

TECHNOLOGY

Biggest Snow Plow Throws Snow 800 Feet

► THE WORLD'S largest snow plow, which the armed forces soon may use to clear snowbound Arctic airstrips, proved its snow-worthiness recently in Michigan tests.

The "Drake Dreadnaught" 30-ton plow ate its way at 35 miles an hour through a fluffy four-inch snowfall covering the Grayling National Guard Airport. It cleared the 6,300-foot runway in less than seven minutes, throwing the snow 800 feet away. It cut a 31-foot swath with each pass.

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GENERAL SCIENCE

Russian Journals Now Easier to Obtain in U. S.

► THE RUSSIANS are easing up on their ban against exporting magazines, scientific and otherwise, from their nation.

Only 180 Soviet periodicals were available in this country in 1952. This year about 300 can be purchased. They are available through the Four Continent Book Corp., a Soviet agency in New York which has a practical monopoly on all Soviet publications exported to this country.

Subscription service on many of these publications was interrupted in 1951 and 1952. Now, for some reason, such service will be resumed. Among scientific journals once more available are those in the fields of biology, mathematics, geography, geology, geophysics, physics, technical sciences and chemistry.

However, the two main Russian journals of physics, the *Journal of Experimental and Theoretical Physics* and the *Journal of Technical Physics*, are still not exported. And no publication dealing with nuclear physics has ever been exported.

This information is reported in the *Bulletin of Atomic Scientists* (Feb.).

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PHYSICS

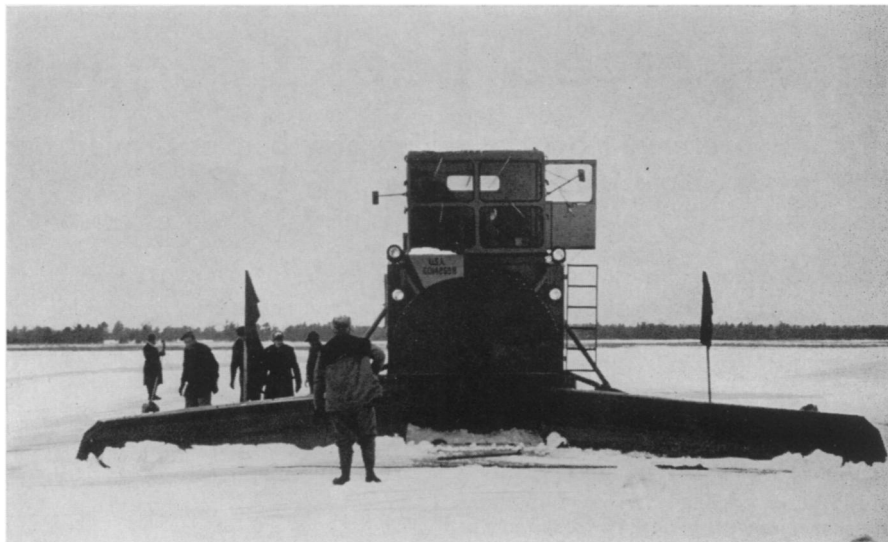
Test A-Bombs Do Not Contaminate Country

► DO NOT worry about the atomic test explosions in Nevada contaminating the atmosphere and the ground unduly.

An extensive investigation by Atomic Energy Commission experts cooperating with the U. S. Weather Bureau shows the dose of radiation is minute, although background radiation does increase markedly even thousands of miles from the bomb-bursts. But this is for brief periods only and the long-lived radioactivity is much less than the natural activity of the earth's surface and atmosphere.

Merril Eisenbud and John H. Harley of the AEC New York Operations Office made this report in *Science* (Feb. 13).

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GIANT SNOW PLOW—A possible answer to the problem of snowbound airport runways is the "Drake Dreadnaught" shown here. Cutting a 31-foot swath, it removes 13,000 cubic feet of snow a minute from its path.

ARCHAEOLOGY

First Folsom Man Rib

First known bone of elusive Folsom Man, heretofore spotted only by his distinctive flint points and his camp sites, found in clay deposit in New Mexico.

► THE MYSTERY of one of America's oldest inhabitants, the Folsom Man of 10,000 B. C., is about to be solved. After 27 years of searching, an almost complete human rib has been unearthed in a blue clay deposit in New Mexico—the first-known bone of a Folsom man.

Anthropologists believe that this bone is the long-sought clue to the physical constitution of the race of man widely known from his uniquely-shaped flint points and camp sites.

The actual find was made by a postman, Oscar Shay, of Portales, N. Mex., at Blackwater Draw, near Portales. He took the bone to Dr. Frank C. Hibben of the University of New Mexico, an authority on Folsom Man, who dated the rib by the clay where it was found.

What the early Folsoms did with their dead has remained a mystery, for out of the tons of bones that have been found at their camp sites since 1926, not a single fragment of human bone has come to light.

Blackwater Draw was a watering place for bison and other long-extinct animals, and the Folsom Man may have been killed in combat with one of the huge beasts.

The human rib was found near the spot where, last summer, Mr. Shay and Jerry Ainsworth found the skeleton of a dire wolf, a ferocious species that weighed up to

400 pounds. The skeleton had a fluted point in its ribs, a longer and narrower variation of the points associated with Folsom Man.

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ENTOMOLOGY

Apaches Threaten California Farmers

► THE APACHES are making life miserable for farmers and other outdoor workers in California.

In this instance the Apaches are not Indians, but Apache wasps, a species that builds its nest on tree limbs, vines or wood supports.

As field workers disturb the nests, the wasps fly out and sting, Richard M. Bohart, associate professor of entomology of the University of California, College of Agriculture, Davis, reports. Unlike a honeybee, a wasp can sting more than once if the stinger is not pulled out.

Prof. Bohart's tests in the field show that lindane or DDT sprays will kill the wasps.

Like many pests in new areas, the Apache wasps have multiplied rapidly in the absence of natural enemies. The wasps apparently came from Texas or Arizona.

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