

The Children's Newspaper, February 9, 1957

BRINGING HOME THE OIL IN HUGE SAUSAGE SKINS

Two Cambridge scientists have hit upon a bright idea for overcoming the petrol and oil shortage, which is partly due to the lack of tankers.

If there are not enough tankers, reasoned the scientists, why not tow the oil behind ordinary ships in long containers, shaped like sausages? The proposal is that these containers should be made of very strong nylon. They would be 30 feet in diameter and 600 feet long.

The containers would go to the oil-producing countries empty and deflated, like giant sausage skins rolled up, and then filled with oil to be towed home by whatever ships happened to be available, and these need not necessarily be oil-tankers.

Oil is lighter than water, as everyone knows, and the sausages

would therefore float well above the surface.

Experimental work is still proceeding, but it is hoped that containers to hold about 9000 tons of oil would be practicable. These would presumably be divided into separate compartments, for convenience of manufacture and as a safeguard against any possible punctures.

The containers could not only be produced much more cheaply than tankers, but also much more quickly. A tanker takes at least a year to build, even if shipyards are available; and they are, in fact, all booked up for several years ahead.

If the "sausage" method proved practicable, it could be used not only during the present crisis, but as a permanent feature of oil transport.

STAMP NEWS

THIS Turkish stamp showing the wooden horse which led to the downfall of Troy is one of a set



of three issued to promote interest in the ruins, which lie on the Turkish coast.

THE United States' latest issue commemorates the discovery of anti-polio vaccine.

ITALY is to have a stamp soon to coincide with an International Letter-Writing Week.

AUSTRALIA'S 4d. stamp, showing the Koala bear, has been in use for 19 years. It is to be replaced next month by a new 4d. stamp, scarlet in colour and bearing the Queen's portrait, which appears on the 3½d. stamp. The change in Australia's letter rate from 3½d. to 4d. has caused the withdrawal of the Koala stamp. Australia, like most other British Commonwealth countries, always has the ruling monarch's portrait on the letter-rate stamp.



This is the 999 room

Scotland Yard's new Information Room which deals with the 999 emergency calls has greatly improved equipment. Each constable telephonist has a panel in front of him which shows the position of the nearest police car to the scene of the trouble.

FOR BOYS WHO WANT TO JOIN THE R.A.F.

All boys who are about to leave school and have not yet made up their minds about a career will be interested in a new book called *Jim Bartholomew of the R.A.F.*, by Duncan Taylor (Chatto and Windus, 8s. 6d.).

The first of a series of *Career Books for Boys*, it follows the path of Jim from his decision to train as an aircraft apprentice, through the fun and mistakes of his "rookie" period, to the days when, as a fully-fledged flight engineer, he is a member of a Coastal Command aircraft.

A picture of a life of hard work and fun, discipline and comradeship, this book will be welcomed by any boy thinking of the R.A.F. as a career, or intending to do his National Service in the Junior Service.

THE ORIGINAL ROCK 'N' ROLL

A crowd of about 2000 in Auckland said a noisy goodbye to the last of the city's trams the other day.

Amid cheers, hooting horns, and blaring ships' sirens, the last four trams moved off in a procession, the final one bearing the slogan on its roof, *The Original Rock 'n' Roll*.

LAMB'S TALE

Larry the Lamb was "arrested" by a policeman in the playground of Highgate Infants' School, King's Lynn, recently and taken to the police station.

He was looking for seven-year-old Susan Roper, who has had Larry since he was a tiny lamb.

And he did not know that Susan moved up to the Junior School last term!

WHERE TREES GROW UNDERGROUND

Trees in leaf 3000 feet underground can be seen in the Sylvania Gold Mines of Canada.

Ten years ago miners there planted three orange trees and an apple tree in a tub, and used electric light as a substitute for the chlorophyll-making rays of the sun.

The trees, watered regularly and given vitamin A, have made considerable growth, but have not borne fruit. The apple tree, quite unaffected by the change of seasons in the outside world, continually sheds its foliage and produces new leaves.

PLOUGH CHAMPION AT 12

Leslie Dick of Stirling, who is only 12, had a triple triumph at a ploughing match at Bannockburn which was open to all Scotland. He won the championship in the open tractor 10-inch class, the prize for the straightest ploughing, and the prize awarded to the youngest ploughman in the competition.

