

4 Clock Ticks Off Five Centuries; Antedates Pendulum Timepieces

NEW YORK (U.P.)—An old French alarm clock that was an heirloom before Columbus discovered America has been found on an antique dealer's shelf here, where it had collected dust for 20 years. It is believed to be the oldest clock in the world in working condition.

Dr. Daniel W. Hering, 88-year-old curator of the James Arthur collection of clocks and watches at New York University, who says he is probably "the oldest clock curator in working condition," found the rare old iron clock that had been passed as rubbish by thousands of antique collectors. When he bought it he didn't know its real value. It was only after careful cleaning and studying it that he discovered the name "de Vic" engraved on the dial and found the worn bushings that gave evidence of many repairs for 250 years before pendulums were placed on timepieces.

Dr. Hering is convinced the clock was made "not later than 1410."

The clock, the equivalent of a Rembrandt discovery in art, is op-

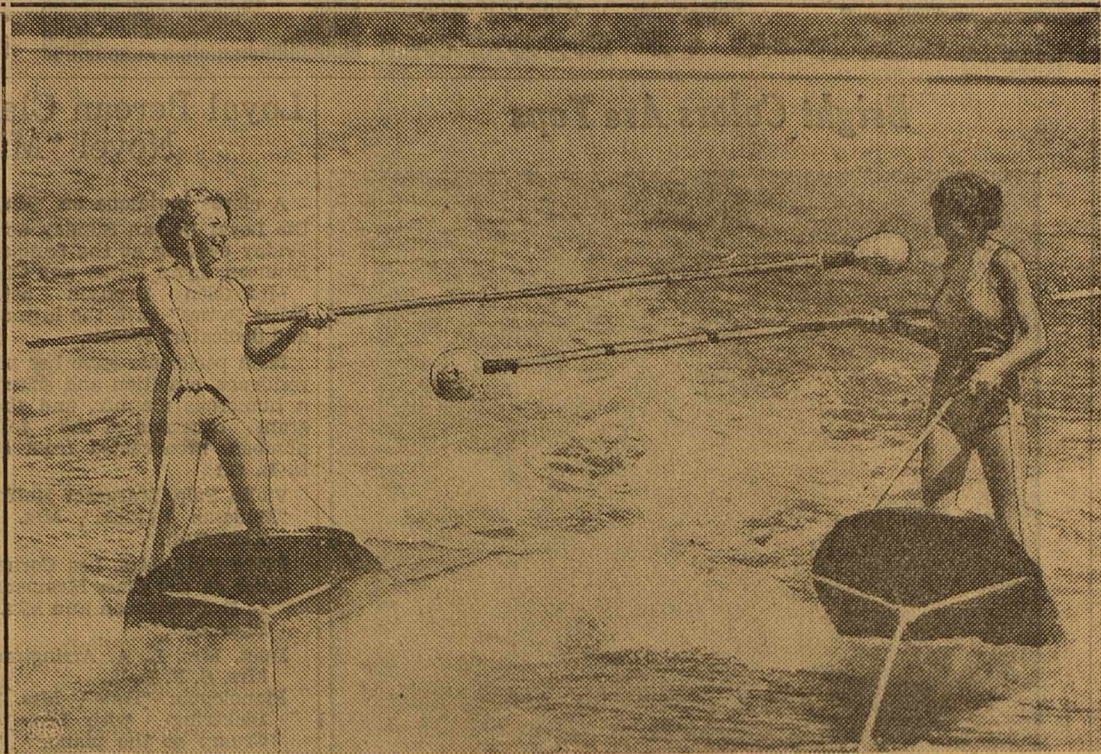
erated by a weight pulling down on a balance wheel—a "dancing devil." It still keeps fairly accurate time.

The name on the dial indicates it was made by Henri de Vic, clock-maker to French royalty, Dr. Hering said. The many repairs are evidence to the aged curator that it was made before the Dutch physicist Huygens first hung a pendulum on a clock in 1656.

The pendulum was such an improvement over earlier propulsions that practically all clock owners had their old pieces converted into the new style, Dr. Hering said. This conversion made pre-pendulum clocks so rare, he said, that probably only one in 100 clockmakers and collectors have ever seen one. Because of this almost universal change to pendulums Dr. Hering believes that the many trips to the repair shop which his old iron clock made would have brought its conversion, too, if pendulums had been in use when the clock was young.

Dr. Hering won't say what he paid for the clock, but he did say that it was no longer for sale.

At Lance-Points Going 40 Miles an Hour



Mounted on bounding surfboards instead of prancing chargers, and armed with padded poles in place of lances, these two Los Angeles lassies emulate knights of old as they take part in a 40-mile-an-hour aqua-jousting bout in the new Newport Bay and Harbor on the Orange County coast. Jeannette Thompson, left, and Olive Fisher will participate in the water sport program to be held when the \$2,000,000 federal improvement is officially opened May 23-24.

