

The Herald and News

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Entered as second class matter at the post office at Klamath Falls, Ore., on August 20, 1906, under act of Congress, March 8, 1879.

SERVICES:

ASSOCIATED PRESS UNITED PRESS
AUDIT BUREAU OF CIRCULATIONS
Serving Southern Oregon And Northern California

Subscription Rates

CARRIER
1 MONTH — \$1.50
6 MONTHS — \$9.00
1 YEAR — \$18.00
MAIL
1 MONTH — \$1.50
6 MONTHS — \$9.50
1 YEAR — \$15.00

Danger Point

By BILL JENKINS

In times past we have discussed the latest ideas to come out of Detroit to further confuse the average motorist. Among these brain children has been the stick-control car.

Now it seems that an experimental model has been produced which tosses out the old fashioned steering wheel and substitutes a short stick with a sort of pad at the top for it. When you push the stick forward the car speeds up, push the handle one way or the other and it turns the car right or left. Twist the pad at the top to various positions and it puts the car in park, reverse or drive. Pull back on the stick and you put on the brakes.

All well and good. However, there are a couple of hidden items that are not so great.

For instance: The steering stick is set between the seats and is available to either side. What happens when your wife or whoever is with you, decides that you aren't doing the job right and grabs for the lever?

Smash!

Another little item that I somehow can't pin all my faith in is what they call the autoglide position. This is pretty much the same principle as the old fashioned streetcar. In the center stripe on the highway is embedded a low frequency powered cable. A device in the nose of the car picks this up electronically and you can forget about driving, the car merely follows the white line.

Maybe okay, but on the other hand, what if you want to pass the fellow ahead? How do you do it? And is everyone supposed to drive along at the same speed all the time?

Incidentally, this car, the Firebird III, put out on an experimental basis by General Motors, is all fancied up with fins and stabilizers and bucket seats and all the fancy electronic equipment, but up in the nose of the car there is still tucked away a common old ten-horse motor to run the gadgets. The car itself is powered with an improved gas turbine engine.

Well, maybe it will be all right and it will certainly keep the family car on the pavement when it is all finished. But it will take a man with an MIT diploma to run it, too.

I just don't know. Coming to work this morning the fellow right in front of me had his blinker going full-tilt to indicate a right turn and then slammed on the brakes and swerved right across my trail in a dizzy left hand spin.

I can't help feeling that maybe we aren't ready for the electronics age yet.

Intelligence Tests

By FLORENCE JENKINS

School children in the West have been exposed to intelligence tests for the last 40 years or longer.

The I.Q. (Intelligence Quotient) is a number indicating the level of intelligence, obtained by multiplying the mental age by 100 and dividing by the chronological age.

We have been for some little time in the midst of a resurgence of interest in quiz questions, tests and questionnaires to determine all sorts of things. The togetherness craze has brought a rash of questions to determine one's adequateness as a spouse and to show whether or not you know more than the youngster you sent off to school for the first time this year.

Personally, I cannot resist a set of questions with a blank to be filled in. My sustained interest is probably based on the forlorn hope that I will someday find one I can pass.

The one that really stumped me was a feature gotten out for juniors. After having a young nightmare over it in which I asked every small child I could find in my dreams, I tried it out on a couple of adults which I had iggled into the position of being a captive audience.

This one has nine parts. Of course, that is wrong to start with. It should have 10 or 20, but not an odd number of questions.

It is a "series" quiz and one is to give the next term in each series.

It starts out easy: 1, 4, 9, 16, blank. It took a little longer than the allotted 30 seconds, plus some finger-counting, to determine that there were three numbers between the first two digits, five between the next two and seven next, so the right answer was 25. (By reading the upside-down type which gave the answers, this was verified).

But, how do you like this one: A, Z, Y, B, X, blank? The answer is W. But don't ask me why.

Whether these mental gymnastics are supposed to develop logic in the junior mind or just what seems to be an unsolved question

But if there is any logic or sequence or "series" in this one, none of us could find it: a, b, d, h, blank. Want to know the answer? It is "p."

Vast Scheme

By HAL BOYLE

NEW YORK (AP)—Man, lord of the Earth, may turn out to be one of the bums of the universe.

He is boss of the circling mud-ball he dwells on. But it is a pretty small potato in the awesome garden of the sky, and man himself may rate only as a minor two-legged insect in the vast scheme of things.

To most of us, the idea of life on other planets is a pleasant fiction of science writers. We laugh at cartoons showing little green-eyed bug-and-manlike creatures landing here in space ships and demanding, "Take me to your leader."

