

MARINE TURTLES- land turtles-  
newspaper articles: 1978

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*George-thought you might want to read this.*

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## AIRLIFT TO U.S.

# Eggnappers Race to Save Turtle Species

BY ROBERT A. JONES  
Times Staff Writer

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But this year they were met by a cadre of Mexican soldiers and American scientists. The men waited patiently, and when the moment of egg-laying began, they snatched hundreds of the eggs in mid-air.

After racing away with their catch, the men placed the eggs in waiting helicopters and the mother turtles watched and perhaps blinked in astonishment, as part of their next generation was airlifted to the United States.

These are terrible times for turtles. The indignities imposed upon the Ridley turtles at the Tamaulipas beach was part of a desperate plan to save a species on the brink of extinction.

From Malaysia to Florida, the great sea turtles that once filled the world's oceans by the hundreds of thousands are disappearing at unprecedented rates. Because they are hunted for their meat, their leathery skins and even their eggs—which are believed to be an aphrodisiac in some tropical cultures—sea turtles are quickly joining whales as some of the most endangered species on earth.

Although most species of fresh water turtles remain healthy, sea turtles have become especially vulnerable to commercial pressures in the developing coastal nations.

The huge, cumbersome and largely nonviolent sea turtles are easily caught and killed by hunters who need nothing more than their bare hands to pull them from the warm waters near shore.

In other cases, commercial development of coastlines has deprived turtles of their nesting habitats altogether or altered their environment with tragic results. Turtle hatchlings are attracted to light by instinct, and in developed areas they have been discovered crawling toward highways and apartment buildings instead of the sea.

Nowhere is the plight of the sea turtle more evident than along the 12-mile stretch of beach at Tamaulipas. For millennia it has been the sole hatching and nesting ground for the Kemp's Ridley turtle.

Just after World War II observers saw as many as 40,000 Ridleys simultaneously waddling out of the ocean to lay their eggs along the beach. The crush of turtles was so great that some females dug up the egg clutches of others in the process of burying their own.

This annual April to June nesting, known in Mexico as the arribada or "arrival," was filmed in 1947 and has been referred to by one prominent wildlife scientist as "the most dramatic manifestation of reptile life

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Continued from First Page  
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Their numbers have shrunk so pitifully low that the great aggregate of females is not longer possible. The federal Fish and Wildlife Service estimates the total number of nesting mothers this year at 141.

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At present the Kemp's Ridley joins five other species of sea turtles that have been placed on the threatened and endangered species list. The green, the olive Ridley and the loggerhead were added to the list last July; the leatherback and the hawksbill were already listed as endangered.

In announcing the additions in July, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Director Richard Frank noted that almost all sea turtle products thereafter would be banned from U.S. markets. Shopkeepers and distributors will be granted a one-year grace period to clear shelves of turtle products.

In addition, Frank said his agency would help develop methods to prevent the accidental taking of sea turtles by shrimp trawlers in the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean. In the past this has accounted for the deaths of an estimated several hundred sea turtles each year.

The cooperative program between the Mexican government and three U.S. agencies—National Marine Fisheries Service, Fish and Wildlife Service and National Park Service—represents the most ambitious effort yet to save a turtle species. Thus far the plan has cost more than \$300,000 and it will continue, if funded in future years, for a decade or more. If successful, it could save the Ridley and other sea turtle species, too.

For most of its life the Ridley lolls about seaweed beds, in the Caribbean munching on jellyfish and occasional crabs. Although some sea turtles reach half a ton in weight, the Ridley is much smaller, usually weighing from 40 to 60 pounds.

But if the rest of its life is unsepectacular, the Ridley's use of only one beach for nesting is one of the most dramatic rituals in the natural world. It is this mass nesting that leaves the Ridley so vulnerable to animal and human predators.

Since 1965 the Mexican government has attempted to protect the nesting mothers and new hatchlings. The taking of eggs or turtles is illegal, and during the nesting season a platoon of Mexican soldiers stands watch over the 12-mile stretch of beach.

But financial support for the Mexican program has been scant—this year the budget was about \$4,000—and in past years the soldiers have been forced to abandon their watch when both money and food ran out. The result has been a continuation of the poaching and a rapid decline in the Ridley population.

