

Shark Fishing In The Gulf Of Mexico Is Profitable Project



SETTING SHARK LINE IN GULF WATERS—Tony Rinche, above tosses out a baited hook in the 2,000 foot line used in the marine laboratory's experimental operations. Porpoise is used for bait. The experimental fishery is being carried on eight or 10 miles off shore.

The marine laboratory, in company with C. A. Porter of the shark industries division of the Borden Milk Company, have been carrying on extensive experimental fishing to determine the feasibility of establishing commercial sharking in Texas. The work so far has been exceedingly successful, over 100 sharks, ranging from six to 14 feet, having been taken on the experimental gear. And there is every indication that there are sufficient numbers present along our coast to make fishing for them profitable, according to J. L. Baughman, chief marine biologist.

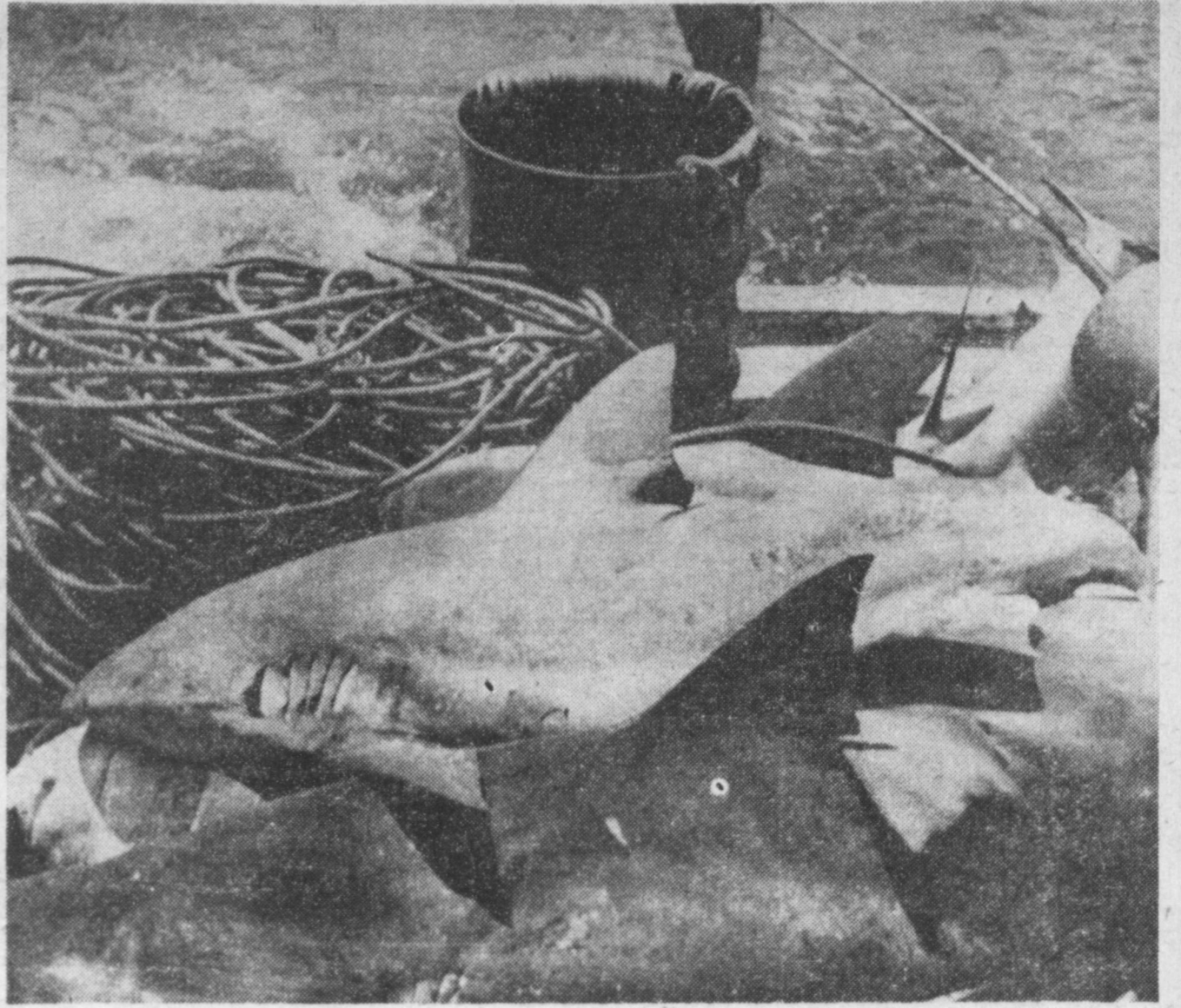
Baughman believes that the supply is big enough to keep six or seven shark boats in profitable operation—one each at Port Arthur, Galveston, Freeport, Pass Cavalla and Aransas Pass, and one or two at Port Isabel.

