

The ??? Baffles Sheriff's Office

By TOM STIMMEL

"The Thing"—baffling, bewildering and blinking—appeared in Sheriff Red Britton's mail this week.

He doesn't know what to do with it, exactly, because he doesn't know what it is, exactly.

And that's the point. Exactly. Seems Dr. Joseph Beeman, a pathologist in Boise, Idaho, sent "The Thing" to Britton soliciting advice. Beeman called it his "electronic wonder" and asked what uses Red and his staff would suggest for it.

The "electronic wonder," as Beeman calls it, or "The Thing," as the sheriff's office calls it, is a little gray plastic box, just so big by so big, completely sealed, with two little lights sticking out in front.

The lights blink continually. They never stop.

And that's the thing, or electronic wonder. Since Dr. Beeman wanted to know what use could be made of it—"has it helped in law enforcement?"—was the way he put it, Red and the boys put it to the test.

"I put it on a big flat rock while deer hunting," the sheriff wrote the inventor, "and waited. Along came a big buck who thought he saw a fat doe making eyes at him. The buck stopped, stopped forward, stopped again, looked very close, and I let him have it."

Deputy Fred Calfee found it more of an enemy than a friend. "I put it on the night stand, and the wife came in from a late card party, saw that thing winking at her and tore through a Thermopane window," Calfee insisted. "It cost the insurance company \$25."

"The Thing" has benefited criminal detection tremendously, claimed Del Summers, who put it to a more practical test. "I put a prisoner in a dark room and put 'The Thing' in a corner," he said. "I made him stay there for an hour looking at those flashes. I come back in an hour and he was ready to confess anything—even things he and I never heard of."

And so it goes. Or so Britton, Calfee, Summers, Dale Mattson and the other boys around the office say it goes.

"The Thing" may prove to be a flop as a solution to criminal minds, but it certainly is a stimulant for creative minds. And a very successful practical joke.

Yreka Employs Another Clerk

YREKA—The employing of an extra clerk to assist Yreka's City Clerk Alton Taylor was authorized during the brief session of the Yreka city council Thursday evening, October 16.

Mayor Jim Cummings pointed out the need for an extra clerk was evident with the increased paperwork on the city police and the city clerk's office. City Clerk Taylor has two assistants, but with the addition of a third clerk, the office will be able to operate more efficiently and will allow city police officers more free time for patrol duties.

Also during the session a notice of approval from the county boundary commission was received for the proposed annexation of new areas to the south and west of Yreka. This, with the approval of voters, will approximately double the present area of the city.

Sports Club Volunteers Aid

NEW PINE CREEK—The Goose Lake Sportsmen's Club at a recent meeting volunteered to help the California Fish and Game Department in placing posters on Lassen Creek concerning marked fish. The signs will instruct fishermen to report any marked fish to the Fish and Game Department in Redding.

The club also went on record recommending year around fishing in Goose Lake, but no fishing in its tributaries during the spawning season months of March, April and May, or within 100 yards of the mouth of the tributaries during those months.

Verne King of the Fish and Game Department at Redding and John F. Reginato, secretary of the Shasta Cascade Wonderland Association, were guests at the meeting.

Refreshments were served by Mr. and Mrs. Ethel Cundiff and Mr. and Mrs. C. O. Beerup.

Court Fines Paid By Four Hunters

DORRIS — Four California hunters paid fines in Judge Les Chase's justice court at Dorris following arrests by Fish and Wildlife Service enforcement officers and California game wardens on the opening weekend of the duck and goose season.

Three paid \$25 fines apiece on conviction of exceeding the legal limit of geese. They were James Lowell McCarter, 24, Lawndale; Edward Joseph Stephens, 37, Torrance and Walter Ellsworth Perry, 27, Lawndale.

Robert Delano Haller, 20, Central Valley, was fined \$100 by Judge Chase for exceeding the possession limit of geese and ducks.

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"BAFFLING" is one way to describe this little gray box that arrived in the sheriff's office. That's the effect it has had on Deputies Fred Calfee, left, and Del Summers — and the rest of the staff, for that matter.

Anti-Red Novel Wins Prize For Russian-Born Author

STOCKHOLM (AP)—Boris Pasternak, the Russian poet and author of the anti-Communist novel "Doctor Zhivago," today was awarded the 1958 Nobel Prize in Literature.

The award was the most dramatic in years. The 68-year-old author still lives just outside Moscow. The Soviet government has not permitted publication in Russia of his monumental novel about what communism has done to freedom and tried to prevent its publication abroad.

The award, worth \$41,420, was certain to be interpreted by many as a slap in the face for the Soviet government. There was speculation that the Soviet authorities would not allow Pasternak to receive his prize, or would take reprisals against him.

Known as the greatest living poet writing in the Russian language, Pasternak despaired of publishing creative writing of his own under Stalin and for years devoted himself to translations of such foreign classics as Goethe and Shakespeare.

"Doctor Zhivago" — upon which he had been working quietly for 10 years—was completed in 1956 during the de-Stalinization period of comparative freedom for writers. But to make certain it was published, he sent it abroad by a friend.

The monumental novel first appeared in Italy in Italian last year and was published in the United States last month.

The 700-page book has for its hero Yuri Andreyevich Zhivago, a wealthy doctor and writer who tells, through literary bits he left behind, of the tragedy of Russia in this century.

It obviously expresses Pasternak's reaction to the Russian Revolution.

Critics have hailed its sweeping breadth and placed it in the tradition of Tolstoy's "War and Peace."

The award was made by the 18 members of the Royal Swedish Academy of Letters from funds provided in the will of the late Alfred Nobel, inventor of dynamite. The citation said it was given for Pasternak's "important achievement both in contemporary lyrical poetry and in the field of the great Russian epic tradition."

In an obvious attempt to forestall Soviet criticism, Dr. Anders Osterling, permanent secretary of the Swedish Academy, said the author's writing is "high above all political party frontiers." Other members of the academy said they viewed "Doctor Zhivago" as one of the great philosophical novels of our time.

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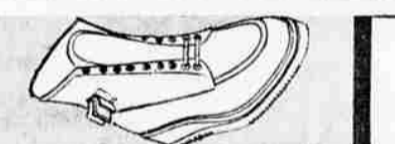
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