



HEADING FOR OCEAN—Passing Detroit in a race to reach the Atlantic Ocean before the Lawrence Seaway closes, is the battered Norwegian freighter Makefjell, which survived seven days on the breakwater at Muskegon, Mich., after it went aground. Two holes punched in the ship's hull by rocks were plugged with wooden wedges. The Makefjell was the last foreign ship on the Seaway this season. (UPI)

Oregon Student Dies of Injuries

Eugene—UPI—Richard Wardlaw Hagan, a University of

Oregon student from Palo Alto, Calif., died Tuesday of injuries suffered in an auto accident Saturday.

Hagan, 19, suffered severe head injuries when a sports car in which he was riding collided with a pickup truck on U.S. Highway 99 north of here.

The driver of the sports car, Gary F. Wirth of Eugene, and the driver of the pickup, Dale Leslie Behm, also of Eugene, were reported in good condition at Sacred Heart Hospital. Hagan was a sophomore and a member of Delta Tau Delta fraternity.

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Klamath County Site of Meadow Mice Research

Corvallis—Information about meadow mice, those pesky creatures that ate their way through more than \$2 million worth of agricultural crops in 1957, is being sought by the fish and game department of Oregon State university.

Basic studies on meadow mice are being continued by OSU, mainly in the Klamath county area, in an attempt to check future widespread eruptions, says Edward L. Hansen, biologist in charge.

Purpose of the study is to better understand what factors in the environment affect mouse populations and how to predict mouse outbreaks before they occur.

Current research is directed toward determining the effect of population density on reproduction, mortality, and movement from one area to another.

To study the mice, the OSU workers have built seven enclosures consisting of one-fourth acre each on the E. A. Geary ranch, eight miles northwest of Klamath Falls. Lush grass cover and nearby water from Klamath lake provide an ideal natural laboratory for studying the meadow mouse, Hansen reports.

Preliminary tests with the meadow mice have produced some unexpected results. Last spring, four enclosures were stocked with various numbers of mice to learn what relationship might exist between mouse populations in the spring and in the fall. Those enclosures with the smallest number of mice in the spring increased, at a much faster rate than those that contained more mice. Survival appears to be better in the smaller populations.

Hansen says the big question is what controls survival and how does it vary according to population density, predators, and diseases? Social behavior may be a strong mechanism also working to control population levels, he points out.

The more that can be learned about meadow mice the better position scientists are in to attack weak links in their makeup. Poison bait can be used to control small populations but poisoning programs against widespread eruptions may sustain future mouse populations.

OSU workers have found that cover is directly related to meadow mouse survival. Removal of grass along canal banks, along fence rows and removal of old haystacks will aid in reduction of mouse populations under normal conditions.

Hansen describes potential plague areas as those with a highly organic soil, large extensive areas with grass cover and a high water table. A fairly small population, though localized, can mushroom and expand into other areas if these conditions are optimum.

Hansen says he has seen as many as 600 mice per acre and that at the peak of the 1957 outbreak there were an estimated 2,000 mice per acre. Damage may be economically important when mouse numbers reach about 100 per acre.

Although meadow mice

look somewhat like the household mouse, they differ in their living habits. Under normal conditions, meadow mice are found only in grassy areas where they seek overhead cover and food. Mice average four to six litters a year, averaging about six to a litter. Strict vegetarians, they live on grasses, potato tubers, alfalfa and clover.

Outbreaks have been mentioned as early as Biblical times when mice were said to "boil over into fields." The 1957 Oregon eruption was probably the greatest on record in the U.S. because it spread over such a wide area. Mice were troublesome in southeastern Washington, Colorado, Idaho, Oregon and California also.

What OSU workers learn about mice they may be able to relate to other small animals. Mice and other small animals are carriers of the bacterial diseases, tularemia and plague, that may affect humans. Encephalitis and other diseases harmful to man also have been found in mice. Disease danger is usually highest when large populations of mice exist.

Apartment Building In Portland Guffed

Portland—UPI—A fire in an east side apartment building early today routed more than 30 persons and resulted in minor burns and smoke inhalation to 11 firemen.

The blaze gutted the New York Apartments in Southeast Belmont st. The fire was believed to have resulted from a furnace backfire.

Most of the occupants of the building were retired per-

sons. They were evacuated without incident.

Three tenants on the ground floor suffered damage. They included a stationery and printing company, a janitor supply firm and Airkem Oregon Sales. Some adjacent businesses including two service stations had smoke and water damage.

The blaze was fought for about three hours.

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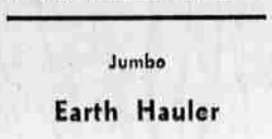
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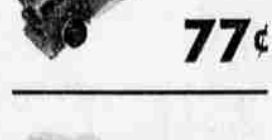
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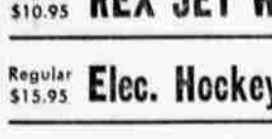
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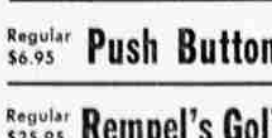
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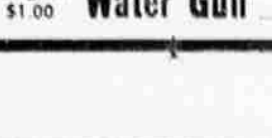
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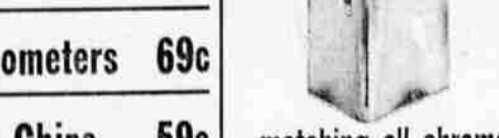
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