Washington Digest

Fossils Intrigue Bright Young Scientist-Farmer

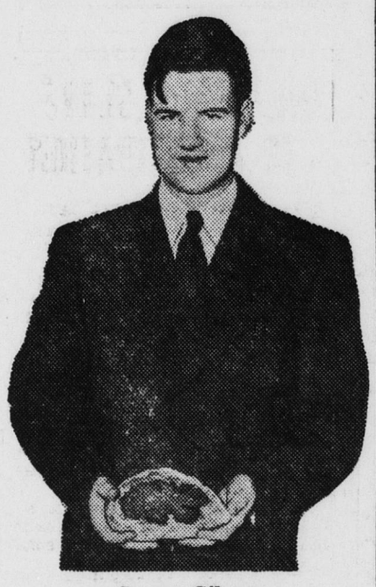
One of 40 Talented Youth Honored With Trip To Washington; Many Ponder Careers As Atomic Researchists.

By BAUKHAGE
News Analyst and Commentator.

WNU Service, 1616 Eye Street, N.W., Washington, D. C.

He knew what a sphygmomanometer was used for; that a decigram equals 1.5432 grains; and that septicemia and anaphylaxis are different. Besides that, he collects fossils — enough to fill the farm kitchen at his home near Ellensburg, Wash. That's why 18-year-old Jim Gibson got a free trip to Washington, D. C., where he ate buffalo steak at the zoo; drank tea at the White House; gave congress a critical once-over; and listened to Lise Neitner, physics wizard, talk on atomic theory.

Jim is one of 40 bright young high school seniors selected as finalists in the fifth annual science talent search, sponsored by Science Service of Washington, with scholarships offered by Westinghouse Electric company. Sixteen thousand scientific-minded boys and girls, from every section of the country, took competitive examinations on such things as sphygmomanometers and decigrams; wrote essays on "My Scientific Project"; were interviewed by leading scientists. Three hundred of them won special recognition; 260 were given honorable mention; and 40 "finalists," including Jim Gibson, came to Washington, D. C., to attend the Science Talent institute.



James Gibson

I met Jim at the banquet which wound up the hectic weekend of interviews and sightseeing tours, and asked him how he'd happened to start collecting fossils instead of stamps, birds' eggs, or matchbox covers. Jim, a ruddy, rumpled, serge-suited farm boy, scoffed at stamps as "dull." Fossils aren't.

One Fossil 20,000 Years Old

Why, just this year, he was nosing around some cliffs in his part of the state of Washington, and he came upon an interesting rock. That is, it would look like a rock to you and me. Jim saw something embedded in it. Maybe a bone. He and his fossil-minded companion hacked out the rock, and with considerable effort, lugged it into their car. It weighed 120 pounds. At home, Jim "liberated" what he had seen embedded in the rock. A small piece of wood. He took it to a scientific professor friend of his, and learned that what he had found was a 20,000-year-old fossil. Jim was as excited as if somebody had presented him with a brand-new 1946 model automobile.

The serious, brown-eyed youngster tosses decades and centuries around with great ease. Over the mushroom soup, he dug around in his crowded pockets and produced an odd-looking object.

"See this?" he asked.

"Um," I said. Another piece of rock.

"It's a shark's tooth," Jim explained. "It's eight million years old. Dr. Foshag of the Smithsonian Institution gave it to me."

I hurriedly rolled the conversational ball back to 1946.

"What does your family think of your fossils." I wanted to know.

Well, it turns out that Jim, and his father, a dairy farmer, "batch it." Mr. Gibson has no objections to fossils under the bed so long as they don't interfere with Jim's cooking. Yes, Jim does most of the cooking, but he's deprecatory on this score, saying his culinary exploits depend largely on a can-opener.

Likes Collector Of Brains

Girls? Well, to appeal to Jim, they'd have to be as smart as Lise Neitner. The little gray-haired feminine scientist whose research led directly to the development of the atomic bomb, impressed him most of anything or anybody he saw in Washington, with the exception of the cyclotron at the bureau of standards. However, there was one girl he met at the Science Talent institute who he admitted was "interesting." She collected brains.

He knows all about running a farm and he keeps bees as part of his 4-H club work, but Jim Gibson isn't keen about farming as a living. He prefers fossils. And he's casting a speculative eye on the field of nuclear physics . . . as are well over half of the scientific-minded youngsters who came to Washington this year.