The (Mexican) government is trying, but they are a poor country and the people in the area are hungry. A man can make more money poaching turtle eggs for several nights than he could normally make in a year," Carol Justice, a biologist for the Fish and Wildlife Service, said.

So the United States approached the Mexican government this spring with a plan to persuade the Ridelies to change their traditional ways.

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What if, the wildlife scientists speculated, another beach were imprinted on young Ridelies? And what if that new beach were in the United States, where it could be guarded continually, where hatching success could be kept as high as 85% and where funding was far more generous?

Such a proposal carries with it certain inferences about the competence of the Mexican rescue effort, and American scientists now approach the subject with great delicacy. They emphasize that the Mexican problems are those of finance only, and they stress that Mexican scientists have cooperated enthusiastically with the joint program.

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Times map

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FYI

# Los Angeles Times

3332,875 SUNDAY

TUESDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 5, 1978

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Los Angeles Times / DAILY 15c

The Horny Mexicans  
missed these  
guys

Aug 78  
Woods Hole, MA



(UPI)

A scientist releases a new hatch of baby Ridley turtles Saturday on a beach at the Padre Island National Seashore. Scientists hope the rare Mexican sea turtles will return to this beach each year to lay eggs and develop a new habitat.

## Rare turtles 'deported' to new home in Florida

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas (NYT) — An endangered species of sea turtles from Mexico has been provided with a refugee camp on the Texas seashore, and scientists hope that the turtles will learn to call it home.

Almost 2,200 Atlantic Ridley turtle eggs will have been airlifted to the Padre Island National Seashore by the end of the summer. The eggs are considered an aphrodisiac in Mexico, where the giant mother turtles return each spring to an isolated beach about 80 miles north of Tampico to mate and nest.

Mexicans call it the arribada, or arrival, of the

turtles. In the 1940s, there were as many as 40,000 mother turtles sighted in one arribada. Last year the largest number spotted was 200, leading scientists to estimate that the turtles' world population had dwindled to 2,500.

The turtles gathered offshore, mate and then crawl to the beach to deposit their golf ball-sized eggs by the hundreds. While the mother turtles rest their flappers in the sand in apparent oblivion, Mexicans loot their nests, sometimes taking away truckloads of the fresh eggs for sale.

But late in April of this

year, biologists from the United States and Mexico began scooping up eggs, storing them in plastic bags, some lined with Padre Island beach sand, and incubating them in corrals guarded by Mexican marines.

As many as 80,000 of the eggs will remain in Mexico, where they are being guarded. The eggs flow to Padre Island, however, are placed in Styrofoam nests in the ranger station there. Upon hatching, the black turtles wriggle down the beach and into the ocean before being scooped up in small nets.

Woods Hole

## Protecting The Rare Red-bellied Turtle

~ Aug 78

Federal authorities, acting under provisions of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, are about to declare the Plymouth red-bellied turtle an endangered species. Matthew B. Connolly Jr., Director of the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, is consequently alerting residents of southeastern Massachusetts to the presence and special needs of their unique neighbor.

This turtle, a close relative of the red-bellied turtle of the Central Atlantic States, is found in about 11 ponds in Plymouth between Billington Sea and Myles Standish State Forest and in a few ponds on Naushon. Its present status is poorly known, but the total population may number from 150 to 200. These low numbers coupled with dangers to the turtles' habitat posed by recreational development and use of the ponds were key factors in the proposed federal rule making.

Red-bellied turtle habitat includes relatively large, quiet, fresh, warm-water ponds with plenty of aquatic vegetation. The turtles bask on rocks or logs and rarely

leave the water except during the nesting season. They are shy and difficult to approach, retreating to deep water at the first sign of alarm. They nest in late June, with 10-12 eggs being deposited in loose, sandy soil at locations often 100 feet or more from the pond.

Red-bellied turtles can be distinguished from superficially similar painted turtle by the large size, nine to 12 inches, red bars or blotches — particularly in the female — on the scales of the upper shell, a reddish under-shell, yellow-orange in the painted turtle, and a lack of two yellow spots on the head and neck characteristic of the painted turtle.