Other than light and fuel purposes. Carbon black and gasoline stripping plants sprung up in the field and enormous quantities of the resource were burned and dissipated in the air. Companies with long time investments in the field saw their holdings jeopardized by the rapid withdrawals.

Leaders in the legislation hit on the idea of invoking the correlative rights theory as an ideal solution. They reasoned it would satisfy a majority of independents by offering them a share in the market, remove the investment jeorady of pipe line companies and conserve the gas for useful purposes.

State's attorney indicated all haste would be made in accepting the court's suggestion that the case be appealed to the United States supreme court. They were hopeful the decision would be overturned, fearing that unless the correlative rights theory was maintained it would

provide an opening wedge for a movement to again remove restrictions from the use of sweet gas. Although the state lost in one suit it was sustained in another that attacked its rights to prohibit the use of sweet gas in the manufacture of carbon black. The conservation statute authorized carbon black plants to use only sour gas, unfit for commercial consumption. The court stated that if the legislature acted in the belief carbon black manufacture constituted too great a destruction of a natural resource the judiciary could not substitute its judgment for that of the legislative body.

The effect of the decision in this case was to empower the state with authority to prohibit wastage unless the legislature specially amends the law.

Indians Taught Old Art.

BELCOURT, N. D. (U.P.)—Classes in pottery making have been inaugurated at a school here attended by boys and girls from the Turtle Mountains Indian reservation. Instructors are from the ceramics department of North Dakota University.

Woman Is Fish Surgeon

NEW YORK (U.P.)—Dr. Ida Mellen, of Brooklyn, who operates on finny patients with embroidery scissors, has been discovered by the American Magazine editors. The patients swim in 45 states and 26 foreign countries. Dr. Mellen is probably America's first professional fish doctor, the magazine explains.

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Time Spent on New Law Called Wasted

AUSTIN, (U.P.)—The period spent by special house and senate committee hearing evidence and drafting a gas conservation law designed to provide a permanent solution for complex problems in the Panhandle gas field may have been in vain.

In a recent decision the United States circuit court of appeals held the railroad commission, the natural resource conservation agency, could not write a valid order under the law that would give effect to the rights of all parties and provide independent operators with a market outlet.

"If that law won't do the job then I doubt if one can be written that will," said Representative Sidney Latham of Longview, who presided over the committee during the regular session of the legislature at which the views of all interested

Closeup and Comedy

by ERSKINE JOHNSON—GEORGE SCARBO

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WEIGHT, 106 POUNDS.
BLOND HAIR. BLUE EYES.
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MATRIMONIAL SCORE 5-0-0.

parties were presented in full. One of the chief points in controversy was the attempt of the legislature to invoke the theory of correlative rights in respect to production and outlets. The legislature sought to compel large pipe line companies controlling market outlets for sweet gas to share their markets with producers less fortunately situated.

The three-judge federal court ruled that such a requirement took property from the pipe lines without due process of law and fell under the ban of state and federal constitutions. The court held the law did not sustain the order but that if the law was given an interpretation sufficiently broad to uphold the order then the law, too, would be unconstitutional.

By a complete, comprehensive scheme which considered the rights and equities of all, the legislature may be able to provide for an equitable ascertainment of gas rights, the court stated.

"We do not say it cannot do this. We merely say that it has not done so" the opinion recited.

Special committees worked through most of the four months regular sessions on the law. Testimony was given by gas engineers for the state and experts for the pipe line companies. The law grew out of public clamor for the state to put an end to wasteful practices in the Panhandle field, it being estimated that billions of cubic feet of gas suitable for commercial and domestic consumption was being popped weekly into the air.

Controversies over a solution of the gas conservation problem attracted prime attention through

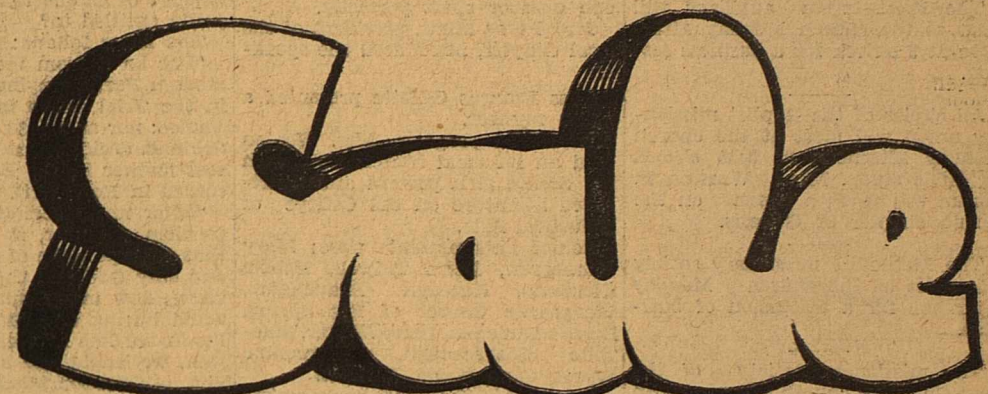
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(THROUGH SATURDAY, MAY 9)

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