

PUBLIC HEALTH

Recommend Inoculations

► GOING ABOARD this summer?

Here is a list of the immunization vaccinations the U.S. Public Health Service recommends or requires before starting the big trip.

First of all, USPHS recommends typhoid and paratyphoid fever and tetanus inoculations for all international travel.

For those who are Europe-bound, the ground rules include smallpox vaccination in addition to the recommended inoculations. Typhus shots are advised for travelers to any of the Communist countries.

For the Asian-bound traveler, in addition to the general inoculations recommended, the USPHS also recommends smallpox, typhus, cholera and yellow fever shots.

Visitors to Africa are advised to obtain smallpox, typhus and yellow fever vaccinations.

For those who will travel the Americas, from Alaska to the southernmost tip of Chile, smallpox and yellow fever vaccinations are required by most of the countries.

Persons traveling directly to the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico or Alaska from the United States, its possessions or territories, need not meet any of the vaccination requirements.

Travelers to the Oceania area, which includes Samoa, Australia, the Fiji Islands, Guam, Hawaii, New Zealand, Okinawa, Tahiti, the Solomon Islands and several others, are required to have smallpox shots. Several individual areas in this group also require yellow fever and cholera vaccinations.

The USPHS recommends that all travelers obtain their shots several weeks in advance of leaving the United States. Not only is time required to develop immunity after the shot, but the vaccination certificate is not valid until from six to 12 days, depending on the disease, after it is issued.

USPHS also recommends the booklet, "Health Hints for the Tropics," which can be obtained for 25 cents from the editor of *Tropical Medicine and Hygiene News*, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda 14, Md.

All immunizations, with the exception of the yellow fever vaccination, may be obtained from a private physician. Most vaccinations can be obtained either free or for a fee from state or local health departments. The USPHS publishes a list of these departments, one of which is near you.

Science News Letter, May 31, 1958

ARCHAEOLOGY

Unknown Indian Culture Produced Jade Carvings

► JADE CARVINGS excavated from long lost, jungle-buried cities in Mexico and Guatemala point to the existence of a little known but highly developed New World culture. It probably was well-developed long before the Aztec and Maya civilizations which date back to the early Christian era.

The creations of these Indian carvers rival and surpass those found elsewhere in the world, even Chinese jade carvings. This "presupposes a long and ancient artistic development during a civilization or culture of which we now know very little," reported the late Dr. William F. Foshag, former Smithsonian Institution curator of geology. One peak of jade carving was reached about 600 B. C.

The simplicity in line and shape of the early carvings was later lost. By the time the Spanish first reached Central America, the early, "pure" art was already declining. Soon afterwards the sources of the jade were lost. Recently, however, a deposit of jade has been located in Guatemala.

Today natives of the area have no knowledge or memory of jade and how it is carved. Even the folklore of the stone, "a jewel appropriate to the kings and gods," has apparently disappeared.

Dr. Foshag's report on the mineralogy of jade articles, published by the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C., is based largely on the extensive collections of the Instituto de Antropologia e Historia of Guatemala.

Science News Letter, May 31, 1958

Do You Know?

In the case of some *tuna* fishing it takes four lines, four poles, four men and one hook to bring in the big ones.

The Sukkur *dam* in Pakistan irrigates nearly 4,000,000 acres of wheat, cotton and rice fields and it is hoped to add another 1,500,000 acres to the area under cultivation in the near future.

The main reason *bread* becomes stale is that its starch crystallizes.

In the U.S. the total annual harvest of all *fishes* for the last few years has approximated five billion pounds.

The *skin* is the largest organ of the body and, next to the brain, the most complicated.

Tantalum is one of the rare metals but it has great utility in industry.

A British firm has designed a 700-pound four-seater jeep-type *vehicle* that folds into a nine-foot-long box which can be parachuted from an airplane.

This year, the U.S. Government will spend about two billion dollars for *missiles*.

Rocket firings have explored the area between 46 and 160 miles above the earth's surface, a portion of the atmosphere out of reach for balloons and below the level of satellite orbits.

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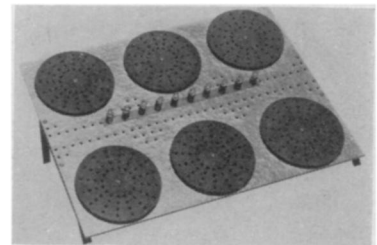
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