

THIS WIDE WORLD

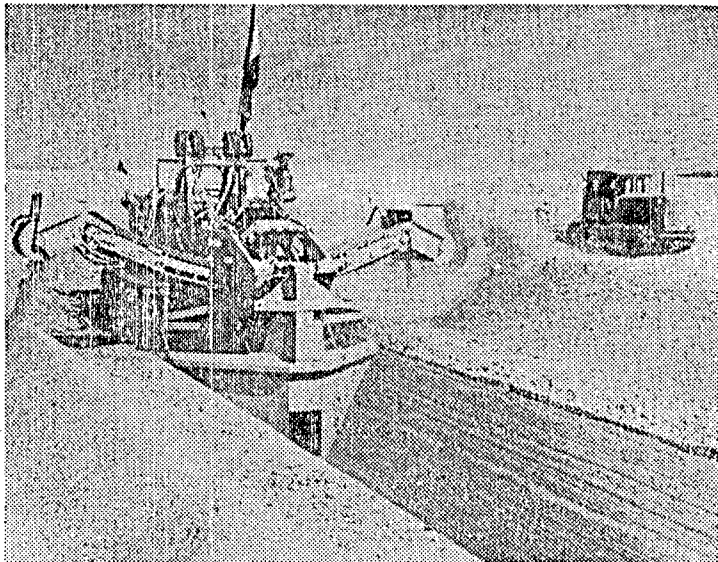


AUSTRALIA IS GROWING MORE RICE

Australian rice-growers are now producing the highest average yield of any country in the world. In the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area of the State of New South Wales, the rice harvest this year is expected to yield a record 130,000 tons, worth about £4,000,000.

Mr. J. B. Renshaw, Premier of New South Wales, said that in the past ten years the average rice yield in the Murrumbidgee area had been three-and-a-half tons per acre, almost double the average in the first ten years. Three-quarters of the crop went overseas, most of it to the Pacific islands, some to Britain and other European countries.

DIGGING UP THE DESERT



"Ploughing" its way through the wastes of the Arabian Desert, this Russian machine is gouging canals for the United Arab Republic's huge Irrigation scheme

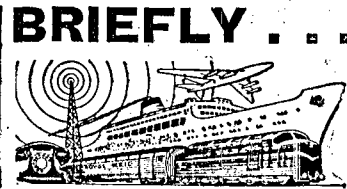
WRECKED ON A CORAL REEF

Nine people have been rescued after six days on a deserted island off the Queensland coast of Australia.

They were aboard a 70-foot sloop which ran on a coral reef and was wrecked. With four men in the dinghy towing a rubber raft, in which there were two women and three children, the party eventually landed on a deserted island.

After resting from their ordeal, the men set out in the dinghy and rowed 30 miles to another island, from which they were able to attract the attention of a passing ship by firing flares and waving clothing.

Six days after being wrecked, the entire party was picked up and taken to Brisbane.



A collection of nearly 2,000 specimens of British and foreign spiders has been given to the Natural History department of the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery.

Greenfingers?

Pupils at the Ashfield Boys' Secondary School in Belfast have built a greenhouse in the school grounds.

Scots Celebrations

Banffshire's smallest burgh, Aberchirder (population 755), is celebrating its 200th anniversary. Kinghorn (Fife), is celebrating the 600th anniversary of burgh status granted it by David II of Scotland in 1364.

TV in Japan

There are now 15,354,000 television sets in Japan. Ten years ago there were less than a thousand.

Hilary Whitehouse (16) of Walsall is due to take her holiday in Yugoslavia from next Saturday (4th) until 22nd July. She won the holiday in an essay competition organised by the Yugoslav Red Cross.

Arts at St. Asaph

There are more than 260 entries in the School Art Competition, the annual event at Llannerch Deer Park and Gardens at St. Asaph, Flintshire. The prizes will be presented next Saturday afternoon (4th July).

MEMORIAL ON THE MOUNT

A memorial to an Englishman who spent 50 years in Japan is being built on the top of Mount Sobo, a 6,000-foot peak in the Nagasaki region.

He was the Rev. Walter Weston, who left his Wimbledon home in 1889 to serve as the British chaplain in the great seaport of Kobe.

It was not as a chaplain, however, that he was to become known

the length and breadth of Japan. He took a great interest in exploring Japan, and his many map-making expeditions to the Japanese Alps led to his becoming the first honorary member of the country's Alpine Club. He was awarded the coveted Order of the Sacred Treasure.

The Rev. Walter Weston died in the City of Takachibo in 1940, and it is the city which is honouring him by building the memorial on Mount Sobo. Included in the materials will be stone brought 12,000 miles from his old home in Wimbledon.

