

Firearm Fatalities to Hunters Only Half Those in Homes

NEW YORK—About twice as many persons are killed by firearm accidents within the supposedly safe confines of home than in the acceptedly hazardous sport of hunting, according to a study by Metropolitan Life Insurance Company statisticians among the company's industrial policyholders during 1946 and 1947.

Two-fifths of the victims of home firearm accidents were children under 15 years, and more than half of the child deaths were caused by children playing with guns.

The study underscores the caution that it is doubly important to keep firearms locked up if there are children about, the statisticians comment.

Handling, exhibiting, or examining guns in the home by adults or children caused 32 of the deaths in the insurance experience, and the cleaning of guns was responsible for an additional 19 deaths.

Playfully pointing "unloaded" guns and scuffling for guns added to the toll. Other persons were killed when they brushed against or moved loaded guns which had been stored behind doors of closets, behind beds, or elsewhere in the house.

Hunting accounted for 64 of the deaths in this essentially urban insurance experience, and of this number somewhat less than one third accidentally shot themselves and more than two thirds were fatally wounded by others—some when they were mistaken for game, or when they crossed into the line of fire, and others when the guns of their companions were accidentally discharged.

'Roulette' Game Fatal

"Incredibly, five lives were lost by individuals playing or demonstrating 'Russian roulette' in which the cylinder of a revolver containing but one cartridge is spun around and the participant points the gun at his own head and pulls the trigger on the gamble that the firing pin will strike an empty chamber," the statisticians report.

"It is clearly indicated that firearms are a serious hazard, both indoors and out," conclude the statisticians, "and that the annual toll of 2500 lives in the general population of the United States from firearm accidents can be greatly reduced. There are many precautions the possessor of a gun should know and observe in the interest of his own safety and the safety of his fellows. One of the most important is that all guns should be kept unloaded and preferably locked safely away, until they actually are to be used."



WORLD TRAVELER: At 18 months, Mark Wilson, full of importance with his briefcase and fez, is an experienced world traveler, having visited 10 foreign countries. He recently arrived in New York with his parents from Cairo. Reason for Mark's travels is that his dad is an airline accountant.

Kinsey Confident His Poll Will Stand

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. (UP)—Dr. Alfred C. Kinsey has brushed aside the downfall of professional pollsters in the recent election and said he was confident that his sex statistics would "last forever."

Kinsey said he expects his report on the human male's sex habits to sell 1,000,000 copies, and that its success has encouraged women to talk more freely about their sex habits.

Kinsey, now working on a similar study of women said that "it's much easier to get interviews now because public co-operation is even greater since the first report was published. We can pick and choose whom we want."

Conference Board To Explore New Proposal

Berkshire Hills Conference directors have been urged to make a special effort to attend Monday night's meeting in Williamstown to explore a proposal that might encourage the county's cultural development.

The specific proposal has not been revealed, pending its consideration of the board. But in his letter to the directors Public Relations Director Paul W. Foster hinted it would be "along the lines of the Berkshire Symphonic Festival, and at a later season."

The meeting will start at 8:30 PM at the Williams Inn.

Kills Man in 12 Hours

CLAREMONT, N.H. (P)—Carl A. Curtis, 30, died at the Claremont General Hospital Tuesday after being stricken 12 hours previously by infantile paralysis.

Officials of the Dartmouth Medical School said polio was cause of death, but that the source of infection was unknown.

Health Officer Wilson R. Haubrich said Curtis was stricken by a particularly virulent type of the disease.

Dr. Edward Colby of the state Health Department ordered restriction of all children under 16 who might have been exposed to Curtis.

Curtis was a non-commissioned officer in a local National Guard unit.

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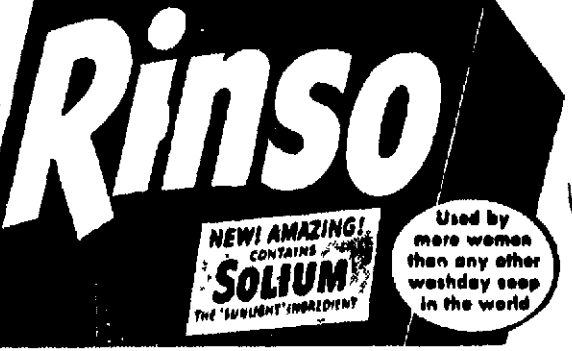
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Oyster Anesthetic May End Shortage Of Culture Pearls

CHICAGO—A recently-discovered "anesthetic" for oysters promises to spur production of cultured pearls.

That development, combined with more liberal Japanese export regulations and a better yen-dollar foreign exchange rate for pearl growers should end a current shortage, reports the Wall Street Journal.

For about a century since the first cultured pearls were raised, growers have been wrestling with a problem of high mortality among their pearl-producing mollusks. Cultured pearls are produced by "operating" on oysters and inserting tiny spherical pellets, or "seed pearls" between the shells (Natural pearls develop when a bit of sand accidentally gets inside the shells of an oyster or clam).

After extensive research, Imperial Pearl Syndicate Inc. has come up with a secret-formula solution that serves as an anesthetic on the oysters. The result is that the death rate of oysters "operated" on for pearl culture has been cut to around 10 per cent, from 50 per cent.

Imperial Pearl Syndicate has reached an agreement with the U.S. Army to begin supplying Japanese pearl producers with this solution. Imperial Pearl, with headquarters here, imports some 60 per cent of the cultured pearls that come into the U.S.

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