Incidentally, at the same banquet, Science Service Director Watson Davis mentioned a few "firsts" this fifth group of young scientists had chalked up. They ate broiled buffalo steak without a qualm after viewing the live variety at the Washington zoo; they prepared a "talk back" report of their opinions on the atomic energy and Kilgore bills to be submitted to congressional committees . . . and among the group was one Missourian, said Mr. Davis . . . the first Missourian, he added, who had ever gone into the White House and had not come out with a federal appointment.

* * *

There is a strange paradox in congress and it may cost the Democrats the pro-tem presidency of the senate. It's the exact reverse of the "unholy alliance" of today—the coalition between the southern Democrats and the northern Republicans—and this is the way some of the crystal-gazers on Capitol Hill expound it:

There have been no real issues before the country over which the voters could tear their hearts asunder. But there have been some bitter ones within congress and among the Democrats in the senate especially, which have caused incendiary intramural political friction.

Senator McKellar, Democrat of Tennessee, has been, in the eyes of some of his more progressive colleagues, a brake on the wheels of what they consider their progress.

Senator McKellar has sturdily and steadily bucked administration legislation, not merely the Fair Employment Practices bill, but other measures which the "liberal" element on both sides of the aisle have supported. Nobody denies that after the next election the Republicans are going to get some of those 17 seats in northern and western constituencies away from their Democratic opponents. They may get enough of them so the parties will be at least more evenly balanced even in the opinion of the more conservative prognosticators.

That is half of the proposition. The other half is the growing wrath of some of the liberals on the Democratic side who are very sore at McKellar for deserting the party line.

It is not out of the picture that enough of these liberals will be willing to kick over the traces and vote for a Republican president pro-tem or at least vote against McKellar and thus produce the strange but possible phenomenon of a representative of the minority party presiding over the senate.

This is not a prediction, but it is the presentation of a paradoxical possibility, granted the trend of the times becomes the course of tomorrow.

* * *

The FCC must decide whether the new telephone recorder destroys the telephone's privacy. It might keep people from wasting telephone time, and think of all the things you wouldn't say if you knew they were going to be on the record! For one thing, it might make people more sympathetic toward radio commentators.

BARBS . . . *by Baukhage*

What use is a ceiling on butter when cream can rise as high as it wants to? Naturally it will seek—reversing gravity—the highest levels, including ice cream.

* * *

The black market in America appears about as easy to handle as the bootlegger of prohibition days . . . and the bootlegger is waiting in the wings too.

USO Pres. Lindsay Kimball says Americans move from vast enthusiasm to complete indifference. That's certainly true. Remember monopoly, Coue, mah-jong, miniature golf?

* * *

Practically every woman in America is pursuing polyamide products, these days. Polyamide is what nylon stockings are made of.

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

Conservative Bloc Fights OPA; G. M. Strike Settlement Spur to All-Out Automobile Production

Released by Western Newspaper Union.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: When opinions are expressed in these columns, they are those of Western Newspaper Union's news analysts and not necessarily of this newspaper.)

CONGRESS:

Conservative Coalition

Having first shown its strength in passage of the Case anti-strike bill, a coalition of southern Democrats and Republicans is being organized in congress to loosen government regulation over the nation's economy.

Led by Representative Hartley (Rep., N. J.), 100 congressmen already have joined the coalition, with a strategy committee composed of Hartley himself, Crawford (Rep., Mich.), Smith (Dem., Va.), Barden (Dem., N. C.), Camp (Dem., Ga.), Roe (Dem., Md.), Jenkins (Rep., Ohio), Buffet (Rep., Neb.), Pace (Dem., Ga.) and Sundstrom (Rep., N. J.).

Though the coalition strategy calls for an attack on OPA pricing regulations such as requiring sellers to absorb part of increased costs of production and distribution, the group will seek modification rather than outright abolition of the agency. Support would be given to a one year extension of OPA.

Senator Wherry (Rep., Neb.) was to head the coalition in the senate, where support may be slower in developing because of the need for members to canvass their positions more accurately in view of their wider constituencies. Reflecting this more cautious approach, the senate greatly watered the stringent Case bill which restricted labor activities.

WAR CRIMES:

Hermann Brags

Attired in a baggy uniform with a red scarf tied around his neck, Hermann Goering showed all of his old cockiness in being the first of the Nazi war criminals to testify in his behalf in the historic Nuernberg trials.