The average shark useable for such an industry, eight to nine feet long, should be worth approximately \$10. However, at a base price of 10 to 12 cents per pound, the liver of one shark about 14 feet long may be worth \$25 to \$30 depending on its weight and vitamin content. Generally the livers are about 15 per cent of the total body weight and one 14-foot shark caught by the laboratory boat contained a liver that actually weighed 240 pounds.

Oil from the shark's liver is useful for fortifying chicken and livestock foods, because it furnishes important vitamin A. The shark liver oil, which is very high in vitamin A, contains little vitamin D, and is not a substitute for cod liver oil. However there is a large market for the livers for poultry and live stock food.

Revenue which could be anticipated from other parts of the shark includes: fins, the carcass, the hide and the teeth.

Baughman said that fins are used by Chinese in the preparation of shark fin soup. Tests have indicated that the carcass of the shark is suitable for the manufacture of high protein content fish meal for live stock food. The hides are estimated to be worth approximately \$1 each for use in the manufacture of such items as purses, gloves, belts, shoes and luggage. The teeth are used in making fobs and necklaces. The laboratory is cooperating with the South Texas Rendering Company of Victoria in the study of the use of the shark carcass. Baughman said that test revealed that the carcasses are "exceedingly satisfactory" for the manufacture of live stock food and that if sufficient production can be obtained there will be a good market for the carcass in the area.



FROM THE BRINY DEEP—This is one of the big boatloads of sharks hauled from the Gulf by laboratory fishermen. The most sharks caught in a single day totaled 22 and weighed approximately 9,000 pounds. If a commercial fishery is developed, the sharks will be used in the manufacture of poultry, and livestock feed, shark fin soup and luggage.

and more plentiful, however, a nice soft mud bottom is chiefly desired and can be found 10 or 15 miles out in the Gulf.

The purpose of the experiment, still underway, was to determine whether or not there are enough sharks in the Gulf to support a commercial fishery.

The 34-foot laboratory boat, KT is being used for the state's experimental shark fishing. Any 40 or 50 foot shrimp boat will do although a 60 or 70 foot one is better as 15 or 20 big sharks will weigh from 10,000 to 15,000 pounds, which is certainly no load for a skiff.

Baughman suggests that the fishing could be conducted on a more profitable basis along the edge of the continental shelf—approximately 55 miles off shore where the sharks would be larger

around the cat head on the winch and start reeling in the sharks. The biggest shark ever caught by the staff thus far was 14 feet long with a liver that weighed 240 pounds. Twenty-two sharks were the most the men caught in a single day. The fish in this haul were from eight to 13 feet long and weighed a total of approximately 9,000 pounds.

Mr. Baughman reports that by using larger craft for shark fishing, more tackle could be used. A boat 50 to 60 feet long should be able to use a line 6,000 or 7,000 feet long with 300 hooks.

