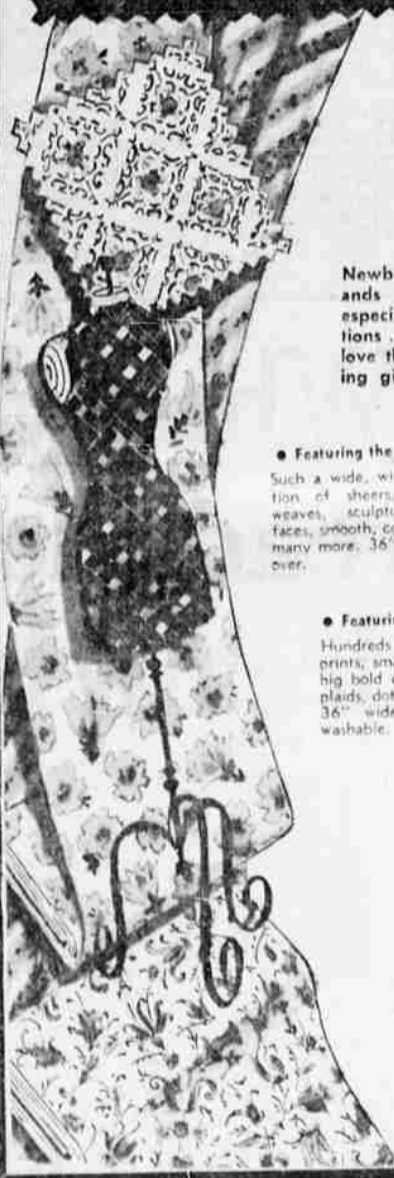
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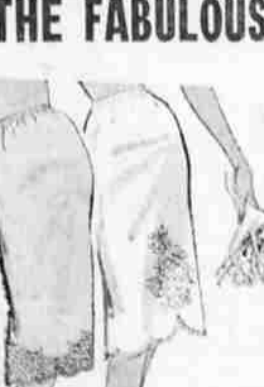
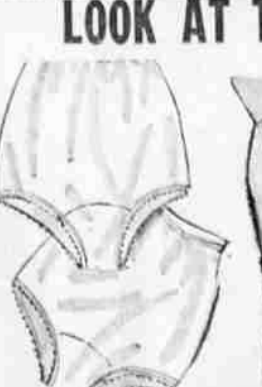
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