SOON READY FOR TRAIN-SPOTTERS

A famous locomotive has been taken from York Railway Museum, and is being reconditioned at the Swindon Railway

Works, so that it can be used again to pull special excursions for railway enthusiasts. It is the *City of Truro*, which on May 9, 1904, reached a speed of 102.3 m.p.h. when pulling the *Ocean Mail* special between Plymouth and Bristol—a record at that time.

ROBOT FOR THE VISCOUNT

Viscount airliners, fitted with a new British robot pilot, are able to fly themselves to within 200 feet of the runway.

So-called blind approach systems, to help human pilots to land in bad visibility, have been used for years, but this remarkable flying aid, the SEP.2, is the first automatic pilot to bring an aircraft so near the runway in complete safety, and is the most advanced of its type in the world.

In the past it has been realised that, over a period of bad weather, a number of unsuccessful approaches would be made by pilots resulting in their having to "go round again" on the airfield circuit. This is expensive on fuel and especially so for aircraft with turbine engines, which have a high rate of consumption.

The new robot will make sure that the approaching aircraft is correctly lined up with the runway before the captain needs to take over for the touch-down.

SHEEP-SHEARING BLINDFOLD

A champion sheep-shearer in New Zealand has proved that he can "do the job blindfold." His eyes bandaged, he neatly removed a sheep's fleece without causing the animal any pain.

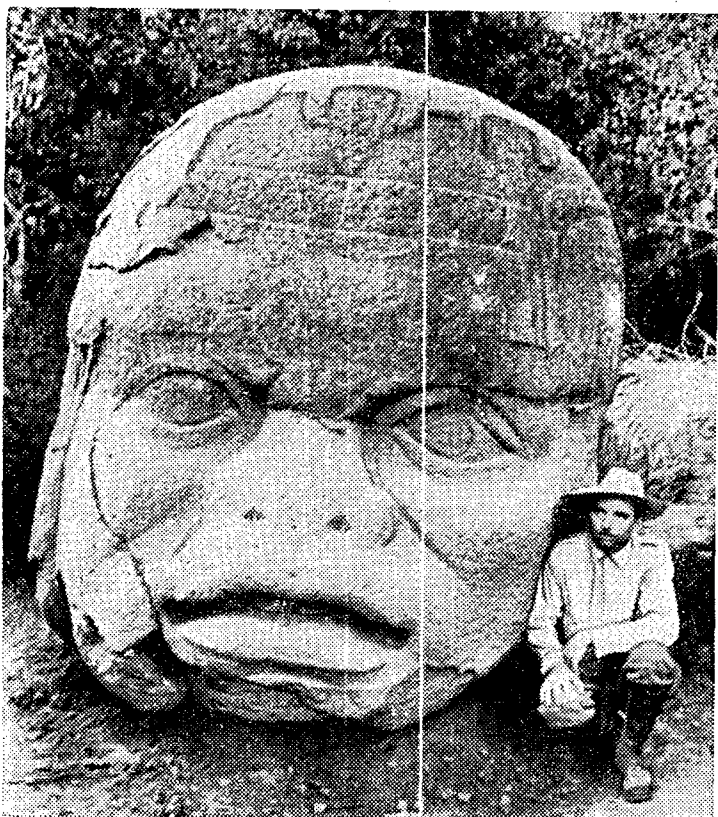
This handyman is Mr. Godfrey Bowen, chief instructor to the Dominion's Wool Board, who established a world record in 1953 by shearing 456 sheep in nine hours!

Now he teaches young farmers the quickest and least tiring way of shearing sheep—but he does not recommend the blindfold method. His pupils help to swell their country's annual production of 450 million pounds of wool.

ICE-FREE RAILWAY

Special de-icing bogies, or trucks, are to be attached to the front of London's Underground trains. On the truck will be tanks to spread de-icing fluid on current rails, cogs to break up ice films, and wire brushes to sweep away snow.

The bogies will be coupled to the front of any Underground train when heavy frost or snow threatens to cover the current rails and disrupt services. Eleven feet long, they will carry 150 gallons of de-icing fluid to be sprayed on rails at the rate of approximately a gallon a mile.



Head of a Mexican giant

Carved by one of the ancient peoples of Mexico, this huge stone head was formerly believed to be about 1400 years old. Now archaeologists, using radio-active carbon tests, have shown it to be about a thousand years older still.