With a noose staring him in the face, the rumpled former Reich air marshall proudly boasted that he had been Hitler's right-hand man and striven mightily to strengthen the national Socialist party rule "to make Germany free." Though the Nazis had come into power through free elections, he said, every effort was made to retain their leadership even to the elimination of all political opposition.

Hermann Goering on stand.

In recounting the notorious blood purge of 1933, Goering claimed that Gen. Kurt von Schleicher and Gen. Curt von Hammerstein-Equord had sought to overthrow Hitler shortly before the installation of his first cabinet. In a quick Nazi countermove, the putsch was crushed and von Schleicher murdered.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS:

Russ on Spot

Russia was put on her honor by high American and British officials in the midst of reports that reinforced Red armies were fanning over northern and western Iran and threatening Turkey and Iraq.

In Washington, D. C., President Truman openly expressed confidence that the U. S. and Russia could resolve their difficulties arising over Iran and the Reds stripping of Manchurian industry through diplomatic procedure. At the time Mr. Truman spoke, Russia's only answer to the state department's protest over continued Red occupation of Iran in violation of a tripartite agreement was an unofficial Moscow radio broadcast that reports of Russian troop movements in Iran were inaccurate.

Coincident with President Truman's expression of belief in Russia, Foreign Minister Bevin of Great Britain stressed premier Stalin had unequivocally assured his major war allies that the Reds would respect Iranian territorial integrity in accordance with tri-partite agreements. Foreign Commissar Molotov reiterated Russia's intention to pull out of Iran during the London conference of foreign ministers, Bevin added.

Behind the political tension, reports persisted that the Reds were exerting the strongest pressure on Iran for oil concessions in the north. The British have extensive petroleum holdings in the south as well as in neighboring Iraq, where a native movement for self-rule backed by the Reds is feared.

LABOR:

Auto Wages

Emerging haggard and bewhiskered from the conference room after 17 hours of continuous negotiation between CIO - United Automobile Workers and General Motors officials, UAW Pres. R. J. Thomas muttered: "Considering everything, I think we've got a pretty good contract."

Settled after a bitter 113-day strike, the pact did provide substantial wage and other concessions to the union, though falling short of UAW goals. Despite the long-drawn bickering, the company granted only 18½ cents an hour instead of the 19½ cents demanded, and the average G. M. wage was set at from $1.12 to $1.30½ cents an hour, still below the Ford and Chrysler pay rates.

By obtaining important concessions from the company, however, UAW officials claimed that the total financial gain would exceed the 19½ cents an hour sought. Gains included adjustment of inequalities in wage rates in certain plants, improved vacation pay up to 4½ per cent of gross income of employees of five years or more, double time for the seventh consecutive day on the job, and equal compensation for women.

In winning substantial pay concessions for the future, the strikers paid a heavy price in lost wages of between 138 million and 150 million dollars. The company was estimated to have dropped 600 million dollars in unfilled orders while distributors lost 150 million dollars in sales commissions.

Production Prospects

With the settlement of the G. M. strike, the auto industry hoped to clear the decks for all-out production to meet the tremendous pent-up demand for new cars. Because many parts suppliers still have to negotiate wage demands, however, the threat to full-scale output remained.

In any event, the auto industry will be unable to meet the goal of six million cars set for 1946. With reasonably clear sailing, it is expected that three million passenger vehicles will be turned out during the remainder of the year.

Indicative of the high gear into which the industry must be thrown to meet production goals, Ford has assembled only 76,000 cars thus far: Chrysler, 53,000; General Motors, under 100,000; Willys-Overland, 62,000; Studebaker, 38,000; Nash, 11,000, and Hudson, 4,000.

Other Strikes

Despite settlement of the General Motors strike and the agreement between General Electric and the CIO - United Electrical Workers, strikes continued to cloud the postwar economic picture, with the dispute between International Harvester and the CIO-Farm Equipment Workers the most serious.

With International Harvester and the union deadlocked over the company's proposal that an 18 cent wage raise be conditioned upon government grant of an offsetting price increase, Secretary of Agriculture Anderson called upon management and labor to co-operate in the production of vitally needed equipment to meet the big crop goals. Unless farmers are able to step up the output, he said, this country will be unable to furnish sufficient food to avert mass starvation abroad.

Termination of the General Electric strike, with an 18½ cent an hour wage raise bringing average weekly earnings to approximately $42, opened the way toward large scale production of home appliances. Previously, General Motors' electrical division had made peace with the CIO union on the same terms.

