

# Do You Know?

An unusual air conditioning system, provided by a subterranean lake, now ventilates an abandoned natural cement mine housing the largest mushroom farm in the world.

One large egg furnishes about 80 calories.

It is possible to tell from samples of scales from a flounder the fish's life history including its size at the beginning of each year of life and its growth rate.

France now produces more thorium than any other country in the world and more uranium than any other country in Western Europe.

Observations made by Dutch astronomers show the Milky Way galaxy has three spiral arms, in one of which the solar system is embedded.

Small, high-altitude rockets are expected soon to become commonplace university research tools for investigating the stratosphere.

## TECHNOLOGY

### Nylon Oil "Sausages" May Replace Tankers

MIDDLE EAST oil may be towed to Britain in giant "sausage skins" holding 9,000 tons when the Government-backed experiments of two Cambridge University engineers are completed.

A four-foot model, filled with methylated spirit, is now being buffeted by homemade waves in tests in a university laboratory. The hope of their developers, William Hawthorne, professor of applied thermodynamics, and Jack Shaw, an electronics lecturer at the University, is that the nylon oil barges, nicknamed Nobs, will solve the current oil tanker shortage.

The plan is to make an inner container of nylon, covered by a plastic skin, one-quarter to one-half-inch thick, at a cost of \$170,000 to \$300,000. The completed "sausage skin" tanker, 60 feet long and weighing 20 tons empty, could then be flown or shipped to the oil port and rolled around a drum.

When full of crude oil, the Nob would be four-fifths submerged and could be towed by a loaded tanker or tug at 10 to 15 knots in normal weather conditions. With a tug at each end, it might be possible to guide one through the Suez Canal.

The inventors are confident that the Nob would just bounce off if it were to hit a rock or dock wall at speed. It would be bulletproof.

Mr. Shaw, an ex-naval lieutenant-commander, said that the first experiment was carried out with a real sausage skin given them by a Cambridge butcher.

Science News Letter, April 20, 1957

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PLUS A  
VARIABLE 25 and 60 POWER  
TERRESTRIAL TELESCOPE**

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- 11—Fitted Hardwood CASE for all parts.

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A remarkable Navy Surplus Bargain. Originally designed as an Azimuth Telescope which mounted above the Gyro Compass. Has approx. 6 POWER. Finest Quality fully coated lenses. Crosshair reticle. Adjustable eyepiece. A Sun filter and a Haze filter. New cond. Cost Gov't \$150.00

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WITH 7" FOCAL LGTH.

Originally designed for use on the K-21 and K-24 Aerial Cameras. A genuine EASTMAN AERO EKTAR, 178mm lens. Has f-stops from 2.5 to 16. Focal length is 7". This amazing lens is NEW — in original condition. Guaranteed perfect condition. Excellent for Color or Black & White. Exceptionally fine for night work or in poor light conditions. Comes with 2 filters — 1 Polarized for haze, etc., and one yellow. Also included is a filter adapter, a lens heater for high altitudes and a lens dust cap. Can be adapted to 35mm or Speed Graphic Cameras as a telephoto lens.

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