A more sobering picture is given by an eminent astronomer, Dr. Harlow Shapley, in the Saturday Review.

Dr. Shapley is no alarmist about any imminent invasion from Mars or Venus, where he doubts any advanced form of life exists. But in a way he is much more alarming than any science-fiction writer.

Does life exist on any other planet? In the huge theater of the heavens, Dr. Shapley believes it reasonable to assume there is life on at least 100 million planets—and, more likely, on perhaps 100 trillion planets.

What kind of life? Probably many forms we are familiar with here on Earth. But Dr. Shapley can visualize others. Trees that walk, for example, and animals which, weary of mobility, may from time to time put down roots into the soil and vegetate for a while.

There may even exist higher forms of life than man which have developed senses beyond his own five limited avenues to knowledge—taste, sight, scent, touch and hearing.

"We may be intellectual minims in the life of the universe," says Dr. Shapley, who seems overly cheerful at the prospect man is a planetary ignoramus.

His chilling assessment puts a new light on the whole situation. All along we have thought of our neighbors from way up there as freaks. And it may turn out we are the freaks.

If they arrive here before we go there, will they come as friends? Or will they, perhaps seize us for use as food for their pets, bait to go fishing, or live toys to entertain their children?

The mundane fears do not disturb Dr. Shapley, who thinks the human ego could do with a little deflating.

"We cannot escape humility," he says, "and as groping philosophers and scientists we are thankful for the mysteries that still lie beyond our grasp."

Dr. Shapley can go on being as thankful as he wants to. Frankly, we aren't at all.

If a stranger alights from a flying saucer in our vicinity, we plan to throw a rock at him, rush to the nearest phone and call John Foster Dulles—collect.

Retirement

By SAM DAWSON

AP Business News Analyst
NEW YORK (AP)—Perhaps all of you know of at least one man who has come up against a mandatory retirement rule in his company and had to step out much against his will.

His plight arouses pity. But the rule is spreading in industry. And more companies seem to

find it best for everyone, although in some board rooms there is discussion of advancing the retirement age—65 seems to be the norm—in view of the increasing life expectancy that insurance company statistics reveal.

Most executives, although facing the situation themselves, seem to approve of it. But more men begin preparing for the day well in advance and have their plans well blocked out.

More companies are starting up advisory programs to train employees to meet the situation when it arrives.

To see how company presidents themselves feel about executive age and retirement problems, Dun & Bradstreet has queried heads of 162 companies, representing 25 billion dollars in total assets and 30 billion dollars in annual net sales.

It reports today in its publication, Dun's Review and Modern Industry, that three out of four of the manufacturing concerns now have mandatory retirement rules.

Four out of five of the presidents favor the idea in principle. And four out of five already have a successor in mind for their own job.

The average age of the 162 presidents is 55. The average president has had the top job for seven years. On average he has a nine-man team of immediate subordinates, their age averaging 52.

Most of the presidents think executives are most productive in the years between 40 and 60. Understandably, presidents who are younger than the average cite their youth as making it easier to conceive and carry out long-range planning. Those older than the average cite their experience as a prime asset.

Many of the corporate presidents cite as one of their chief problems what to do about aging employees with long executive service records who are beginning to slip. Some ease up on the older man's duties. Some favor company programs to help executives prepare to retire—and, if it seems best, to help him retire before reaching the mandatory age.

Strange Riddles

By DELOS SMITH

UPI Science Editor
NEW YORK (UPI)—After about 140 years of trying, science seems to be solving the strange riddles in the disease called "tobacco amblyopia."

When you have that disease your vision gets dim and dimmer. Yet no cause for it can be found in the eyes. And if you have it, you're a smoker. Non-smokers don't have it.

But only a relatively few smokers get it, and they may be light smokers who haven't been smoking for long. On the other hand, vast numbers of the heaviest smokers never show a trace of "tobacco amblyopia."

That's been the big riddle and scores of medical scientists have been trying to make something of it since 1817 when the first case of it was described and studied scientifically.

In this century, another riddle has been added to that one. Women took to smoking in vast numbers, yet women rarely show up with "tobacco amblyopia." Why shouldn't they be as often affected as men?

Now, in 1958, science has what appear to be the answers.

Tobacco definitely is not the cause of the disease. But it can be the trigger. The cause is a deficiency of vitamin B-12 in body chemistry. That deficiency makes the retina of the eyes or the optic nerves sensitive to tobacco.

But the thin, light smoke of cigarettes isn't enough to trigger this gun usually; it takes the stronger, heavier smoke of pipes and cigars. A woman with a cigarette between her lips is no unusual sight, but you rarely see a woman smoking a cigar or a pipe.

