



AWARDS PRESENTED — Four Congressional members who were recipients of the American Political Science Association's distinguished service award chat with Sen. Hubert Humphrey (D-Minn.) after the awards ceremony in Washington. The awardees are, from left, Reps. George H. Mahon (D-Tex.) and Thomas B. Curtis (R-Mo.), and Sens. Clinton P. Anderson (D-N.M.) and Leverett Saltonstall (R-Mass.). They were honored for their work during the 87th Congress. (UPI)

The Numbers Game—m

Replacement of Human Identity With Numbers Product of Mid-20th Century

Editor's Note — The "numbers game" — the lengthening list of digits tacked on to the name of every American — is becoming an increasingly dominant factor in modern computerized culture. The following dispatch, the last of three, reports on the past and speculates on the future of the numbers system.

By BARNEY SEIBERT
UPI Correspondent
Your grandfather couldn't have played the numbers game. The gradual replacement of human identity with numbers is a product of the mid-20th Century.

In the 19th Century birth registration was uncommon and a task for the churches in many

areas. Death certification was not required. There were no credit cards, Social Security numbers, or Federal Bureau of Investigation fingerprint files.

Military serial numbers came into existence with World War I. It wasn't until the final decade of the 19th Century that auto licensing began.

Before that, many were suspicious of numbers. Puritan Oliver Cromwell said, "A few honest men are better than numbers."

Abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison said, "The success of any great moral enterprise does not depend on numbers."

Beilby Porteus, an 18th Century poet, said, "Princes were privileged to kill and numbers sanctified the crime." Samuel

Johnson said, "Round numbers are always false." Essayist Sydney Smith said, "Nothing was so fallacious as facts, except figures."

Accepts German's Motto
But 20th Century man accepted the motto of 16th Century German mathematician Adam Riese: "Figures don't lie."

With the multiplicity of numbers, the gradual conversion of identity into a digit is causing many 20th Century scholars concern.

Semanticist S. I. Hayakawa of San Francisco State College says "A man needs recognition of himself. He needs to be identified as a unique individual. He doesn't want to be known by a number and he will rebel against it and the system."

Sociologist Bruno Bettelheim of the University of Chicago says the numbers game "is a part of the general mechanization of the world in which we live. It is a symptom of the

general depersonalization of society. We must take steps to preserve the dignity and identity of the individual."

Even in the prisons, where every man has a number, there was revolt against the numbers systems.

Myrl Alexander, Southern Illinois University criminologist and former assistant director of the U. S. Bureau of Prisons, said the trend away from numbers began in the federal penal system about 25 years ago.

Called By Name
Numbers are still used in federal prisons, but only for record keeping, the prisoners are called by name, not number.

"It is significant that the inherent dignity of a man's name need not be taken away from him merely because he enters prison," Alexander said.

But such isolated revolts show no sign of stemming the numerical avalanche elsewhere.

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

MEDFORD, OREGON, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1963

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Small Worlds Around Us

By LYNN M. WATKINS

(Register and Tribune Syndicate, 1963)

A Dollar Moves Slowly Across Floor of Ocean

Sliding along in the sand while feeding or laying eggs and still be completely hidden from enemies is a rare and unusual accomplishment. Amazingly enough this is done by a very lowly marine animal whose body design and shape is cleverly built for just such a means of locomotion.

There is hardly a limit to the clever devices and stratagems devised and used by living creatures whereby they can hide or fool their enemies. There is none stranger nor more effective than that employed as a regular way of life by the common sand dollar.

To appreciate the artifice employed by this lowly animal of the ocean bottom, we must take note of its shape. An adult sand dollar is more the size of a pancake than a silver dollar. It is a creature designed on the wheel plan, a distinct advantage to its way of life.

Any Direction
Like a wheel, the sand dollar lies flat on the sand. It can move in any direction and still be going straight ahead; coming or going it looks the same. Another advantage to this disk-shaped animal is the raised center section, much thinner at the edges than in the center, which is an added help in sliding through the sand.

The bottom and top of this flat animal is covered with spines, but very fine spines, so fine they appear more like hairs or even fur. Some describe it as "felt." All the hairs which are really moveable feet can be moved in any direction.

In the common, round sand dollar there are from three to five slit-like openings, shaped like keyholes. This is enough to call the animal "keyhole urchin" as it does belong to the sea urchin family, the echinoderms, or spiny skinned. It is by moving these hair-like spines,

or tube feet, that the sand dollar moves or slides along in the sand. Flopped over on its top, the animal can right itself by waving its many tube feet. These feet, or silky spines, give the animal a purplish-brown color; removed from the water this felt-like material turns green.

Snail's Pace
There's nothing speedy about the locomotion of the sand dollar, in fact a snail's pace is fast in comparison. A sand dollar's crawl rate is just a little above a complete stop. But if the sand is water covered, the creature can move and hide at the same time.

In spite of a shortage of flesh inside the limey case of the sand dollar, it does have its enemies. There are fish in the ocean that seem to relish this gritty character for a tasty tidbit. The cod, the haddock and some of the flounder family hunt out and eat many of these living disks.

So, to continue the sand dollar population, the lowly creature has been endowed with a peculiar safety measure. A means of partial survival whereby they can be there all the time, but cannot be seen, is to lie hidden while still eating and laying eggs.

They hid by allowing sand to flow constantly over their backs. The thin edge of the disk body cleaves to the sand while the wet sand flows backwards over the top of the body as the animal moves forward, and slides off the back edge. The animal is always covered with a concealing film of sand; a clever method of concealment that could hardly be improved upon.

PROCEDURES REVIEWED
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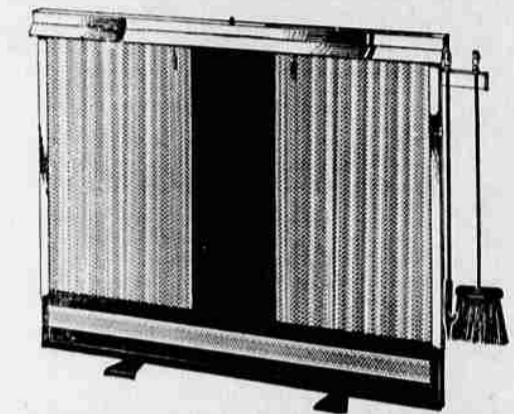
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