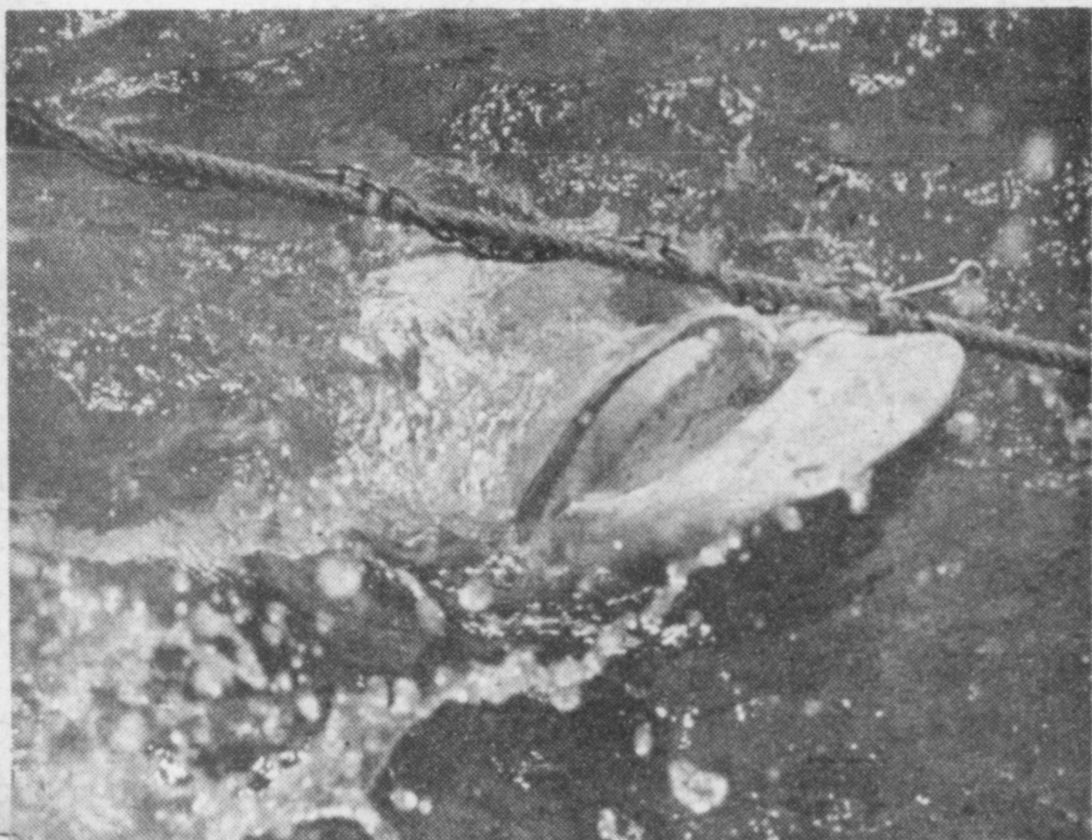
The boatmen have found that the sharks are easy to handle, considering their size. Most of them, however, are dead when taken from the water, having fought

A return trip is made the next morning to pick up the anchor buoy, throw the end of the trotline

