

Herald and News

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Along NATURE'S TRAIL with Ken McLeod

In our past few columns we have told the story how industrial research functions in the laboratory and then how the problem is taken by industry and put through the pilot-plant stage to learn how to apply the findings of the laboratory to the problems of production. The example of research followed here has been the discovery of tetra ethyl lead as being a good additive to fuel to increase the efficiency of the gasoline motor. It should be of interest to observe that this development originated with an automobile manufacturer who was producing engines and not with the refiners who were producing fuel. After the automobile manufacturer had said "this is the type of fuel we wish to use in our motors" then it was up to the oil industry to turn its efforts toward this type of production and it is quite possible that many an old time refiner grumbled at the newangled notions.

Nevertheless the oil industry necessarily had to apply the new idea to its fuel production and so the next steps taken were to evaluate the effect of tetra ethyl lead in fuels and to examine the available fuels without the lead compound from the standpoint of their detonation and compression pressure. Different fuels showed different responses to the same amount of tetra ethyl lead. This set the petroleum refiners off on a search for two kinds of fuels, one that had a high natural octane content and another that would respond most readily to small amounts of lead. Both hunts succeeded to a remarkable degree, and today we have both extraordinarily efficient synthetic fuels and others that yield readily to minimum additions of tetra ethyl lead.

Research, however cannot rest after discovering a product, it must follow through and follow every step and reaction that comes from the applied use of the idea in actual practice. This brings us to the next step which is involved when treated fuel was used on a fair scale in automobile engines. It was discovered that while tetra ethyl lead overcame the "ping" in the engine a new problem appeared, lead and lead oxide deposited on cylinder walls and spark plugs and soon engines using the new fuel would not run. Tetra ethyl lead therefore by itself was a failure but science did not toss it out the window for research continued and Charles Allen Thomas showed that this deposit of lead and its compounds could be prevented if the fuel included a bromine compound along with the tetra ethyl lead. The addition of a bromine compound allowed the lead to be blown out with the exhaust and the spark plugs to remain clean.

This discovery again set up a problem for where and how were

the producers going to obtain enough bromine for the new fuel. Everyone was concerned because the huge amount of bromine required for this new fuel was entirely out of proportion to any amount that had previously been produced in the world. The only use for bromine compounds up to this time had been in medicine as sedatives, in photography, and in certain chemical preparations. The production of elemental bromine before 1920 was only about 2,000 tons a year for the entire world. If any substantial proportion of American gasoline production was to be treated, the scientists realized that this alone would require at the very beginning many times over the total world production of bromine. The question therefore that faced them was where could they find such enormous quantities of bromine in view of the limited extent of then-known deposits of minerals containing it. One possible source was sea water and so science directed its attention to the sea.

The first effort to mine the oceans used a process of precipitating bromine out of sea water in the compound form known as bromoaniline. This very insoluble compound is formed from the small amount of bromine in sea water by adding to it chlorine, sulfuric acid, and aniline. The process operated in a chemical plant built upon a ship, one of the surplus war shipping vessels coming over from World War I. The Ethyl Gasoline group at General Motors cooperated with the Du Pont engineers in devising a plant that could be built on a ship. The ship would take in sea water, convert its bromine content to an insoluble compound, filter this compound out of the water, and then return the spent de-brominated water to the ocean without contaminating the plant's intake of fresh sea water. Such a plant on the ship could move to different parts of the ocean and operate where the greatest return could be realized. It likewise avoided problems of pollution that often plague chemical plants that have neighbors, and it minimized the work of pumps required since the lift of the sea water would be only two or three feet for the entire processing operation. This plant, however, was not too successful, but it did convince the producers of bromine that the people interested in tetra ethyl lead were serious in their search for bromine and this put another group of scientists to work who had formerly been far removed from the production of automobiles.

The idea of gathering bromine from the ocean interested the late Herbert H. Dow, founder and president of the Dow Chemical Company, the principal producer of bromine and bromides but this is another story.



SAM DAWSON

NEW YORK (AP)—The average American corporation is making one third more money this year than last. Six out of every seven corporations so far reporting their net profit after taxes in the first nine months of this year show increases over the like period of 1954.

Some have more than doubled their earnings. Many have set all-time highs for the period. A number have increased their dividends on the strength of their excellent showings.