Anyone finding or observing a red-bellied turtle is requested to leave it alone. If one is accidentally captured it should be returned immediately to the exact location

where it was taken. Reports of any red-bellied turtle sightings will be greatly appreciated and made to one of the following:

Bradford Blodget, State Ornithologist, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, Government Center, 100 Cambridge street, Boston 02202 (727-3151).

Southeast District Headquarters, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, RFD 3 Bournedale road, Buzzards Bay, 02532 (759-3406).

Paul Nickerson, Endangered Species Coordinator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Gateway Center, Newton Corners 02158 (965-5100)

Once final designation has been completed, fines up to \$10,000 may be imposed for killing, molesting, or unlawfully possessing red-bellied turtles.

# Tiny Ridley turtles

**PADRE ISLAND NATIONAL SEASHORE, Texas (UPI)** — Scientists from Mexico and the United States will serve as midwives this week in the hatching of 1,200 eggs of the endangered Ridley turtle on a remote stretch of beach off the Texas Gulf coast.

The hatchlings will scurry to the warm Gulf water under the protection of scientists working to reverse the steady decline of the sea turtle,

an endangered species.

Once the hatchlings enter the sea they will be captured and moved swiftly to a marine laboratory at Galveston Island, Texas.

The young turtles will be nurtured at the National Marine Fisheries Service laboratory for six months to a year, growing to sufficient size to combat most marine predators. They will be released into the Gulf

again and scientists will wait for possibly two years before learning if their project is a success.

The goal is to "imprint," or program, the hatchling females to return to their natal beach as adults to lay their eggs under protection against man and natural marine predators.

The eggs are a delicacy and the steady world decline of the Ridley turtle is blamed in part on man's

## find odd friend: man

appetite.

The project is coordinated by the government of Mexico, the National Marine Fisheries Service, the Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Park Service and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Scientists previously supervised the hatching of 787 Ridley eggs, removed from a nesting colony at Ranch Nuevo, Tamaulipas, Mexico, at the national seashore beach and

will repeat the process.

The Rancho Nuevo beach was plundered by egg gatherers for centuries but has been protected by the government of Mexico since 1986. Once an estimated 40,000 females nested on a single day at the beach, but only 200 were observed on a peak day in 1977.

Scientists spread sand from the Padre Island National Seashore on

the nesting beach at Rancho Nuevo in an effort to imprint the embryos in another natal environment. The eggs were shipped to a protected area of Padre Island beach duplicating the sand in which the Ridley's laid the eggs earlier this year.

Scientists say little is known of the female turtle's natural instinct to return to the beach on which she was born within two years to lay eggs for successive generations.





Rithauddeen showing Mr. Sipaseuth the way at Subang airport.

# Deputy Laotian Premier flies in for visit

**KUALA LUMPUR, Mon.** — The Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister of the Laos People's Democratic Republic, Mr. Phoun Sipaseuth, arrived here today for a three-day official visit.

Mr. Sipaseuth and his 23-member delegation were met on arrival at Subang airport by Foreign Minister Tengku Ahmad Rithauddeen.

In a statement issued at the airport, Mr. Sipaseuth said the aim of his visit was to further consolidate the good ties between Malaysia and his

## Price of fish

## Lorryman bound over for CBT of \$1,600

**BUKIT MERTAJAM, Mon.** — Lorry driver N. Govindarajoo, 27, who had reported that he was robbed of \$1,683 belonging to his employer was bound over for \$1,000 for one year for criminal breach of trust in the Magistrate's Court today.

He pleaded guilty to committing criminal breach of trust of \$1,583 from his employer, Heap Choon Lee of Jalan Banby here at 9 am on April 26 this year.

### Purchase

Inspector Abdul Wahab bin Azdul told the court the company's manager Mr Lim Sin Aun handed over the money to Govindarajoo for the purchase of diesel oil at the Butterworth Shell depot.

"The accused went to

## Dumping kills turtles in the Brang river

**KUALA TRENGGANU, Mon.** — Several female turtles being bred by the Taman Negara Wildlife Protection Department were found dead in the Kuala Brang river recently.

According to the department's assistant director, Engku Abdul Rahman bin Ngah, this was due to the dumping of explosive materials into the river.

This would affect the department's efforts to breed the fresh water species, he said.

He said only between 45 and 50 females laid eggs in Pasir Temir and Petasah during the recent season compared to the normal 100.