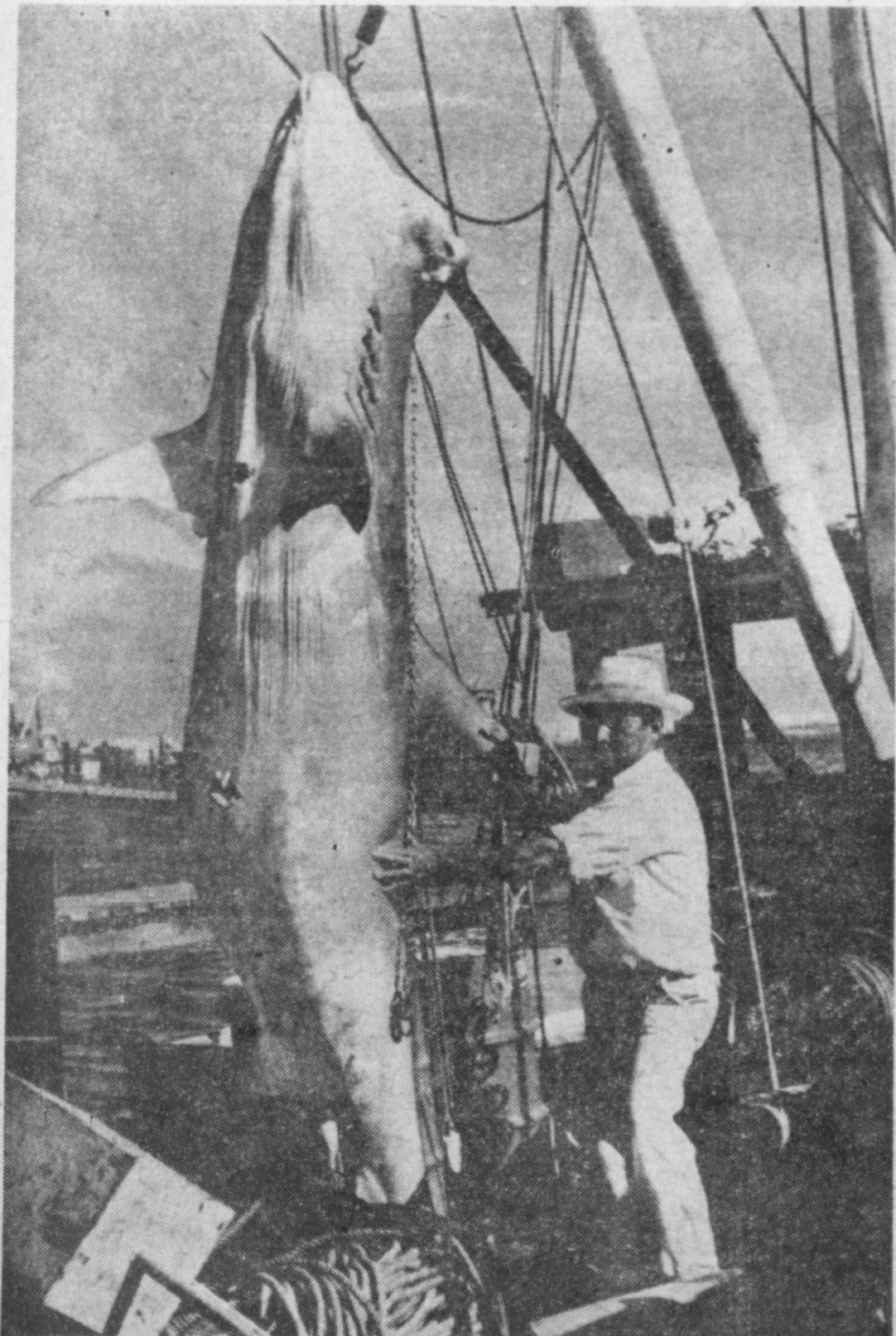
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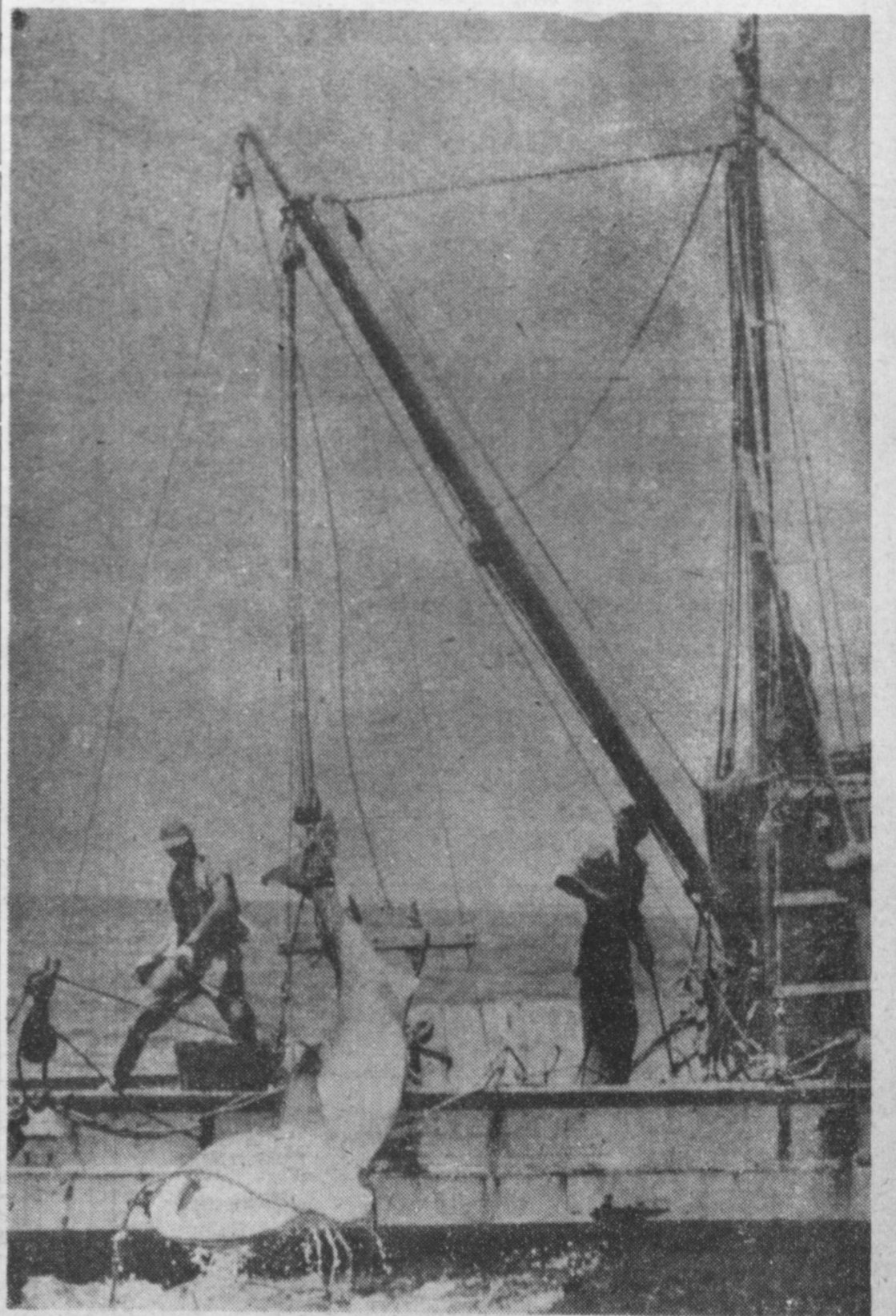
NOTHING TO DO BUT WAIT—Big as he is, there was nothing this fish could do but wait to be hauled out. In his mouth is a 2½ inch hook on a galvanized chain leader which is attached to a manila rope trotline. Hard laid rope or steel cable is recommended by the laboratory for shark fishing line.



