



**Small Worlds Around Us**  
By Lynn W. Watkins

Register & Tribune Syndicate, 1962

**Slow Hearts and Fast—Every Creature Has One**  
Getting right down to basic fundamentals, heartbeats are just about the most important thing that can occur in any living creature, man, mouse or oyster.

They are much more important than the price you may get for a piece of real estate, or how much money you have or have not acquired. They, the heartbeats, are also important to the lesser beings which, like us, live and move and breathe.

Heartbeats occur differently in nearly every level of animal life. They may be fast, slow, feeble, strong or even intermittent, depending on the owner's species, and how or where he lives. Some heartbeats are so quiet and slow they are almost impossible to detect, even when the sound is boosted by electrical amplifiers.

Naturally, being cold-blooded and requiring very little oxygen in order to live, the frogs, toads, turtles and fish have slow and feeble heartbeats. In fact, listening to some of them, we imagine the heart has stopped or at least it is coasting for considerable intervals of time. An alligator in cold weather, or a frog, removed from the mud of a pond where it is living out the cold spell, has a heartbeat, but it sure does not amount to much.

With an electric listening device we have to hear down hard in order to hear it at all. There is a long interval between bumps, and usually it doesn't even occur at regular intervals. It seems to have lost its rhythm entirely and trips only occasionally.

**May Even Skip A Beat**  
Under actual timing, the heart of a frog or an alligator thumps half-heartedly once every three or four minutes. It may even skip a couple of beats, then feebly tick again.

In comparison, the heart of an oyster plunks along rather regularly. It is smaller than an aspirin tablet. Whether you ever thought about it or not, the oyster's heart is a pretty "cute" gadget, and mighty important to the oyster.

The human heart clicks along at about 72 beats a minute, increases its speed after violent exercise. The more activity the more oxygen is needed, and the faster the heart action. It's just as simple as that.

Some of the larger animals, the horse and cow, have strong, regular heartbeats, but slower than the human beat. The elephant, largest of the land animals, has the slowest. It lumbers along at about 35 to the minute. The reason is concerned with bulk, that is, bulk plus the oxygen supply, and the necessary heat and energy to keep the heart going.

The heartbeat of birds is pretty fast. These little pumps in feathered breasts rattle along at 110 to 120, or even 200 beats to the minute. Under magnified amplifiers, and excited parakeet's heartbeat drums along at a break-neck clip. It sounds a little like the opening bars of a fast rock'n roll number. And, along with this triphammer heartbeat, the bird's normal temperature goes up to about 100 degrees.

**Mouse Has Speedy Heart**  
The creature's heartbeat that makes all the others seem like slow motion is that of the mouse. Talk about a clatter; this heartbeat compares to the clatter of a machine gun. It beats nearly 600 times a minute. The strange fact about the rapidity of a mouse-beat is what keeps the tiny organ from jumping right out of the little body, or what prevents the mouse from coming apart.

The old alligator, whose heartbeat blunders along every once in while, lives to be a hundred years old, while the poor little mouse does well to keep his heart pumping for two years. And with all the overdrive, and rapid speed, there is no vibration. If there was, the mouse couldn't sit still long enough to eat a piece of cheese.

The mouse doesn't appreciate what a wonderfully speedy mechanism his heart is. Neither do the rest of us where it concerns our own heart, until the swishing thump-thump, doesn't sound any more. Then you've had it. And just before this, you may suddenly realize that a heartbeat, above and beyond anything else in the world, is the most important thing that can occur, whether you happen to be a man, or a mouse or an oyster.

**Central Point Youth Named to College Post**  
Alvin Kroon, Central Point, is after game activity co-chairman of the 1964 Seattle Pacific College homecoming.

He is a junior in music education and has been a member of the A Cappella choir.

He is a 1961 graduate of Crater High school and son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul O. Kroon, 153 S. Fourth St., Central Point.