### Reserves

Pasir Temir and Petasah had been gazetted as reserves for breeding the turtles.

The department planned to hatch about 4,000 eggs this year.

Engku Abdul Rahman said 830 eggs had been collected in Pasir Temir, Petasah and other spots in Ulu Trengganu for the purpose.

About 90 per cent of the eggs had hatched. At present, 162 were being bred in a pond in Jalan Tekukur here.

The State Government also planned to gazette the Lubuk Kawah area in Ulu Trengganu as a reserve for breeding, he added. — Bernama.

## Grab and run in Ipoh

**IPOH, Mon.** — A housewife was robbed of \$15 by two men in Jalan Dato Chan Swee Ho, Ipoh Gardens here yesterday.

# Honolulu Advertiser

Saturday, May 13, 1978

## **Sea monster**

**MONTEVIDEO** — An unknown fantailed sea monster, with a tortoise shell two meters in diameter and with huge fins, has been fished out of the Rio De La Plata by surprised Uruguayan fishermen.

The creature, weighing about a ton, was dying when it was brought to the surface in the nets of fishermen who towed it ashore.

Professor Victor Bertullo, director of Uruguay's Institute of Fish Research, said he could not identify the creature, which was not to be found in any book.

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Honolulu Advertiser May 13, 1978

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### Five police personnel charged with culpable homicide

**KUALA LUMPUR, Mon.** — Five police personnel were tentatively charged in the Sessions Court here today with committing culpable homicide by causing the death of Abdullah bin Mas Piah at the Brickfields police station.

ASP Chan Cheng Mun, 35, Probationary Inspector Amidon bin Anan, 26, detective constables Rahmat bin Semani, 38, and A. Chandran, 32, and constable S. Commarasamy, 32, were alleged to have committed the offence between 8 a.m. and 10.50 a.m. on March 12.

A preliminary inquiry was fixed from July 3 to July 15. They were allowed bail of \$10,000 each.

#### Counsel

DPP Mohamed Shafee Abdullah appeared for the prosecution.

Counsel Encik Mohamed Noor bin Don appeared for all the six accused.

Encik Mohamed Noor informed the court that his colleague, Encik Radzi bin Tan Sri Sheikh Ahmad who was absent today, would also be defending the accused.

### PAS on role of Berjasa

**IPOH, Mon.** — PAS is doubtful about the role of Berjasa as an alternative Islamic party in view of the background of some of their leaders.

Parak Deputy Commissioner Encik Baha...

### 'Protection needed during nesting season'

# 'Ban fishing near turtle beach' call

**KUALA TRENGGANU, Mon.** — Fishing should be banned in waters near the turtles' breeding ground during the nesting season, according to the Trengganu Director of Fisheries, Mr. Siow Kuan Tow.

"There should be laws to control human predation, both in the form of egg collection and killing for meat and ornamental purposes," he says in a paper to be presented at a meeting of marine turtle specialists to be held in Toronto

from May 15 to 19.

The meeting, organised by the Marine Turtle Specialists Group which is under the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), is to formulate plans for conserving marine turtles as part of the *The Seas Must Live* programme.

#### Feeding ground

Mr. Siow, who has been appointed by the IUCN as a member of the Specialists' Group, says a sanctuary should be established for turtles in uninhabited areas. A

turtle hatchery and nursery should also be set up to replenish stock.

Before sound management of conservation projects could be implemented, the group needed to know the location of nesting beach and feeding ground, identification of species, existing marine turtle population, extent of human exploitation, existing legislation and management measures and their effectiveness.

To obtain this information, Mr. Siow suggests that the IUCN write to countries where marine turtles are known to or likely to exist.

After gathering all the information, the members of the group should visit countries to assess the information and compile reports, Mr. Siow adds.

Priority should be given in the compilation of information and submission of reports to countries concerned. Priority should also be given to the establishment of hatchery, nursery and sanctuary.

In Trengganu, turtles are a tourist attraction and drew more than 80,000 people to Rantau Abang during the nesting season last year.

### Speakers to meet

**KUALA LUMPUR, Mon.** — The Sultan of Pahang will open the 10th conference of State Legislative Assembly Speakers in Kuantan on May 24.