BIGGEST SHARK CAUGHT BY LAB MEN—Capt. George Nava, of the laboratory boat KT, poses above, with the 14-foot fighting tiger shark after it was taken aboard and transported to the marine laboratory docks. This was the biggest shark caught by the state men. Its liver alone weighed 243 pounds.



LIVERS REMOVED—Shark livers, rich in vitamin A make shark fishing profitable. The liver removing operation is performed when the sharks are returned to the laboratory. Boat Capt. George Nava, above, pulls the big liver from hoisted fish. Other laboratory workmen are Tony Rinche, left, and David Mejarado.



TIGER SHARK COMES UP FIGHTING—Over the side and into the boat goes a big shark, snagged on the trotline. Winches are necessary to haul the monsters aboard. Most of the sharks caught in the experimental operation fought themselves to death before they were taken from the line. The 14-foot tiger, being loaded above, was an exception. He came up alive and fighting. The two men shown aboard the laboratory boat KT fought him for an hour before they could get the big fish close to club him fatally on the nose.



GHOST GALLOPS AGAIN—Harold "Red" Grange, the former University of Illinois and pro football great, here demonstrates the art of stiff-arming to Raymond Freeman, 12, a pupil in one of the eight junior football schools conducted by the Chicago park district. Grange, the "Galloping Ghost" of the '20s, is roaming the gridiron again as supervisory coach of the program.

Tourist Bureau Outlines Method of Reply to Fall Ad Inquiries

The Tourist Bureau of the Chamber of Commerce met at the city hall Tuesday night and outlined the method to handle inquiries resulting from the fall advertising.

It was voted to follow the same method used last year. The secretary of the Chamber of Commerce will compile a list each day of the inquiries received and forward them to each bureau member to answer personally. The secretary will also answer each letter and send a folder. Court operators were requested to keep an accurate check during the winter in regard to the number of persons who come to Rockport in direct response to the ad which will be run in 16 newspapers throughout the midwest Nov. 6, and will appear in the November issue of the Rotarian.

Housing for students coming to Rockport to attend the seminar next week was discussed. Court owners agreed to provide lodging at \$1.00 per night per person.

The need for a local government body to plan a campaign for elimination of mosquitoes during the summer and fall months was discussed. It was believed that it would be impracticable for any civic organization to undertake the project as the cost would be prohibitive for a limited number of persons. Benefits which would be derived would affect everyone in the community.

