

Herald and News

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Editor
Entered as second class matter at the post office at Klamath Falls, Ore., on August 20, 1906, under act of Congress, March 3, 1879.
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Along NATURE'S TRAIL with Ken McLeod

The ever widening chain of circumstances created by industrial research discoveries was well illustrated in the case of the development of anti-knock gasoline. The scientists at General Motors Research discovered that tetra ethyl lead when added to gasoline produced a better fuel for high compression engines by suppressing the "knock" or "ping" created by flash detonation caused by high compression.

This idea created an entirely new industry in the production of tetra ethyl lead and opened a new vista in research upon fuel for internal combustion engines.

When the product was placed in actual use by the public it was discovered that tetra ethyl lead was not enough because lead oxide deposited on cylinder walls and spark plugs to the extent that the engines would not run upon the new fuel.

At this point another researcher, Charles Allen Thomas, stepped into the picture and showed that this deposit of lead could be avoided by the further addition of a bromine compound. Its presence allowed the lead to be blown out with the exhaust and the spark plugs remained clean of lead coating.

The tetra ethyl lead people were stumped because there was not enough development in the production of bromine in the world to even make a start in satisfying their demands and the producers of bromine were not too keen to increase their production to meet the demands of an untold market.

This then set the Ethyl Gasoline group at General Motors and the Du Pont engineers to a series of researches designed to obtain bromine from the waters of the sea.

A plant was built upon a ship that would reclaim bromine from sea water and this pilot plant operation was put to sea to test its effectiveness in producing bromine.

The plant was not too successful, but it did convince the bromine producers that the people interested in tetra ethyl lead were serious in their search for bromine.

The idea of gathering bromine from the ocean interested the late Herbert H. Dow, founder and president of the Dow Chemical Company, principal American producer of bromine and bromides. Dow had been skeptical of the attempt to reclaim bromine from the sea, but after the first voyage of the bromine ship, he started doing something about the gasoline-tetra ethyl lead-bromine problem.

Dow's research teams had developed the Dow method of recovering bromine from Michigan salt brines to a point of high efficiency. This method consisted of freeing the bromine from its compounds in the brine, then blowing the bromine out of the treated brine with a stream of air, and finally absorbing the bromine in an alkaline soda solution.

Dow was convinced that his method could recover the small amount of bromine from sea water because the process reduced the

bromine content of the Michigan salt brine so low that the waste from his Michigan plant contained far less of the element, bromine, than was to be found in fresh sea water.

Since an economical plant for the Dow process needed much more space than the process used by Du Pont on the tri-bromo-aniline ship test plant, it was impractical to build the Dow process into a ship plant.

The special problem therefore became one of finding a suitable land location for the Dow operation, where a plant to operate on a large scale and at high efficiency could be profitable.

Today the demagogue prowls the land with the story that industry is attracted to low cost federal power so one would think that Dow would have rushed to some federal power dominion but power was the lesser problem because Dow needed sea water and a good location for such a plant must provide ocean currents of such velocity and direction that the intake of sea water to the plant would always be supplied with fresh, clean ocean water, and the outflow of treated, spent water must be carried away by the ocean current without contaminating the fresh ocean water coming to the inlet.

An ideal location was found near Wilmington, North Carolina, where the Cape Fear River enters the Atlantic Ocean. The river is separated from the sea by a narrow sand spit of several miles in length. Furthermore, prevailing ocean currents along the ocean side of this sand spit run southward in the same direction that the river flows. Consequently the plant was erected here to draw its water from the ocean, treat it, and then dump the spent water into the river a few miles from its mouth.

The spent water is then carried by the river to the ocean which in turn carries it southward and away from the intake of the plant so that the spent sea water cannot contaminate the fresh ocean water being taken from the sea.

The location of this plant was called Kure Beach. Bromine recovered from sea water is used to make ethylene dibromide by combining the bromine with ethylene which is also made here from ethyl alcohol.

Ethylene dibromide was chosen as the compound to use in motor fuel because it contained a high percentage of bromine (slightly more than 86 per cent), it readily dissolves in gasoline and it decomposes in the combustion process to form a bromine compound of lead, thus preventing the metal from depositing on the cylinder walls and on the spark plugs.

The total sales of bromides, including ethylene dibromide, in 1949 was \$3 million pounds. At that time, bromine in all other forms, including bromides, amounted to a little less than 5,500,000 pounds. In other words ethylene dibromide consumption is some 16 times as great as the use of bromine for all other purposes.

costs of producing them also rising, the two forces have united to boost prices.

The latest ferment in the copper market started in Chile where the miners went on a 24-hour strike against the American-owned mines. So tight is the world copper supply that the loss of even one day's production is felt and the uncertainty over the length of the strike and the ultimate terms of settlement upset the market.

Copper has been in short supply here for some time. American mines are charging 43 cents a pound. A year ago the standard price was 30 cents and the postwar low was 16 cents in 1949. The increase has spurred many of the big users of copper to look for cheaper substitutes. Aluminum has been the chief gainer.