MILLIONS OF TREES IN ISRAEL

After five successive years of drought, ample rains made the 1963-64 tree-planting season in Israel one of the most successful so far. Six million trees were planted by the Jewish National Fund Afforestation Division.

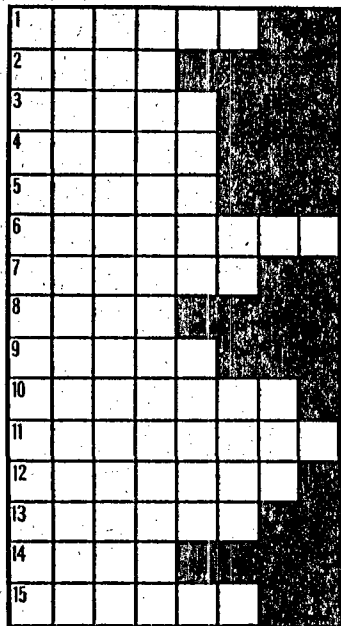
At the request of a woman's organisation, a forest of 10,000 Jerusalem pines is being planted along the road leading to the Medical Centre at Hadassah. It will add further beauty to the landscape surrounding the hospital, which overlooks the deep, picturesque, valley of Ein Kerem. Another of the schemes is for the planting of 50,000 trees for the Kennedy Peace Woodland, a beautiful and lasting memorial to the late United States President.

To keep watch for forest fires, a tower is to be built on a hilltop above a valley in Lower Galilee, where 56,000 pine trees were planted last year.

MUSICAL ACROSTIC

Answer the clues, and the initial letters, read downwards, will spell the name of a famous pianoforte composition by Beethoven.

- 1 Wolfgang wrote *The Magic Flute*.
- 2 Woodwind instrument with a double reed.
- 3 Play set to music.
- 4 *On The Bare Mountain*, by Mussorgsky.
- 5 Franz wrote *The Merry Widow*.
- 6 The difference in pitch between two notes.
- 7 Composer of *Faust*.
- 8 The French is in the brass section of an orchestra.
- 9 Musical expression meaning time, speed, and rhythm.
- 10 Johann wrote *The Blue Danube* waltz.
- 11 Sacred or Biblical story set to music.
- 12 A note which is neither sharp nor flat is said to be
- 13 Musical term meaning "slowly."
- 14 Rossini wrote an opera about this Swiss hero.
- 15 Sir Sullivan wrote the music for the *Savoy Operas*.



Answer on page 12

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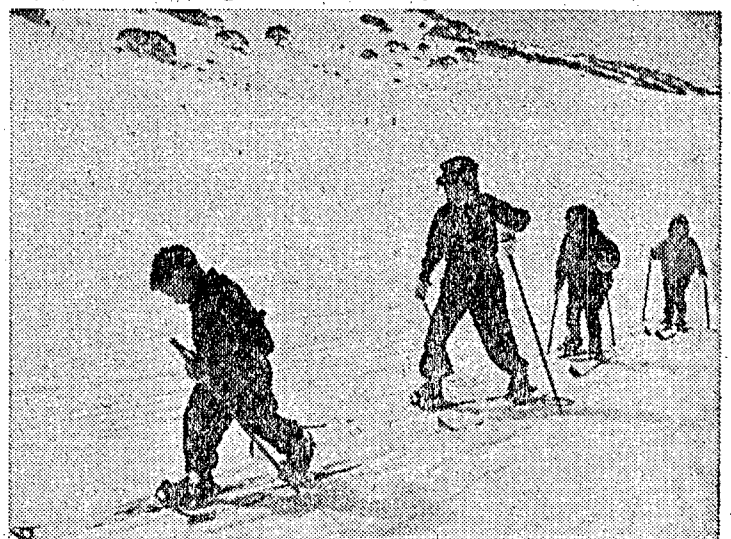
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FIRST BOAT FOR GHANA

The first of Ghana's 44 fishing vessels, being built by foreign countries, has been launched in Japan, where eleven more are under construction. The others have been ordered from the Soviet Union (18), the United Kingdom (8), and Norway (6).

SCHOOL TIME IS SKI-ING TIME

PUPILS at Corryong High School in Victoria have become the envy of all other Australian schoolchildren. They are being taught ski-ing as a school subject.



Ski-ing has never before been on the curriculum at an Australian school because, except on mountain ranges in the south-east and in Tasmania, snow is unknown in the country.

Corryong is a small town encircled by mountain ranges, but until this year the snowfields were inaccessible through lack of roads. During the summer, however, the great Snowy Mountains Hydro-

Electric Scheme has meant the building of a network of mountain roads in the Corryong area.

So now the boys and girls there are enjoying the ski-ing season (June to August). And the Snowy Mountains Authority has promised to help them even more by keeping the 37 miles of road between the school and the snowfields open so that the pupils can be taken to their lessons in the school bus.