These conclusions are drawn from a study of the earnings statements of 451 corporations, big and small, representing most major industries.

Combined the 451 corporations had \$5,611,611,121 in profits left over after setting aside that much or more for payment of U. S. corporate income taxes. In the first nine months of 1954 the same 451 companies had combined profits of \$4,834,023,339.

This year's gain over last was 23.9 per cent. In the 1954 period many businesses were touching the bottom of a mild recession, but even so corporate profits for the entire year of 1954 managed to pull ahead of 1953 by four per cent.

Only 62 of the 451 reported smaller earnings this year than last. Five of the 451 reported a loss. In the 1954 period 18 of the same 451 companies had gone into the red.

Corporate reports are flowing in peak volume now, and this first sampling of the 451 early birds can be only an indication of what the

Teams Rescue Woman Hunter

THERMOPOLIS, Wyo. (AP)—Rescuers struggling down a steep, tortuous creekbed in a blinding blizzard brought to safety Monday night a woman hunter ill since Saturday in the mountain vastness of Wyoming's Washakie Needles formation.

Mrs. Mildred Ernst, 55, of Worland, Wyo., was whisked to a hospital here by ambulance after the ground party, aided on its final few miles by a National Guard truck, took her to the Col. Tim McCoy ranch, 35 miles west of here.

Her doctor said Mrs. Ernst's condition was good. He said she had "blacked out" from lack of oxygen due to high blood pressure. At first it was believed she had suffered a heart attack.

Mrs. Ernst collapsed at 11,000 feet mark on a steep mountain face after a four and a half-hour horseback ride. Her descent by litter took a little more than three days. She spent two nights on the mountain, often under blizzard conditions.

Howling winds, thick clouds and snow thwarted rescue attempts by an Air Force helicopter.

With Mrs. Ernst at the time of AEC, will involve no military, civil defense or other observers.

The AEC said the tiniest atomic devices ever used since atomic tests began at the proving ground four years ago will be involved in the current "safety" series, announced Oct. 19 in Washington, D. C. The AEC said if there are a "few nuclear detonations" they probably will be measured by "tons" of TNT. Kilotons (equivalent to 1,000 tons of TNT) have been used previously in describing the size of detonations.

"If there should happen to be a nuclear explosion, it would be of low caliber," one AEC spokesman said. "No radioactive fallout problem is anticipated outside the test area."

While the AEC maintained official silence on all but the barest details of the tests, some nuclear experts viewed the series as reflecting the AEC's concern with the growing stockpile of atomic weapons in the country the nation's nuclear arsenal may number in five figures, experts estimated.

Lumber Mill Fire Damages Listed

PORT BRAGG (UP)—Officials of the Union Lumber Company sharply reduced today their estimate of damage caused by a Sunday fire.

They estimated the damage at \$500,000 instead of the three million dollars they thought when the blaze was raging at its height.

A company spokesman said the fire destroyed about 10 million board feet of lumber, about half the mill's log supply. The mill itself with its expensive equipment was undamaged.

The spokesman, B. J. Vaughn, said reports that the fire might cause serious unemployment during the winter season were exaggerated.

"If there's not enough work in the mill, we'll simply increase our woods operations," he said.

The fire began about 3 p.m. Sunday and raged for 12 hours.

Dulles Confers With Franco

MADRID, Spain (AP)—U. S. Secretary of State Dulles conferred for an hour and a half with Generalissimo Franco Tuesday. The conference lasted longer than expected and presumably included a renewed bid for increased U. S. financial aid to Spain.

Neither Dulles nor Franco made any statement on their discussions, but Dulles said he would have a brief statement before flying back to the Big Four foreign ministers' conference at Geneva.

Gas Explosion Traps Jap Miners

TOKYO (AP)—Japanese police said 82 miners were trapped Tuesday after a gas explosion sealed a coal mine on Japan's northern island of Hokkaido.

Police said 27 miners were rescued and six bodies were recovered but 49 others were missing two hours after the explosion.

The rescued miners were reported in serious condition from inhaling the gas fumes.