Many products that once used copper extensively are now being made of aluminum. This has spurred producers of aluminum to plan another round of expansion to be in position to go after still more of the market. Aluminum, too, has risen in price since the war, but much more modestly and now sells at 24.40 cents a pound.

They'll Do It Every Time

By Jimmy Hatlo



James Marlow

WASHINGTON (P)—Guatemala's president, Carlos Castillo Armas, says his course is neither to the left nor right but "up."

Castillo, thin, dark, intense, 41, and a former army colonel, led the successful revolt last year against the regime of President Jacobo Arbenz Guzman.

That regime was considered to be under the influence of the Communists. Castillo took office as a rigid anti-Communist. Reports from Guatemala indicate he has crushed them by driving them out of the country or underground.

Castillo is backed by the U. S. government, which invited him for an official visit and a tour of the country. He arrived two days ago and while here is a guest of the government in the Blair House, opposite the White House.

He talked briefly of his government and his ideas as he sat in a Blair House parlor. He spoke English hesitatingly and with an accent.

He was asked: "There have been guesses that your government in the end would wind up on the far right. Is that correct?"

Those guesses are wrong, he said, and continued:

"My government will not go to the left or right but up. That means it will be government of justice, of what is good for my people and the main interests of Guatemala. There can be no turning back."

For example, he said, under the previous administration there has been a land reform program. Distributing land to farmers. That land, Castillo said, was expropriated by the government.

He said his government is not taking land from anyone but is continuing to provide land for those willing to work it by various arrangements, none of which forces anyone to give up land he owns.

He was asked: "Do you think that under your government Guatemala has achieved complete democracy?"

He said he does not think Guatemala has achieved complete democracy in one year, at least not in the sense that the United States is a complete democracy. He explained what he meant:

In the United States a majority of the people are educated and experienced in democratic practices, the economy is on a high level.

"Our government in Guatemala," he said, "is democratic, but our population is 3 1/2 million. Only one million of them can read. The population is 60 per cent Indian, and 75 per cent of the people work in agriculture."

He added: "A democratic society is not just political system. It is made up of other things, which you have here, such as education and good working conditions."

He said his administration is working hard for better education among the people and better incomes and working conditions.

While he didn't say so, Castillo no doubt hopes that by his trip through the United States and his speeches here he will build up confidence in Guatemala and attract American investments.

He returned to an explanation of what he meant by "up." He said:

"I was thinking of freedom of the press, social benefits, economic development in Guatemala, an education program."

He said there are many shades of thinking in Guatemala and he will steer a middle course among them, using the services of those who can be helpful.

"I have friends," he said, "in the Catholic sector. They would like to influence the government. That is not possible. I am going to keep church and state separate. There will be absolute freedom of religion."

HAL BOYLE

HOMETOWN, U.S.A. (P)—Wilbur Peeble, America's most average husband, came home, sat down on the sofa, and pulled off his shoes.

He wigged his stockings toes, groaned cavernously as he stared at them with the intent look men give their feet when they hurt.

"Boy, am I glad this day is over," he said loudly.

His wife, Trellis Mae, looked up from the desk where she had been scribbling busily.

"Oh, you startled me," she said. "Are you home?"

"I don't know whether this is home," replied her husband with heavy irony. "But it's where I hang up my pants at night."

Trellis Mae let the remark pass, and Wilbur wondered vaguely if she were ill.

"Wilbur, I'm writing a petition, and I need your help."

"Now what's the P.T.A. done wrong?" he asked.

"This isn't about school. It's about Meg and Peter."

"You mean those new neighbors that moved in upstairs? Are they making noise already?"

"No, stupid. I mean Princess Margaret Rose and Capt. Peter Townsend. He wants to marry her, but she told him no on account of his divorce and she's a member of royalty and she can't marry him because his first wife is still alive."

"So what?" yawned Wilbur.

"So it sounds pretty funny to me. She keeps him dangling for two years, then they enjoy 18 days together and then she tells him it's no go. Mighty fishy. Old King Henry VIII, when he wanted to marry a new wife, didn't worry about divorce. He just lopped off the head of his old wife."

"Not a bad idea," murmured Wilbur.

"What did you say?"

"I said—what a batty idea."

Backtracking Wilbur quickly. "But what's all this about a petition?"

"Well, the ladies of our club met this afternoon and voted unanimously to inform the British ambassador that we thought Margaret Rose's attitude was strictly un-American. I'm supposed to draw up the petition."

"You mean that the British government not only has to deal with the Mau Mau but also faces the problem of handling the Minerva Literary and Glee Rummy Society?" said Wilbur. "I'll have nothing to do with the petition. Britain has enough woes."

"But poor, poor Capt. Peter Townsend—my heart bleeds for him," cried Trellis Mae.

"Mine doesn't," said Wilbur. "In a way he's better off. If she'd said yes, there'd always be gossip that he was merely a poor fellow who stole the key to a woman's favor and fortune."