Four working papers will be tabled at the meeting at Wisma Seri Pahang.

The conference participants will be granted an audience with the Sultan at Istana Sultan Abu Bakar. — Bernama.

### Laotian Vice- to visit Ma

**KUALA LUMPUR, Mon.** — The Vice-Prime Minister of the Laos People's Demo- here "ano the the

## Food industry men in Asean map out projects

**KUALA LUMPUR, Mon.** — Asian food industrialists have identified a number of regional investment and trade projects for possible implementation.

They include a regional grains terminal, an integrated fish cannery, a slaughter house and coldroom and a meat cannery.

Other projects are the joint marketing of copra and other edible oils, expansion of Asean preferential trading arrangements, growing and processing of spices and an Asean directory of the food industry in the region.

The Secretary-General of the Malaysian National Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Encik Mohamed Ramli Kushairi, said today the proposals were identified by the Asean food

Australian Government financing a feasibility study on the grains terminal.

Asean would also approach the Food and Agricultural Organisation, the United States, Canada and the Asian Development Bank for possible financial assistance to carry out the feasibility study.

The terminal could serve as the sole distribution point for a vessel of 100,000 tons to ship grains for the region's consumption, he added.

"This buying on a regional basis will yield substantial savings in terms of freight charges and prices as well as facilitate negotiation on other purchases," he said.

Encik Ramli said the proposed regional integrated fish cannery project would involve deep-sea trawling opera-

could also be promoted as regional projects, Encik Mohamed Ramli said.

The AFFPI also suggested the inclusion of food products, raw materials of livestock industry, yeast, baby food, chewing gum, copra, canned fruits and sugar-based products in the Asean preferential trading arrangement.

The proposed joint marketing of copra and other edible oils would be studied in the light of the Malaysian commodity exchange.

The meeting also called for a feasibility study on the setting-up of an integrated cannery project and the growing and processing of spices in the Asean region.

It further decided to publish a comprehensive directory of all members of the Asean food indus-



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**Save-the-  
turtle  
project  
acclaimed  
by world  
body**

**KUALA TRENGGANU, Wed.** — Trengganu's turtle conservation efforts have been recognised by the International Union of Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) which has its headquarters in Switzerland.

Following this recognition, the State Director of Fisheries, Mr Slow Kuan Tow, 38, has been made a member of the Marine Turtle Specialists Group which will meet in Toronto in Canada from May 15 to 19.

Mr Slow said today the meeting would help to formulate plans for the conservation of sea turtles and help in developing world conservation strategy.

**Programme**

The meeting was the result of "The Seas Must Live" programme launched by the World Wildlife Fund and the IUCN for this year and next year.

The World Wildlife Fund has been an active supporter of turtle conservation programmes in Trengganu and has so far contributed \$65,000. Another \$90,000 has been promised for this year and next year.

**Ex-boyfriend  
who tried  
to extort  
in revenge**

**PENANG, Wed.** — A man who tried to extort \$1,008 from the boyfriend of his ex-girlfriend was sentenced to six months' jail when he could not pay up a \$1,000 fine imposed by the Magistrate's Court today.

The court was told a bar waitress broke off her relationship with the man, a former vegetable seller because he was a drug addict. She went steady with a mechanic instead.

But her ex-boyfriend, Teoh Uan Cheow, 28, was angry and tried to extort \$1,008 from the new boyfriend to avenge himself, Chief Inspector Baskaran Nair, said.

Teoh pleaded guilty to attempting to extort \$1,008 from Yee Kock Chin, 20, by threatening to assault him, at the junction of Carnavon Street and Chulia Street, at 1.20 am on Sept. 5 1978.

**Threat**

Chief Inspector Nair said Yee took his girlfriend, Chan Hong Wan, for supper at a stall at the Carnavon Street junction with Chulia Street that day.

He was sitting there when Chan's ex-boyfriend, Teoh, went up to

him and took him across the road to a spot near trisha where three other men were standing.

Teoh then pulled out a knife from the trisha and demanded \$1,008 from him.

He threatened to assault Yee if he did not pay up.

**Ambush**

Frightened, Yee promised to pay the money at the spot the next midnight.

Instead, he lodged a report with the police and waited at the spot at 11 pm with the police in an ambush position.

