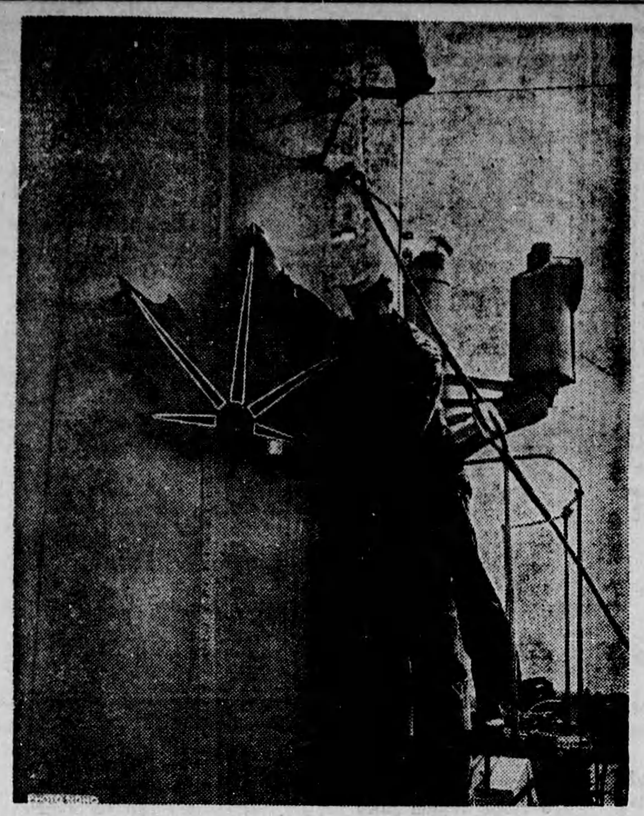


Identified By The Maple Leaf—While the three Canadian destroyers attached to the United Nations forces assigned to the defence of South Korea will be flying the U.N. flag, their nationality will be easily identifiable through the maple leaves displayed on their funnels. Here Ordinary Seaman Perry MacMillan, of Saskatoon, Sask., adds a touch of fresh paint to the maple leaf on the funnel of H.M.C.S. Athabaskan. The other destroyers in the Canadian division are H.M.C. Ships Cayuga and Sioux.

THE FARM FRONT

Here's an idea that might be worth the attention of some of you fruit growers who live fairly close to a big town or city. Of course it will be to late to do anything about it this year, but it will bear thinking over for next. And if you happen to know all about it already—well, it was new to me when I ran across it recently.

* * *

Customers of a peach and cherry orchard owned by a man named Wagner, over in Fairfield County, Ohio, do their own harvesting. They get their fruit at its tree-ripened best, and the orchard owner is spared the expense of picking, packing and shipping. Here's how the scheme works, as reported by Vernon Patterson, a Horticulturist at Ohio State University.

* * *

Wagner worked out his plan during the war when labor was impossible to hire during picking seasons. Each tree was numbered and marked with a brass tag. Customers were given a choice of varieties and then were assigned one or more tree numbers. The system worked so well that almost all of the orchard now is harvested by people living in nearby cities.

* * *

The "owner" of each tree agrees to take the entire crop from the tree or trees under agreement. At harvest-time, Wagner furnishes ladders and hauls fruit to the packing house. Customers bring containers and pay an established price for the season according to the number of bushes produced by the tree.

* * *

Wagner says the system works well and few disagreements have occurred during the years it has been in operation. The same customers come back year after year and a waiting list is maintained.

* * *

Now, a few hints that may be useful, I hope, to those interested in egg production. If you want to avoid that hot-weather slump—**FEED THEM WET MASH.** When the mercury starts to climb toward the top of the thermometer tube, regular mash consumption often drops, with a consequent slump in the number of eggs you get.

* * *

Enough wet mash for 100 hens can be made by mixing 2 pounds of regular mash with water or skim milk. Feed the wet mash on top of the dry mash at noon in the regular mash hoppers. A laying slump often can be avoided if you start feeding wet mash as soon as you notice a drop in feed consumption.

* * *

SECOND — GIVE THEM AIR When the temperature climbs to 90 degrees, the loss in weight by layers is serious, feed consumption drops sharply, and their is a definite loss in size and interior quality of eggs. Shells become thinner, which results in more breakage.

* * *

When the temperature climbs to 100 degrees, there is always the real danger of heat prostration and death of layers. Egg production may stop if temperatures go much above 100 degrees.

Many laying houses are not properly built for summer use. Cross ventilation is necessary. Windows should be screened so they can be removed. Plenty of space for watering and feeding is necessary.

* * *

Another effective measure is the use of aluminum in sheet, roll, or paint form to keep the heat out by acting as reflective insulation. In general, the smaller poultrymen will not find the use of mechanical air circulation—such as electric fans or sprinkling roofs with water—to be practical.

* * *

AND — THIRD — SQUELCH THOSE BROODIES. During the summer months, some hens in any flock suddenly become broody.