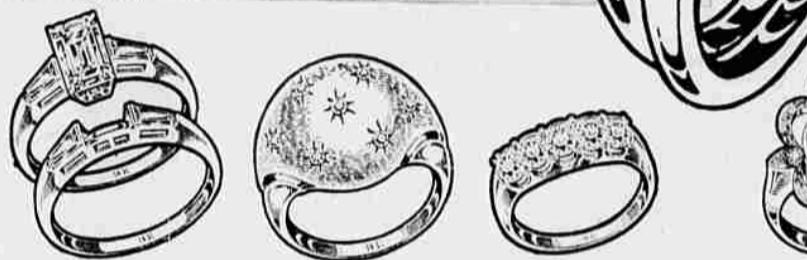


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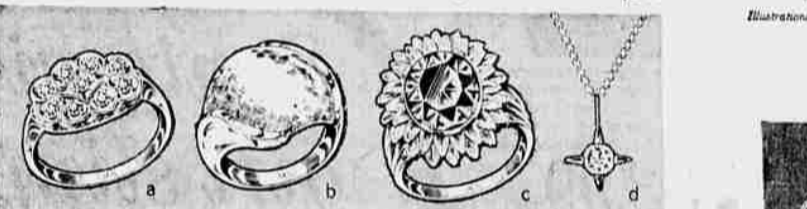


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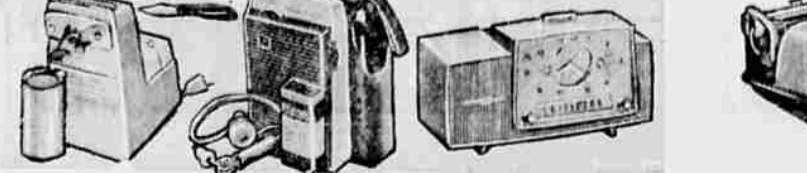
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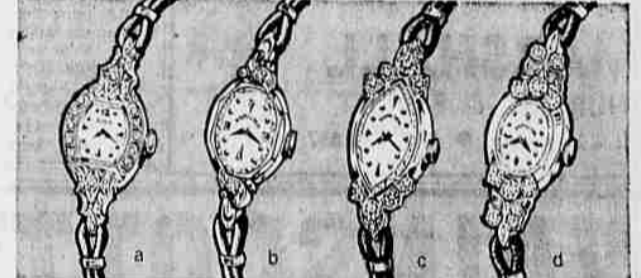


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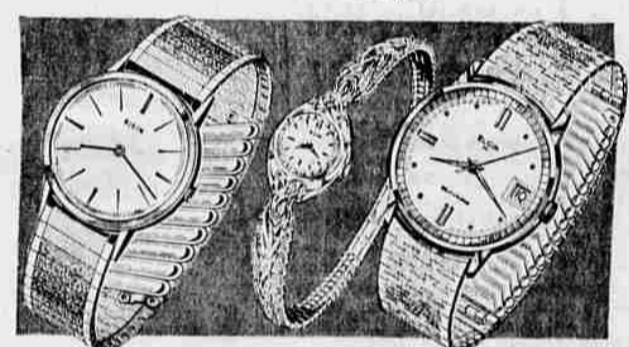


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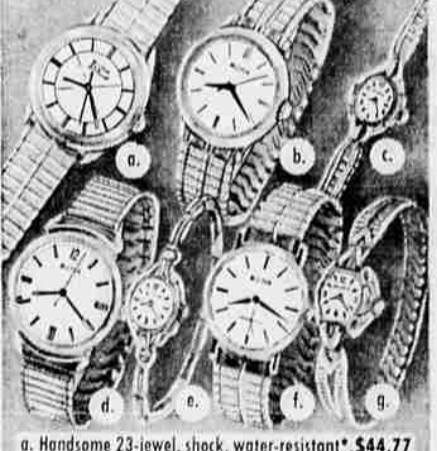
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