These answers were obtained by three scientists of the University of Bristol, England, from 14 men who were proved by test to have "tobacco amblyopia." That is an important point because dimming of vision can be brought about by many other conditions.

Minutely detailed studies demonstrated all 14 had too little vitamin B-12 in their body chemistry to meet bodily needs for it. Vitamin B-12 was injected into them regularly, and was stopped as their vision became brighter and brighter.

Vitamin B-12 or "cyanocobalamin" is a relatively new vitamin—in point of discovery. It is essential for the proper function of nerves and for the maturing of certain blood cells. Deficiency is due to a bodily inability to absorb and utilize it and the end result of deficiency is pernicious anemia, a disease which used to be uniformly fatal but which now is held in check by regular injections of vitamin B-12.

Drs. J. M. Heaton, A. J. A. McCormick, and A. G. Freeman, reporting to the technical journal, The Lancet, suggested "tobacco amblyopia" was a way-station on the road to pernicious anemia. In some of their patients, it was the only clear outward sign of B-12 deficiency.

Chasing The Sun

By GAY PAULEY

UPI Women's Editor
NEW YORK (UPI)—Veteran realtor John C. Tysen is convinced the world is "chasing the sun."

"Take a look at the moving patterns of families in the last few years," said Tysen. "They're going from north to south... from New England to Florida... from Minnesota and the Dakotas to California and Arizona... even to the Mediterranean coast and African. Industry is doing the same. It seems to me the whole world is chasing the sun."

Tysen, in the real estate business for 22 years, gives two basic reasons for the population shift: health and money.

"World War II put a lot of people in training," he explained. "Military men got used to sunshine... most camps were in warm climates. They went back when they got the war over with. Or wives joined their husbands and found how wonderful it is to have children go through a winter without wet feet and those ghastly snow suits..."

"Families found how much money is saved when they have no bills for heating, no basement is needed, less clothing to buy. There has become an almost absolute worship of the god sun. And to think that 50 years ago, a woman wouldn't be caught out without her parasol."

Tysen keeps tabs on moving trends through Previews, an international clearing house for real estate. He has been its president since 1950. Through the years, the unique organization has sold everything from cottages in the suburbs to castles on the Rhine. Currently, Tysen is trying to get rid of a little old 600,000-acre ranch at Elko, Nev. It is the most expensive individual property he ever has listed—available for 3 million dollars.

In an interview, the realtor said the prospective home owner can find good buys in almost any part of the country—if he looks long enough. But readily available and classed as "best values" are properties in northern parts of the United States.

"Or, in Spain," he added. "Spain has the great bargains of the century, because it is 50 to 100 years behind the rest of Europe."

Tysen hinted it's a wise family which invests in a property in the north and can wait for its value to increase. He explained that real estate preferences, like fashion tastes, run in cycles.

"In another decade or so, people will get fed up with the arid and the hot. They will remember and long for the lush greens," he said. "The New England farm house will become popular again."

"And there's one thing about older property. You can build anything you want in the way of a new house, but you can't produce a 100-year-old oak to go with it."

Quotes

United Press International
NEW YORK — "Twenty-one" quizmaster Jack Barry, one of the show's integrity:
"At no time has any contestant ever been given advance information about any question used on this show."

They'll Do It Every Time

By Jimmy Hatlo



Weather Table

High	Low	Rain	San Diego	84	70
Albuquerque	84	63	San Francisco	71	60
Atlanta	87	62	Seattle	75	60
Bakersfield	89	65	Spokane	91	63
Boise	86	57	Stockton	93	61
Boston	71	54	Thermal	108	82
Brownsville	68	75	Washington	75	57
Chicago	69	58			
Denver	87	62			
Detroit	71	53			
El Centro	—	83			
Fairbanks	55	35			
Fort Worth	83	73			
Fresno	93	62			
Helena	90	62			
Kansas City	88	70			
Los Angeles	90	66			
Miami	89	78			
Minneapolis	79	68			
New Orleans	86	73			
New York	71	56			
Oakland	77	66			
Oklahoma City	88	69			
Phoenix	105	83			
Pittsburgh	66	44			
Red Bluff	90	66			
Reno	81	45			
Sacramento	88	61			
Salt Lake City	90	63			

PAINT SPRAYERS

Rodney Bell, 346 Pacific Terrace, reported to city police Friday night that boys, numbering at least two, sprayed red paint over the entire length of his car as they were driving by it in another vehicle.



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