

## Estimate Pays Off; Expert Guess On Albacore Comes Close, More Research Set

By DEVAN L. SHUMWAY  
SACRAMENTO, (UPI)—One of the big mysteries of the fish world—the life and love of the Albacore—is being unraveled by experts at the California Fish and Game Department.

The scientists patted themselves on the back again this year. The occasion was when they estimated (that's a combination of guess and estimate) the time and place where the first Albacore run of the year would appear off the California coast.

It really was more than a estimate, actually. It was a downright scientific conclusion based on a number of observations and some knowledge of the habits of the big fish.

The Albacore, by the way, is one of the West Coast's most important sports and food fishes. The fish averages from nine to 40 pounds in weight and their meat is called tuna when it's sold in stores.

An official of the California department calls it the "premium grade" tuna. It's probably the most widely used. Meat of the Albacore is white.

As an example of its importance commercially, the department estimates the 1957 crop netted 43,500,000 pounds with a value of \$6,290,000 from California landings. Shipments from elsewhere brought the total of 83,000,000 pounds worth \$12,600,000.

And for the sportsman it's important, too. When the Albacore show up, there's a dash to the nearest boat for the sports fishermen of the state—particularly in the south.

Thus it was important news when the fish would show up off California's coast—and where.

Experts of the department said the first run of the year would be June 5, a Friday, at noon. They made this prognostication in May after studying, among other matters, ocean water temperature patterns and currents existing in April.

This was the third consecutive year that the experts had been right. The school was spotted 85 miles northwest of Point Arguello in Santa Barbara County by the department research vessel, N. B. Schofield, which left Terminal Island on a predetermined course June 1.

A study of the habits of the fish is underway all over the Pacific Ocean. The United States and Japan are the principal nations interested in it.

In California the study is making some progress, as indicated by the prediction on the arrival date.

How is this done? A spokesman for the department says that tagging studies and log books kept by commercial fishermen were two of the keys which biologists used to unlock the secret.

The tag returns indicate that the Albacore is the widest ranging nomad of the Pacific Ocean—and a speedy fish, too. They make round trips to Japan from California.

Warm water conditions have forced the run much farther north during the past two years. They apparently make a loop somewhere in the ocean and turn toward this state.

Nobody knows too much about the fish otherwise.

Its spawning habits are still a well-kept secret. But it's suspected that the fish spawn somewhere in the middle of the Pacific Ocean.

California only sees the Tuna during a period of its life cycle when it makes a swing along the Pacific coastline.

Separate studies by Japan and

the United States are cooperative to the point that there is free exchange of information about the fish. Each nation tells the other what it has found out.

The purpose of the study, of course, is to find out a little more about how much pressure—commercially and for sport—the Albacore can find.

Fishermen are stumbling along in the dark now. For all they know their lines are pulling in the last of the Albacore. And for that matter, they may be just scratching the surface of the total that could be taken.

## Mimi Benzell Hits Road For Culture

NEW ORLEANS (UPI)—Former Metropolitan Opera star Mimi Benzell has hit the road again vying with tinkling glassware and clattering plates in her supper club crusade "to teach the public good music the painless way."

Mimi, a petite 120 pounds, left what she calls the "tight reins of the opera stage" 10 years ago to live the nomadic life and "have fun" doing concerts, playing to paying customers in supper clubs and guesting on occasional radio and television shows.

"I have fun in supper clubs," said the colorful coloratura, "and also the challenge of an audience, many drinks and good food. If I can beat the drinks and good food with my songs, I feel I'm getting somewhere."

She was one of the first to bring arias into the bistros and she did it with an avowed purpose: to get across some good music in a pleasing and painless way and to raise for classics.

Mimi is currently teamed up with a pair of Broadway stars, Bill Tabbert and Larry Douglas, on her tour and she's having the time of her life dueting the oldies from the semi-classical field.

Between singing engagements in supper clubs, the former opera star spends her time with husband Walter Gould and their two children, Jonathan, 5, and Jennifer, 2, at her Long Island, N.Y., home.

Miss Benzell made her debut at the Met at the age of 21. She stayed there for six years before beginning her tour into the hinterlands.

The five-foot-two brunette thinks it's time American opera singers began doing something about turning the United States into a nation of "many major singing centers."

"It's simply a matter of staying home, allowing the people in your community to appreciate good music and then singing away while your city grows in musical stature."

"And it can't happen as long as our singers keep running away to fame and fortune. Most of them get lost. Hopeful singers have to stop getting lost in the big cities like New York and Chicago."