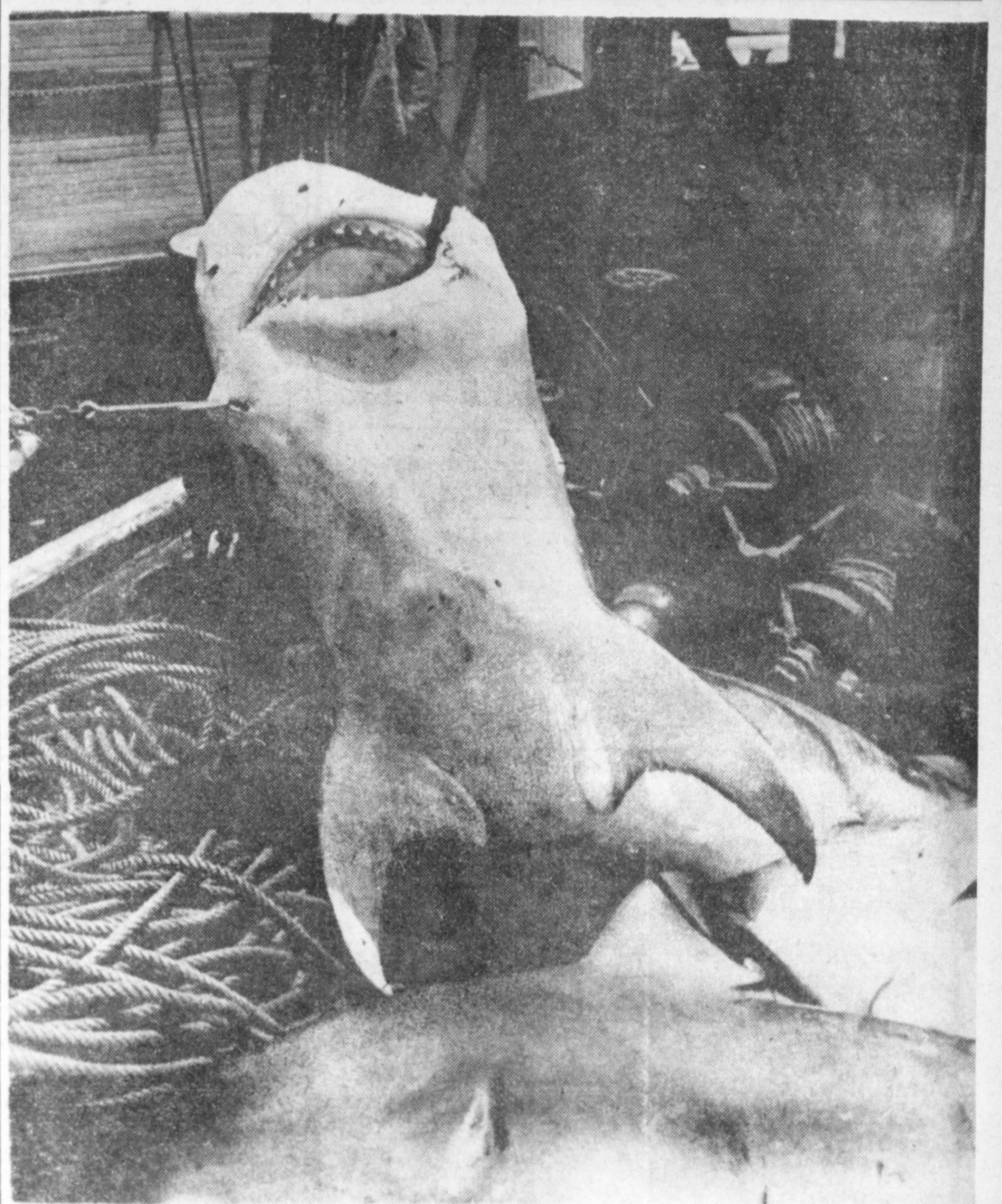
'The Red Pony' Played Brilliantly By All-star Cast

Long heralded by glowing reports, Republic's production of "The Red Pony," starring Myrna Loy and Robert Mitchum, shows Thursday and Friday, Oct. 27 and 28 at the Surf Theatre.

