

SPENCER TINKER  
1121 Hunakai Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii  
96816

July 18, 1984

Mr. George H. Balazs  
Honolulu

Friend Balazs:

I have come across a note which I made to myself regarding a loggerhead turtle which came into the Honolulu market and which I saw on June 20, 1963.

It was in the Choy Fish Market  
King and Kekaulike Streets

It was captured by "Joe" Reid

Weight: 185 lbs.

Carapace measured lengthwise -  $35\frac{1}{2}$  inches  
crosswise at widest point  
over the top -  $33$  inches

It was very lean, but alive.

Cheerio,

Spencer Tinker  
" "

## Poisonous Fish

By E. H. BRYAN JR.

It has been found that certain kinds of tropical fishes may be poisonous in one area and not in another.

Investigation of this subject by Dr. Bruce W. Halstead, of the School of Tropical and Preventive Medicine, at Loma Linda, Calif., and others has shown that a reason for this is found in the foods the fishes eat. Tracing back the food chain lead to various kinds of algae being blamed for causing the poisonous condition in the fish.

Palmyra Island, a small atoll lying 960 nautical miles south by west of Honolulu, but long considered part of the City and County of Honolulu, harbors a large population of poisonous fish. Because of this a detailed study of its fish, their food, and especially the kinds of algae found there was made. This was done with the full cooperation of the Fullard-Leo family, who own Palmyra; the Coast Guard, which transported equipment and personnel, the Military Air Transport Service, and the U. S. Fish and Wild Life Service and Dr. H. L. Lyon of the H.S.P.A., who furnished additional specimens of algae.

A report has just been published by the Alan Hancock Foundation, entitled "Marine algae from Palmyra Island with special reference to the feeding habits and toxicology of reef fishes." It is by Dr. E. Yale Dawson, expert on algae; A. A. Aleem, a Fulbright scholar from Egypt, and Dr. Halstead.

This report gives a short description of Palmyra atoll, with an up-to-date sketch map; a detailed account of the marine algae found there, including specimens collected by Dr. Joseph F. Rock, back in 1913; the feeding habits of the fishes and their toxicology. Sixteen species of fishes were determined to be poisonous; 13 were non-poisonous. A tabulation is given of the kinds of algae eaten by each kind. Although the poisonous species ate numerous kinds of algae that the others did not eat, the authors hesitate to make any sweeping conclusions at this time. Additional studies on this same subject are now in progress.

1949 by Southern California's Met. Record.

James Ray Jordan, 36, a California aircraft worker with a great desire to set a world record, achieved his heart's desire by tanking up on pure oxygen for two minutes, dropping to the bottom of a heated San Diego swimming pool and holding his breath for 8 min. 3 $\frac{3}{4}$  sec. to crack the record set by France's M. Pauliquen in 1917 (6 min. 29 $\frac{1}{4}$  sec.).

TIME, MARCH 26, 1956

#### FAGING KING'S TURTLE

Editor the Star-Bulletin: I am seeking information concerning a giant turtle purported to be the pet of King Kamehameha I, and said to be still alive and cared for somewhere in Waikiki. If this story is true, a family friend wishes to use it as the theme for a story. (The friend is a well-known author of children's books and was considerably impressed with the turtle story.)

I thought some of your older readers may have heard the legend and might help us. Neither the Bishop Museum nor the Honolulu Library could find any information about the turtle or the authenticity of the story.

RITA H. PLUMMER  
Box 248, Wahiawa, Oahu, T.H.

19509

### Turtles Live Longer

By THE UNITED PRESS

WASHINGTON—Turtles live longer than anybody, according to the National Geographic Society. A turtle residing at St. Helena in the south Atlantic claims to be a contemporary of Napoleon, who lived on the island from 1851 to 1821.