"Now he's free to make a million dollars on his own. He could get at least a half million writing his memoirs, a quarter million starting in a Hollywood movie of his life, and another quarter million lecturing to women's clubs and turning out magazine articles."

"Oh, Peter Townsend would never stoop to such things," objected Trellis Mae. "After all, he's royal too, in his own way. He was a hero in the Royal Air Force."

"Well, I'd stoop to 'em," said Wilbur. "Nobody'd give me the run-around and get away with it."

Trellis Mae looked at him curiously.

"Suppose I was a princess and you wanted to marry me but there were rules against it and I said I couldn't marry you—well, what would you do?"

"I'd do like I did before," said Wilbur. "Like I did when your old man said I wasn't making enough money to support us both, and your mother said she couldn't bear to see you leave home, and you said maybe we'd better put it off a while, and I told you that people can't just go through life putting off love, and I dragged you out of the house and married you."

Trellis Mae's eyes misted. She tore up the petition to the British government, came over and sat in her husband's lap, ruffled his hair and kissed him.

Wilbur, sometimes you act like a gruff old bear," she said, "and bears get hungry. What would you really like for dinner?"

"Dinner," said Wilbur, a king at home with his queen in his castle.

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YMCA FUN CLUB MEMBERS watch Dick Oliver, son of Mr. and Mrs. S. P. Oliver, perform on the trampoline at the Y, 722 Pine Street. The Fun Club, which now has 75 members, will be reorganized soon into several Gra-Y chapters. The organization is open to all youths between the ages of 9 and 12. New members may attend several meetings before signifying their intention of joining the Y. All members share the program costs by paying dues of 10 cents weekly. The groups gather every Saturday morning. From 10 a.m. to 12 the members choose which activity at the Y they wish to participate in. At noon a sack lunch is eaten during the club meeting. In the afternoon team competition is held at the Fremont School gym with visitations to business places of interest in the Basin. Volunteer leaders of the program are Jack Powell, Charles Traver, Jeff Woods, Ken Dixon, Jerry Sawyer, Justine Cornell, Pat Mezger and Bill Cornell.

Civil Service Lists Exams

The United States Civil Service Commission has announced examinations for the following positions: international information specialist, \$5,440 to \$11,610 a year, for duty in the U.S. Information Agency in Washington, D.C.; information and editorial positions, \$5,440 to \$11,610 a year, in various agencies in Washington, D.C., and vicinity; engineer, \$4,345 to \$5,440 a year, for duty in the Bureau of Reclamation in the Western states and in Alaska.

To qualify for the information positions, applicants must have had appropriate informational experience or a combination of appropriate education and experience. For engineer positions, education or experience is required.

Further information, including instructions on applying, may be obtained from the civil service clerk, post office, or from the U.S. Civil Service Commission, Washington 25, D.C. Applications for these examinations will be accepted in the appropriate offices until further notice.

PARAGUAY QUIET
ASUNCION, Paraguay (P)—Paraguay was quiet Wednesday despite many rumors of unrest. An army spokesman said "nothing is stirring."

OTTO LOEL GETS
ELECTRIC CHAIR
OKLAHOMA CITY (P)—Otto A. Loel, a former Sandy, Ore., police chief, Tuesday was sentenced to death in the electric chair for the slaying of a woman traveling companion.

District Judge A. P. Van Meter set Loel's execution for Jan. 24 next year.

Loel was convicted Oct. 21 of the slaying of Mrs. Elizabeth Jeanne Henderson, 31, Compton, Calif., on Jan. 10, 1954. She was making a cross-country automobile trip with Loel and was found dead in an Oklahoma City motel.

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Rough Fish Control Ended

One of the most ambitious rough fish control projects ever attempted was completed recently by a game commission crew working on the Malheur River system. Led by Larry Beebe, game commission fishery agent in the southeast region, the crew chemically treated approximately 250 miles of stream. Included in the project were nine reservoirs embracing 3,800 acre feet. Major reservoirs in the Malheur system are Beulah, Warm Springs and Malheur. Used in the operation were 17,000 pounds of dry rotenone powder and more than 400 gallons of liquid rotenone. The entire operation covered a period from August 26 to October 14.

Chemical treatment was preceded by surveys to determine the upstream limits of trash fish distribution. Suckers, squawfish and carp were the principal culprits. Some rainbow trout were killed, but the trout population should recover rapidly in the absence of rough fish competition. Restocking will take place next year.

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SAM DAWSON

NEW YORK (P)—Another rise in metal prices is threatening today to plague the manufacturers of many of the goods you want to buy.

Copper prices have jumped in London again, and users here are wondering what's in store. Nickel prices have risen in Canada. Platinum has come up 46 an ounce. A maker of magnetic forms has hiked prices 5 per cent, and a few special steel products have risen.

Prosperity is labeled the cause of much of the inflation in metals. General prosperity around the world has increased the demand for cars, refrigerators, TV sets and other things of metal that men want. Prosperity has encouraged labor to ask higher wages. With demand for metals rising and the

costs of producing them also rising, the two forces have united to boost prices.

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