The story is built around the gift of a small red pony to nine-year-old Tom Tiflin. The pony quickly becomes the focal point about which revolves a complex interplay of relationships in the Tiflin home. The father, Fred, is a former school teacher who has never been able to adjust himself to the ranch life so natural to his gentle wife, Alice, and his young son. Fred finds it impossible to get on equal footing with the neighbors, all of whom address him as "Mr. Tiflin" when he longs to be called by his first name. It seems to Fred that he is excess baggage around the ranch. Even Tom turns to Billy Buck, the hired man, for help in training the pony, rather than to his father. Fred vents most of his resentment upon his old father-in-law, whose wistful identification with the past irritates the unhappy man.

When the pony dies, bringing depthless grief to young Tom, the family situation is brought to a fast, heart-warming culmination, which makes "The Red Pony" a picture which will linger hauntingly in all minds for a long time to come.

Myrna Loy gives a skillful performance in the difficult role of the sensitive and understanding mother. Robert Mitchum's portrayal of the hired man is characterized by deep tones, and is one which leaves no question as to how he made his recent meteoric rise to stardom. Louis Calhern is splendid as the tired and disillusioned grandfather who knows that his day of greatness is past. Shepperd Strudwick as Fred, and Peter Miles as Tom, are excellent in their father and son parts.



BUSINESS END OF A TIGER SHARK—A large tiger shark is shown above being lowered into the boat after it was taken from the trotline. The smaller hook in the shark's mouth at left is attached to the trotline. The larger hook is attached to the equipment used in hoisting the big fish aboard. A pile of rope similar to that used for shark trotlines is shown at left. (All shark pictures courtesy Corpus Christi Caller-Times)

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Trash and Carelessness Head List of Fire Hazards in Home Check

Chas. Ankele, fire chief, reported Wednesday that six houses out of a total of 320 checked in the Rockport-Fulton area by school children were reported to have major fire hazards on the premises. Carelessness in the care and amount of trash predominated in the list of hazards, it was reported.

The housing check was a project carried out during Fire Prevention Week in the interest of reducing loss of life and destruction of property by needless fire.

Junior fire fighters were given a home inspection blank and made a fireman for a day. They made complete checks around their homes to look for fire dangers. Following the inspection, a report was filled in and returned to their teacher. Parents were no doubt surprised at the number of fire dangers which the youngsters pointed out. Fire Chief Ankele complimented the group and remarked that if adults were as cooperative as the children, there would be fewer fires.

Vitamin D is the rarest among ordinary foodstuffs.

New Furniture Store To Open Here Saturday

Byron's Furniture Exchange will open for business Saturday morning, Oct. 22, in the building next to the Ballard Drug Store formerly occupied by the Sea Food Grill. The new business is owned and will be operated by Mr. and Mrs. Byron Bushart who recently moved here from Falfurrias. Mr. and Mrs. Bushart are well known in Rockport, having formerly lived here.

The Exchange will handle a full line of furniture and electrical appliances as well as the Serta mattress. There will also be a gift shop featuring Mexican type gifts, sea shell items and ceramics.

Karl Marx was a frequent contributor to the New York Tribune while living in poverty in London after his exile from Prussia and France.

SHARK FISHING—

(Continued from page 4)

themselves to death on the heavy lines after they are hooked and before they are taken from the water. The 14-foot shark was alive when brought in. Two men aboard the KT fought him for an hour before they could get him close enough to strike a fatal blow on his nose.

As rapidly as they come in, the chain is unspooled from the line, the shark pulled forward to the bow of the boat, and snapped onto a ring, where it floats alongside the boat until the line is all pick-

ed up. The shark is led back aft; a heavy steel hook slipped into its mouth and as the winch rumbles, it slides in over the rail of the boat, ready to be made into chicken feed.

In examining the stomachs of the sharks, the laboratory made some interesting discoveries. Despite popular belief, not many sharks are man eaters. Ranging in size from a few inches long to prehistoric monsters 100 feet in length and 120 tons in weight, they might well deserve the title of garbage cans of the sea. Judging from the multiplicity of things taken from their stomachs. One stomach examined contained 35

different species of fish. One contained what biologists believed to be the bones of a small whale, Mr. Baughman said. In another there were portions of large shrimp nets; others contained cardboard boxes, feathers from birds, beef bones and porpoise bones. In the stomach of one large tiger there was a straw hat, while another contained a shoe.

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