The Geographic doubts however, that this turtle's reputed age of 178 can be proved. It says the "greatest span on positive record" is 152 years for a turtle captured on the Indian Ocean island of Mauritius in 1766. In any case, turtles and tortoises are longer-lived than man. Human beings older than 100 are fairly rare, but centenarian turtles are not.

Rhode Island has a turtle whose authenticated age is 129, the National Geographic said, and the giant tortoises of the Galapagos islands commonly live more than a century.

Man ranks first among the mammals, however. After man comes the elephant, 45 to 70, followed by the rhinoceros, 36 to 50. Gorillas sometimes live 35 years, whales more than 30, lions 20 to 30, horses 20 to 35, dogs 5 to 15, and cats 7 to 15.

The most durable fish is the carp. The Geographic knows of one that reached 75. An occasional parrot lives to be 60. Many adult insects live only an hour or two but queen ants may reign as long as 16 years.

The turtle has no real competition among the reptiles. The alligator record is 43. The oldest snake known to the Geographic died when it was 21.

H.

Hasagawa on Okana Road behind Hygienic Store  
in Kahaoluhi  
imported about 20 soft shell turtles from  
Japan

about 1920-1940±

Ontario Lake Sturgeon

Acipenser fulvescens

152 yrs old

in Can. Fish. Review

Vol 16:9

Sept 1954 ✓

p. 28

MARCH 19,  
1956

A4

# The Honolulu Advertiser

Hawaii's Territorial Newspaper

99 Years Your Family Newspaper. Established July 2, 1856

Published daily by Advertiser Publishing Company, Ltd.  
Advertiser Square, 605 Kapiolani Blvd. at South St., Honolulu 2, T. H.

LORRIN P. THURSTON .....President and General Manager  
RAYMOND COLL .....Editor  
THURSTON TWIGG-SMITH .....Managing Editor  
OREN E. LONG .....Associate Editor

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Monday, March 19, 1956

## Baked Elephant and Such

The Carbon 14 test to establish the age of man-made things, including ancient fragments of man himself, is delving farther into the past. Our Bishop Museum has fixed the arrival of the Polynesians on Oahu at about 1,000 A.D. Scientists are rather sure of the exactness of the method and of its limitations. They have checked Egyptian mummies of a known age, to name only one means of comparison, and think they have a good time yardstick.

Johns Hopkins University now reports that man roasted and ate elephants on Santa Rosa Island, 30 miles off the California coast — 29,000 years ago. It had been believed previously that man and the dwarf mammoth did not exist together in California. Examination of charred bones in what seemed to be a man-made firepit showed the prehistoric beasts were roasted in primeval campfires some 29,650 years ago.

\* \* \* \*

History dates back only 5,000 years or so, but by use of the carbon test man's knowledge is being pushed back five or six time that far. Progress, for instance, is reported in correlating the Mayan and Christian calendars. The mysterious Mayans of ancient Mexico had a wonderful calendar, but it was purely their own. Science could not link up any of their events with those of Europe. They did not know whether important Mayan migrations and invasions were contemporary with Alexander the Great, Julius Caesar or Charlemagne. These things are important to scientists. Now, thanks to the atom, plus much research by scholars, facts are coming into focus.

Geological facts also are made plainer. Examination of fragments of trees destroyed by glaciation in Wisconsin revealed the ice moved through that part of America 11,400 years ago. Men lived in French caverns (and painted pictures on the walls) 15,000 years ago. Relics of men who lived 10,000 years ago have been found in Nebraska, Nevada, Texas, Oregon and Washington. Archaeologists wondered when a house burned down in Asia Minor. They fixed the date at 675 B.C. They found no evidence of man in England before 8,000 B.C., but they did find a campfire in Iraq which added up to 23,000 B.C., on the atomic adding machine.

\* \* \* \*

Man-made things, called artifacts, are the clues. Look for an announcement of new and firm dates in Polynesian history from the Bishop Museum soon. Their research men have been poling-around in old sites which might just as well be called artifactories.











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