

OBSTETRICS

## Study Reveals Mothers Like "Rooming In"

➤ MOST MOTHERS like "rooming in," the modern system in which a newborn baby is cared for by the mother in her hospital room.

This is revealed in a study of 100 new mothers, conducted by Sharon Ringholz and Miriam Morris of the University of California, Los Angeles, School of Nursing.

Even mothers with several children, who might be expected to look forward to a few days "rest" at the hospital after the new baby arrives, like the system.

"Rooming in" is not a brand new concept. Mothers "roomed in" from paleolithic times to the early part of this century. Then babies were isolated and lined up in rows in a central nursery, and proud fathers pressed their noses against the glass of the nursery's viewing window. Under this system the baby is handled very little by either parent until time comes to go home.

Not long ago medical circles started worrying about psychological effects of this unnatural separation of parent and child. And along came an increasing problem of drug-resistant germs, which could cause sweeping epidemics in the hospital nurseries. Thus "rooming in" was reborn.

In this system a newborn may remain with his or her mother in her hospital room, usually as long as the mother desires, and according to the UCLA study, mothers generally find it a satisfying experience. Only four mothers interviewed expressed fatigue or inability or unwillingness to care for their babies.

One factor that appeared to strongly influence the mother's acceptance of "rooming in" was the enthusiasm of the professional staff. Although there may not have been formal instruction by the staff in child care, a positive attitude toward "rooming in" seemed to be contagious and was absorbed by the mothers.

•Science News Letter, 81:173 March 17, 1962

PUBLIC SAFETY

## Accidental Deaths Fewer By Two Percent in 1961

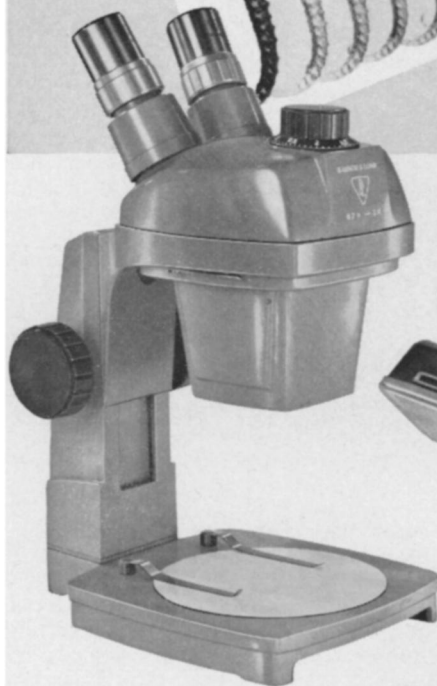
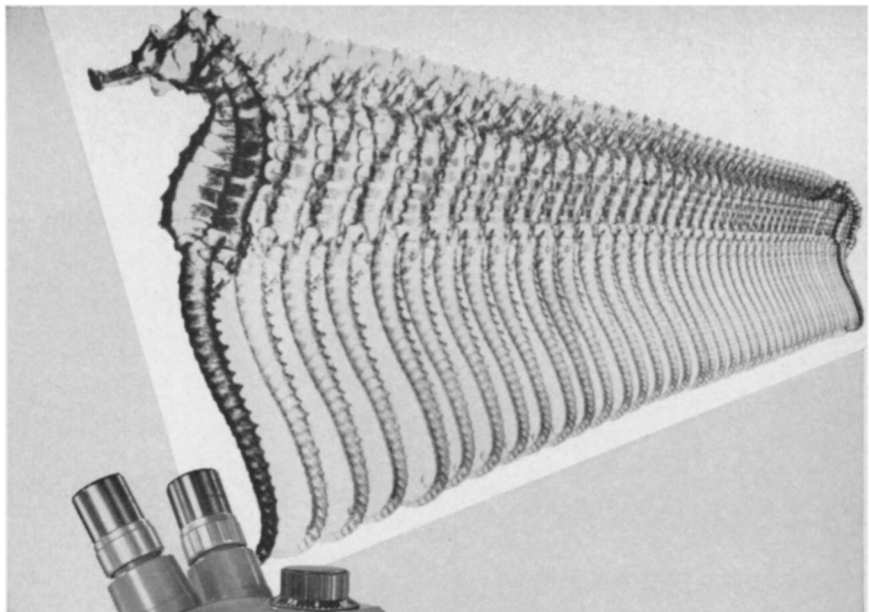
➤ DEATHS BY ACCIDENT in the United States dipped again in 1961. For the first time the toll has been below 50 deaths per 100,000 persons, according to the National Safety Council in Chicago.

Reductions in motor vehicle, home, work and public accidents resulted in a two percent decrease (from 93,000 to 91,000). This, combined with a two percent population increase, lowered the death percentages to an all time low for recent years.

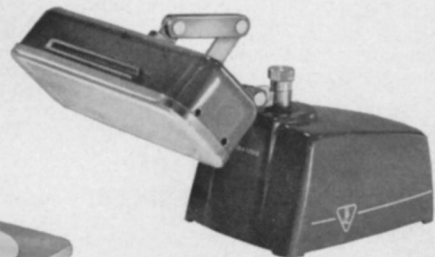
The cost of the total accident toll is estimated at \$14 billion for injuries and deaths, the Council reported. Of this, \$6.8 billion is attributed to motor vehicle accidents, the nation's primary accidental killer.

The traffic toll claimed 38,000 lives and disabled another 1,400,000 persons, but remained far below the record high of 1941.

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