* * *

A coop made from a lettuce crate gives excellent results when hung from the ceiling near the nests. Such a crate is 15" high, 18" wide, and 24" long. These coops have a flat bottom. A piece of electric-welded wire may be fastened at the top, by staples, to swing inward to make a door.

* * *

Troughs can be attached to the side and fastened on the outside of the coop by screw hooks. You can provide water by fitting a can into one end of the feed trough. A piece of welded wire fabric hung over the top side of the feed trough prevents hens on the floor from flying up to eat grain from the broodies in the coop.

* * *

John Krill uses another idea on broody hens. He fills a 2" x 6" carton with eggs, places it in a freezer, and keeps it there until needed. When a "cluck" is discovered, three or four of the frozen eggs are placed under her. Two such chilly treatments will discourage even the most determined bird. Krill marks a line around each frozen egg with an indelible pencil to avoid the mischance of its being gathered with the fresh eggs.

* * *

When done with the eggs, he puts them back in the carton, and they are kept in the freezer until needed.

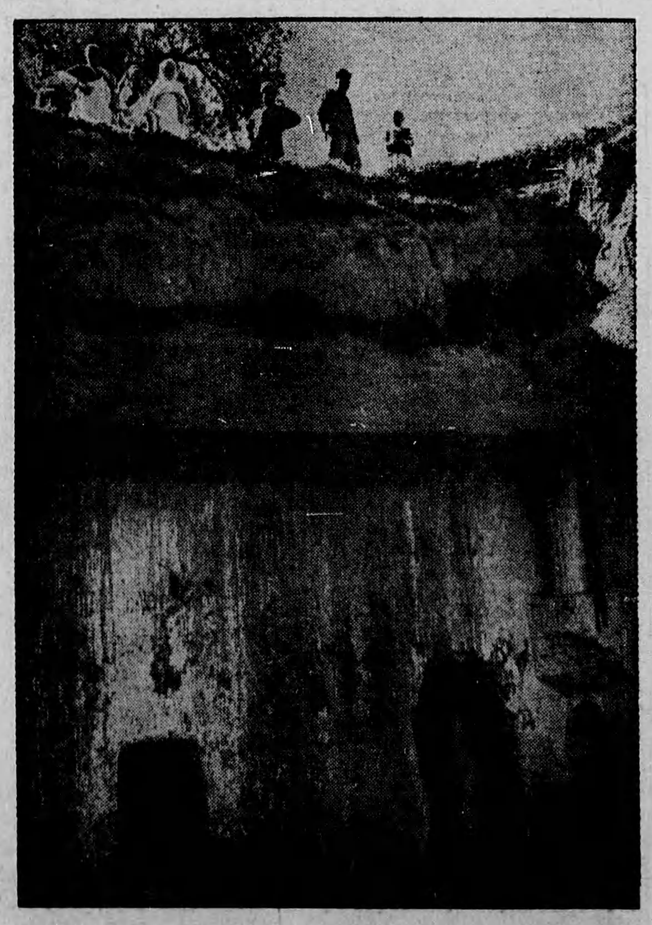
A good scare is sometimes more effective than good advice.

Refinery Rounds Off Wilrich

Following the first wild enthusiasm generated by the astonishing oil discoveries of Alberta, an enthusiasm which resulted in hundreds of oil stock promotions, the industry is settling down to a more orderly existence. It is gradually being realized that the mere discovery of oil, important though it is, does not permit quick realization of profits which can be won from its production. True, numerous companies are producing oil and selling it to the local refineries for revenue and some of the producers are doing well. However, it is now known that in order to cash in to the fullest extent possible it is necessary to have a refinery adjunct to oil wells.

There are now three large refineries and four smaller ones in the Prairie oil fields. The most famous of these are Imperial and British American which have been active for years in the West. More recently smaller but growing refineries have come into existence and one of these is Excelsior, which started five years ago with a $35,000 cleaning plant and now has a layout worth at least $1,000,000. This growth alone is indicative of the profits to be won in the refining end. However, Excelsior also has its own oil wells, with over 11,000,000 bbls. in reserve, and has call on an additional 15,000,000 bbls. Recently Excelsior Refineries sold $1,000,000 in 5 per cent bonds to Wilrich Petroleums Limited, which shares in the production of 41 wells in the Leduc, Whitemud, Excelsior and Blackfoot areas and has an interest in 15 well sites in Redwater. Wilrich also is engaged in large scale exploration oil-gas projects in Pouce Coupe' area, Peace River Section, and Lone Mountain area of B.C., just across the boundary.

This four-way method of protecting supplies and exposing the partnership to appreciation through finding of new wells, makes the teaming up of Excelsior Refineries and Wilrich Petroleums one of the most advanced of the recent Western oil developments.



World's Best A-Bomb Refuge—These caves, carved in solid granite some 50 feet underground, provide Arab tribesmen of Tripolitania with what is probably the world's best protection against the effects of an A-bomb. The underground dwellings, however, were not built with an eye towards modern-day safety for the Arabs have virtually no contact with the outside world. The advice of a soothsayer, who lived 600 years ago, prompted them to become tenants of these subterranean compartments.