World Hog Numbers Show Big Drop

Showing a sharp decrease of 5,000,000 head, world hog numbers dropped to 244,000,000 at the start of 1946 in comparison with the year previous. Reductions in central Europe, Canada and Argentina were offset only partially by moderate increases in the U. S., France and the Soviet Union, and small increases in other countries.

Because of the critical world shortage of grains, further decline in hog numbers outside the U. S. is forecast in 1946 despite a demand for meat well above the supply.

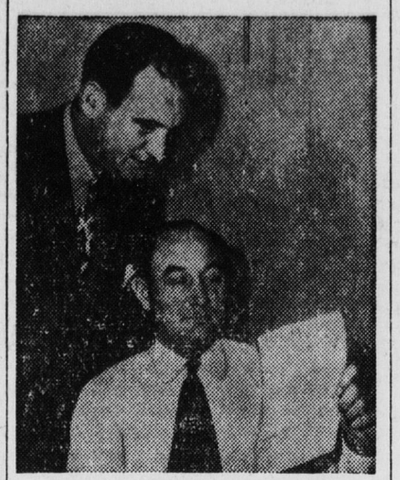
Canadian hog numbers continue to decline and at the beginning of 1946 showed a drop of 1.8 million head below the year before, or 38 per cent below 1944, while in the U. S. they rose 4 per cent, thus recuperating part of the loss shown on January 1, 1945, compared with 1944.

POLITICS:

Bad Mixture

Though stubbornly fighting to the last, Big Ed Pauley finally conceded that oil and politics don't mix, asking for withdrawal of his nomination as undersecretary of the navy despite President Truman's determined support in the face of strong congressional opposition.

A millionaire California oil-man and former treasurer of the Democratic party, Pauley faced rough going from the start, with astute political observers terming the nomination of any petroleum operator for a navy job a blunder in view of past scandals over navy oil.



Edwin W. Pauley (seated) reads missive from President as brother Harold looks on.

Whatever hopes Pauley nourished for confirmation were rudely shaken with former Interior Secretary Ickes' testimony that he had told him that $300,000 could be raised from oil men for the 1944 Democratic campaign if the government would withdraw its suit for title over underwater petroleum deposits in California.

In asking the President to withdraw his nomination, which was done, Pauley declared that he had been cleared of all charges against him. Commending him for retiring from the fight, Democratic members of the senate naval affairs committee upheld his personal integrity.

CONSCRIPTION:

Prospects Brighten

Because of the precarious international situation aggravated by Russian moves in the east, congressional support grew for extension of the selective service act beyond May 15.

With war department officials calling for maintenance of military strength in the face of unsettled world conditions, it was revealed that plans called for an army of 1,500,000 officers and men by July, 1946, and 1,000,000 by July, 1947. Pending determination of the aims, policies and programs of other nations, and the efficiency of the UNO in resolving disputes, no decision can be made about the permanent size of the armed forces, it was said.

General Eisenhower declared that one of the principal arguments for the retention of selective service was that it acts as a spur for voluntary enlistments. With volunteers permitted to specify what branch of service they prefer, many young men act to pick their spots before being drafted and made subject to compulsory placement. In five months, 600,017 volunteers enlisted, with 67.07 per cent being World War II vets, 18.7 per cent recruits and 14.23 per cent pre-Pearl Harbor enrollees.

WORLD RELIEF:

Sharing Burden

Assuming the honorary chairmanship of the government's emergency famine committee, former Pres. Herbert Hoover called upon South American nations to join with their Big Brother of the north in conserving cereals for feeding of the hungry in war stricken Europe and Asia.

Prior to leaving for a first-hand survey of overseas conditions, Hoover told a news conference that he believed both North and South America could save upwards of 7 million tons of cereals during the next 120 days to help fill a need for about 9 million tons. The year's requirements will total 21 million tons, he said, but only 12 million tons will be available without the undertaking of broad conservation measures.

Of the total of 7 million tons that the western hemisphere could furnish within the next four months, South America could contribute 5 million tons, Hoover said. This amount could be made available by cutting down purchases of foreign goods requiring payment in grain; reducing consumption, and turning over all surpluses to famine threatened areas.

MILK:

Per capita consumption of milk and cream jumped to 442 pounds in 1945, the highest total ever reached, and 102 pounds more than the per capita consumption in the five year period from 1935-39, government figures show.

Translated into housewife's terms, these figures meant that an average of about 206 quarts of milk in 1945, almost four quarts a week, was consumed for each man, woman and child in the nation, in the form of milk and cream.