Not only are "they beating the pavement into oblivion," Mimi thinks, but "they're stopping the growth of our country."

**THE COVER**  
Mount Thielsen is pictured in today's Herald and News Sunday Magazine cover. This picture was taken early last May from the fish hatchery site on Diamond Lake and shows the mountain peak looming up in the cloud filled sky.

## Alaska May Be Tourist Center Soon

ANCHORAGE (UPI)—Anchorage, Alaska's largest city, is looking forward to the biggest tourist season in its history this summer. The only trouble is it might be too big.

Merchants are happily anticipating the sound of jingling cash registers but those directly involved in the tourist industry are fast developing ulcers over the very real prospect of not being able to meet the demand for accommodations.

Travel agents and progressive hotel owners realize that their future business depends largely on the impression Alaska makes this summer on the flood of visitors expected to arrive for a glimpse of the 49th state.

To avoid requiring tourists to sleep in their cars because they cannot find rooms, the chamber of commerce opened its tourist information center a month early on May 1. Since June 1, two girls have been on duty seven days a week to help steer visitors and to act as a clearing house for information on sleeping accommodations.

The chamber has also issued a call to local residents to open their homes to outsiders when hotels and motels are full. These private rooms will be inspected before they are placed on the office's accommodations list. Until this year, Alaska's tourist business was strictly a summertime deal. Hotels and motels were practically empty half the year and only partly full during spring and fall.

Up to Alaska's entry into the union, people knew little about the former territory and thought everyone lived in igloos. But the millions of dollars of free publicity which followed statehood has loosened pocketbooks all over the country and created a lively curiosity among residents of the "South 48" to find out more about their neighbors to the north.

For the first time since the war and then the big construction boom of 1952 and 1953, Anchorage hotels were filled to capacity all this past winter. Financiers, especially those from the east coast and Texas, have been sliding in and out of town in droves looking for places to spend their money and some have found them.

Michael Halbouty, independent Texas wildcatter, joined forces with Walter J. Hickel, Anchorage millionaire contractor, to build a \$10,000,000 hotel and office building development in downtown Anchorage. The two structures are scheduled for completion in 1961. The Captain Cook Hotel will have 11 stories and the office building 10.

Western Hotels, owners of the Westward Hotel and Westward Inn, bought out the former owners of the Anchorage Hotel this spring. The company has already started work on building what will eventually be a 16-story hotel development.

But Alaskans are still faced with the problem of handling more tourists than they have room for during the next two years.

### EVEN EXCHANGE

MINNEAPOLIS (UPI)—The Minnesota Museum of Natural History and the National Museum of Victoria in Melbourne, Australia swapped a few items recently. The Australians sent the Minnesotans the skins of a spiny anteater, scrub wallaby, flying phalanger and the skull of a wombat. The Minnesotans sent the Australians the skins and skulls of a timber wolf, pocket gopher, flying squirrel, short-tailed shrew and several species of mice.

## Homemade Cars Pose A Problem

LA JUNTA, Colo. (UPI)—Youngsters in La Junta have a new fad—building their own cars—which caused some consternation among officials of the Colorado State Patrol.

The law required that the homemade autos be classified as motor

vehicles. This, the patrol decided, made them subject to all the titling, licensing and inspection requirements. It also meant that the drivers had to be 16 and carry insurance.

As a compromise, the young motorists are being allowed to operate their cars on private property—and not on city streets or highways.

### CRAZY QUILT

BUFFALO, N.Y. (UPI)—Ira Walker was one up on the fellow who hid his money in the mattress. He sewed \$4,000 into a quilt, but thieves stole it anyway.

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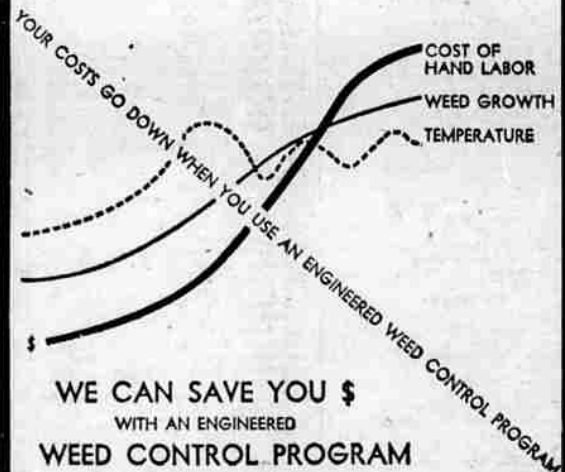
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