Justice Warren's Daughter To Wed

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (AP)—A marriage license was obtained yesterday by Nina (Honey Bear) Warren, 22, daughter of Chief Justice and Mrs. Earl Warren, and Dr. Stuart Brien, 33, Beverly Hills, Calif., physician.

Miss Warren said of wedding plans: "We haven't ever thought about it yet." It will be the first marriage for each.

Nina was stricken with polio Nov. 7, 1930, the day her father was reelected for his third term as governor of California. For a time her legs were paralyzed but she recovered fully.

Justice Warren's Daughter To Wed

TAIPEI, Formosa (AP)—Premier O.K. Yul called Monday night for closer ties between the United States and Nationalist China against the Communists whom he accused of preparing for "another war of aggression."

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YOUNG REPUBLICANS Herm and Pauline Winter, center, get official greeting from Mrs. Oscar Kittredge, right, vice chairman Klamath County Republican Central Committee, and Joan Moore, left, local YR and executive secretary to the central committee. Picture was taken at the airport Saturday evening when the Multnomah County political team flew in to extend Klamath County GOP's personal invitation to the Young Republican Convention in Portland November 11-12-13. Later that evening, the couple met a group of Klamath GOP officials at the Winema Hotel for an informal discussion on party issues. The Winters are the youngest Republican married team in Oregon. He is chairman of the Oregon College League of YRs; and she is co-director of Region 9, Western College Council of Young Republican Clubs.

—Photo by Milly Ramsby

A-Scientists Begin Tests

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (UP)—Atomic scientists began "safety" tests in the field today to find out whether a nuclear weapon can be exploded accidentally.

The Atomic Energy Commission refused to disclose the times of the tests on the Nevada proving ground. It said the blasts, if any occur, "probably will not be seen or heard" in Las Vegas, about 70 miles away.

Scientists said that laboratory tests have convinced them that atomic weapons can not be triggered accidentally by fire, explosion or other means. The field tests, labeled "strictly routine" by the AEC, will involve no military, civil defense or other observers.

The AEC said the tiniest atomic devices ever used since atomic tests began at the proving ground four years ago will be involved in the current "safety" series, announced Oct. 19 in Washington, D. C. The AEC said if there are a "few nuclear detonations" they probably will be measured by "tons" of TNT. Kilotons (equivalent to 1,000 tons of TNT) have been used previously in describing the size of detonations.

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While the AEC maintained official silence on all but the barest details of the tests, some nuclear experts viewed the series as reflecting the AEC's concern with the growing stockpile of atomic weapons in the country the nation's nuclear arsenal may number in five figures, experts estimated.

Filipinos Choose Sides For Hot Senate Election

MANILA (AP)—Filipinos, who love a rousing fight whether in the cockpit, ring or political arena, are choosing sides in the hottest senatorial election campaign of the nine-year-old republic.

At stake are the popularity of their flamboyant young president, Ramon Magsaysay, the political climate during his next two years at the nation's helm and the warmth of U.S.-Philippine relations.

Hordes of candidates are fighting for nine seats in the 24-man Senate. Senators are elected nationwide. Balloting is next Tuesday.

With the campaign in its seventh week, political arguments have been blamed for at least 12 deaths. Troops have been moved into 13 potentially critical provinces.

The big fight swirls around Magsaysay's effort to bounce his severely wounded foreign policy critic, Sen. Gloro M. Recto from the slate.

Magsaysay won the first round. He seized firm control of the Nationalist party machinery in August and blocked Recto from the slate.

Shut out in his own party, Recto breathed defiance, denounced Magsaysay as a dictator and found a berth as "guest candidate" on the ticket of the Liberals, the main opposition party.

With nationwide balloting for senators, Magsaysay has to drive Recto all the way down below ninth place to keep him out of the Senate.

The job is a big one—too big even for a president of Magsaysay's immense popularity, most of his opponents and supporters agree. But Magsaysay bluntly announced he would stake his political future on the outcome.

Almost from the day Magsaysay took office, Recto stormed at him for cuddling too close to the U. S. foreign policy line. Magsaysay won countless times after time.

But Recto in his campaign has soft-pedaled foreign policy differences and attacked Magsaysay as a dictator. That has vote appeal has won support in both major parties.

Felons Stage Prison Riot

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Some 250 prisoners rioted in the city workhouse last night, smashing windows and burning furniture.