CLASSIFIED DEPARTMENT

MISCELLANEOUS

CO-OPERATIVE COLONY in California. Membership now open. Quarter brings booklet. **RECIPROCAL FOUNDATION, Box 9757 Los Feliz, Los Angeles 27, Calif.**

YOUR NAME In silver on 100 match-books, $1.25 **BROOKSIDE PRESS, ANTRIM, N. H.**

ORDER YOUR BOAT NOW Dandee 8' and 12' rowboats, 16' inboard motor boat. **Boreland Boat Company, Inc., Dept. W, 250 W. 57th Street, N. Y.**

ROWBOATS—New, 1946 model; buy from a reliable dealer; 14 ft., painted, all screw construction of choice lumber, complete with bait-box, oar locks, $97.50. **Ward's Boat Service, Inc., Lake Hopatcong, N. J.**

SEEDS, PLANTS, ETC.

FOR SALE—Blight Resistant Chinese Chestnut Trees. Superior strain, young bearing large size nuts; stock carefully dug. Well rooted. Ask for prices. **A. TOMS NURSERY, Port Deposit, Md.**

Buy U. S. Savings Bonds!

Pull the Trigger on Lazy "Innards"

WHEN CONSTIPATION makes you feel punk as the dickens, brings on stomach upset, sour taste, gassy discomfort, take Dr. Caldwell's famous medicine to quickly pull the trigger on lazy "innards" and help you feel bright and chipper again.

DR. CALDWELL'S is the wonderful senna laxative contained in good old Syrup Pepsin to make it so easy to take.

MANY DOCTORS use pepsin preparations in prescriptions to make the medicine more palatable and agreeable to take. So be sure your laxative is contained in Syrup Pepsin.

INSIST ON DR. CALDWELL'S—the favorite of millions for 50 years, and feel that wholesome relief from constipation. Even finicky children love it.

CAUTION: Use only as directed.

DR. CALDWELL'S SENNA LAXATIVE CONTAINED IN **SYRUP PEPSIN**

STRAINS, SORENESS CUTS, BURNS

A favorite household antiseptic dressing and liniment for 98 years—Hanford's BALSAM OF MYRRH! It contains soothing gums to relieve the soreness and ache of over-used and strained muscles. Takes the sting and itch out of burns, scalds, insect bites, oak and ivy poisoning, wind and sun burn, chafing and chapped skin. Its antiseptic action lessens the danger of infection whenever the skin is cut or broken.

Keep a bottle handy for the minor casualties of kitchen and nursery. At your druggist—trial size bottle 35¢; household size 65¢; economy size $1.25.

G. C. HANFORD MFG. CO., Syracuse, N. Y.
Sole makers of

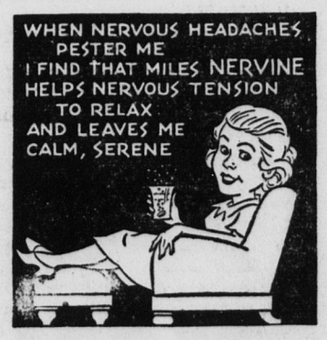
Balsam of Myrrh

One of the best home ways to BUILD UP RED BLOOD

if you lack BLOOD-IRON

You girls and women who suffer so from simple anemia that you're pale, weak, "dragged out"—this may be due to lack of blood-iron. So try Lydia E. Pinkham's TABLETS—one of the best home ways to build up red blood—in such cases. Pinkham's Tablets are one of the greatest blood-iron tonics you can buy! At all drugstores.

WNU—4 13—46



WHEN Functional Nervous Disturbances such as **Sleeplessness, Crankiness, Excitability, Restlessness or Nervous Headache** interfere with your work or spoil your good times, take

Miles Nervine

(Liquid or Effervescent Tablets)

Nervous Tension can make you **Wakeful, Jittery, Irritable.** Nervous Tension can cause **Nervous Headache** and **Nervous Indigestion.** In times like these, we are more likely than usual to become overwrought and nervous and to wish for a good sedative. **Miles Nervine** is a good sedative—mild but effective.

If you do not use Miles Nervine you can't know what it will do for you. It comes in Liquid and Effervescent Tablet form, both equally soothing to tense and over-wrought nerves. WHY DON'T YOU TRY IT?

Get it at your drug store, Effervescent tablets 35c and 75c, Liquid 25c and $1.00. CAUTION—Use only as directed.