SPORTS-&c

by A SIXBIT CRITIC

The controversy over what is the real cause of the plague of home runs presently infesting all baseball still continues, and threatens to go on indefinitely, or even longer. About the only point on which the expert—paid and unpaid—seem to agree is that if something isn't done to curb this plague of two-bit four-baggers, the game itself is bound to suffer.

* * *

There are those who say that the ball itself has been injected with a speed solution of the same sort as used to be applied to turn slow Thoroughbreds into fast ones, when the right money was down. But researchers have cleaved balls in two, picked them to pieces, and subjected them to everything but the saliva test, and yet have failed to find anything that doesn't appear strictly on the up-and-up.

* * *

The manufacturers of the official balls categorically deny that the ball is any different, or livelier, than those Babe Ruth used to clout over various fences, to the delight of the crowd and benefit of the box-office. And the manufacturers have no reason to lie about it, seeing that they make the balls for both big leagues, just putting different names on them.

* * *

Others say that the difference lies in the bats—that the sluggers are using lighter hickories than formerly, and thus getting greater velocity to their swings. This, to us, sounds like saying that a 150 pound boxer can hit a harder blow than a 200-pounder, or that you can drive spikes better with a tack-hammer than with a sledge; but of course, we could be wrong.

* * *

The most reasonable explanation we have seen as yet puts the blame directly on the rule makers. These boys have been tinkering with the regulations, and giving the moundsmen the worst of it with every tink. The strike zone has been contracted to such an extent that—according to some of the heavers—when a small man such as Pee Wee Reese is at the plate, you practically have to put the ball through a knothole before the umps will call "Strike."

* * *

Also, with runners on the bases, the new and more strictly-enforced balk rule severely cramps a heaver's style. The net result is that, instead of keeping ahead of the hitter, the pitcher is constantly behind. The count becomes 3 and 0 and Mr. Pitcher has to serve up that old fat one, or allow a walk. And even a mediocre hitter, when he knows right well that corpulent one is coming, is liable to do things to it.

* * *

Still and all when we see some of the alleged hitters with fifteen or more homers to their credit, and the season barely half over, we somehow wish the investigators had gone the full distance, and applied the saliva test, too, to that modern ball.

* * *

The annual question is being asked in golfing circles again these days, which is as fair an indication as any that the Canadian Open—Canada's top golf show of the year—is just about a month away. The question is, of course, can a Canadian win this country's top golf award, or will it go to a pro from another country as it has consistently sincce 1914?

* * *

The question won't get a final answer until this year's Open is over at Royal Montreal Aug. 27, but in the meantime the season of speculation is on — and with the speculation is the wistful hope that maybe this is the year of the big surprise.

* * *

The failure of Canadian golfers ever to lift the Seagram Gold Cup since the Canadian Open became a big-time show springs from the fact that the event always attracts some of the best competitive golfers from the money-laden U.S. tournament circuit. The $10,000-plus in prize money which the House of Seagram lets ride with the Gold Cup each year brings up many of the big names of golf, names which belong to men who make tournament golf their livelihood and who play winter and summer, year-in and year-out.

* * *

Against that type of competition, Canadians are handicapped by two factors—they can't play during the winter, and they can't play tournament golf steadily during the summer. There just aren't enough Canadian tournaments to keep them going, and besides they have duties at their home clubs as well.

* * *

But there is always the hope that some day a Canadian will overcome those long odds and keep the Seagram Gold Cup from making its annual journey across the border. That hope comes from a couple of factors—Canadians have come close in the past despite the odds; and golf is one of those games where almost anything can happen.

* * *

Montrealers, particularly, will remember the Open at Beaconsfield five years ago when Vancouver's Stan Leonard almost turned the trick. Stan was just one stroke out of a first-place tie that year, and he might yet manage to come down in front. Stan hasn't committed himself about this year's tournament at Montreal—which is a long and expensive distance away from his home club—but the betting is that he will show up. Another Vancouver pro who is alway rated a fair chance, Freddy Wood, may be along, too.

The Eastern pros will be out in full force of course, and there's many a threat within their ranks. There's Beaconsfield's Bill Kerr, who shot beautiful golf a year ago to finish in a tie for third place. There's Toronto's Bob Gray, who was only two strokes behind winning Sam Snead in 1941. And there are fellows like Stan Horne and Jules Huot of Montreal, Gordie Bryson and Dick Borthwick of Toronto who have been know to shoot extra hot golf on occasion. There are plenty of others too, both established pros and up-and-coming youngsters who can't be overlooked.

* * *

Some day—it might even be this August—a Canadian player is going to get really hot for four days and become thhe first Canadian ever to win the Seagram Gold Cup. But if you'll take our advice, you won't bet more than a couple of month's rent on it unless you get reasonable odds. Say about twenty to one or thereabouts.

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