Police brought the yelling inmates under control early today, herding them out of their cell blocks under guard of riot guns. No one was reported injured.

The Fire Department quickly doused the fires that had been started with paper, benches and mattresses.

Warden Harold E. Baynes said about 10:30 p.m. some inmates broke out of their cells and released others.

The warden said he didn't know what caused the riot.

There was no estimate of damage.

It was the second riot at the workhouse in five months. Tear gas was used to put down a disturbance June 8.

JAMES MARLOW

WASHINGTON (AP)—It's been true in other years that the personality of the presidential candidates was a far more vivid factor than the party platform. It will be particularly true in 1956.

The Democrats and Republicans are so close in their thinking — after allowing for extremists and die-hards in both parties — the voters will have trouble choosing between them.

Since neither the parties nor their candidates will want to rock the boat with novel notions, the voters will be inclined to look closer at the candidates to decide which is more likely to keep the country steady.

This is written on the assumption President Eisenhower will not run again. It's especially because of him, even though he doesn't run, that the voters will examine his would-be successors critically.

They have been exposed, to Eisenhower, to an unusual political personality. It is an extraordinary political feat that he has retained his enormous popularity after three years of the hurly-burly in the White House.

This in itself is enough to make the voters not only conscious of what the 1956 candidates represent in the way of party promises but of what kind of men they are in themselves.

The Democrats will probably argue that they set the country on the road to the prosperity it is enjoying now. The Republicans will no doubt claim the credit for Eisenhower, with assurances they will keep up the good work.

But aside from the social and economic aspects of Eisenhower's administration, one thing became clearer the longer he stayed in office: He kept himself and the office of the presidency above the mud and feuds of American politics.

By calling no names, getting into no personal quarrels, avoiding all

HAL BOYLE

NEW YORK (AP)—Today's success story: Tennessee Williams, who once wrote purely from hunger, has become one of the golden boys of the American writing scene.

He has been so successful that his friends have given him a new nickname: "Tennessee Millionaire."

At 41 the prolific author has turned out nine full-length plays, a volume of verse, two volumes of short stories, and a collection of a dozen shorter plays called "Twenty-Seven Wagons Full of Cotton."

He has completed for Paramount Pictures a film script of "The Rose Tattoo," starring Burt Lancaster and Anna Magnani — it is the third of his dramas he has adapted for the movies — and his "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" is a top Broadway hit.

Most successful people credit their rise to hard work. Williams feels that his own fame came, in large measure, from the revolt stirred in him by his discovery of poverty and what it did to people.

Born in the Episcopal rectory of his grandfather in Columbus, Miss., he moved at the age of 12 to St. Louis, where his father worked as a salesman for a shoe firm. The family lived in one of a row of ugly brick apartment buildings "the color of dried blood and mustard."

In the south the young writer had been unaware of any distinctions based on wealth.

"But," he says, "we suddenly discovered there were two kinds of people. The rich and the poor, and that we belonged more to the latter."

"If I had been born to this situation I might not have resented it deeply. But it was forced upon my consciousness at the most sensitive age of childhood."

The shock resulted in a rebellion and a social consciousness which Williams feels still marks most of his writing. But the shock paid off well.

"I am glad that I received this bitter education," Williams once wrote. "For I don't think any writer has much purpose back of him unless he feels bitterly the inequities of the society he lives in."

"I have no acquaintance with political and social dialectics. If you ask what my politics are, I am a Humanitarian."

How did he get his odd first name? He picked it out himself. As a boy he had published some lyric poetry, which he later de-

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4-H NEWS

MERRILL SHEEP CLUB

The Merrill Sheep Club recently elected officers.

They are president, Margaret Qualls; vice president, Louise Raliff; secretary, Breda O'Keefe; social chairman, George Carleton and John Hunnicutt, and news reporter, Sara West.

We made a float for the potato festival where we won third prize. Mrs. Carl Coulson helped with our float.

Sara West, News Reporter

SURVEY PICKET LINE

SUNAKAWA, Japan (AP)—A picketline of 10 labor unionists and villagers Tuesday blocked a final survey for expansion of nearby U.S. Tachikawa Air Base. Survey teams, trying to work without police escort, were surrounded and forced back twice.

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