But Teoh did not turn up.

Eight days later, Teoh was arrested and on Sept. 20 1978, Yee picked out Teoh at an identification parade.

Defence counsel M. R. Rajasingam said Teoh did not really want to extort money from Yee. Teoh was only angry with Yee because Chan, his ex-girlfriend was going steady with Yee.

He urged the court to pass a non-custodial sentence.

**DATSUN**

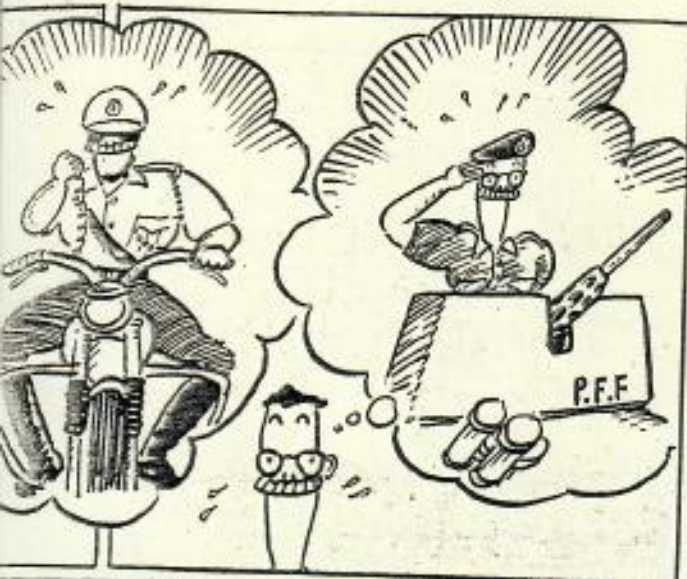
**PROVEN**

**IN PERFORMANCE**

ASIAN LIFE

ion

—By Lat



# Will Pantai Acheh go the way of Endau-Rompin?

CONSERVATIONISTS and environmentalists are keenly waiting for a firm commitment from the authorities to make the Pantai Acheh area in Penang a national park.

It is feared that if that declaration does not come there may be attempts to put commercial above environmental interests, as in the case of Endau-Rompin.

If there are attempts to disturb the status of Pantai Acheh, which like Endau-Rompin has been designated a national park, the Penang branch of the Malaysian Nature Society is prepared to mount a campaign against them.

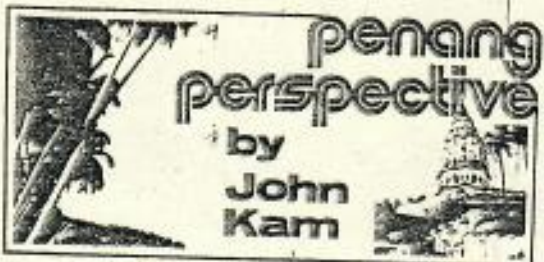
Will Pantai Acheh suffer the same fate as Endau-Rompin?

Not likely. The Endau-Rompin issue received so much public support that the authorities are not likely to take the risk of further aggravating the public.

But, Dr. Ong Jin Eong, who heads the MNS sub-committee on conservation notes, says that activities "incompatible" with the objective of a national park are being suggested.

"We are investigating some disturbing reports on the subject and we will oppose activities which may cause permanent damage," he adds.

Dr. Ong and fellow society members are particularly disturbed by the report that somebody



is planning a safari hotel in the area.

Imagine what would happen if this commercial proposition comes through?

Dr. Ong says the society is prepared to go "all the way" to stop commercial exploitation of the designated national park.

If the authorities will come out with a firm declaration that Pantai Acheh is officially a national park, measures can be taken to prohibit certain activities.

Dr. Ong explains that it is not the intention of environmentalists and conservationists to stop people from using areas which are designated national parks.

National parks are helpful to many groups of people if they use them correctly.

✧ ✧

The society is waiting for Parliament to approve the National Parks Act after which it will go full steam to get Pantai Acheh that national park status.

The case of Pantai Acheh merits favourable consideration.

At present a forest reserve in the northwest of the island, Pantai Acheh (3,126 acres) is ideal as a national park because it has a wide variety of features ranging from virgin jungle logged for-

the place. These include the tree shrews, giant flying squirrel, slow lori and various kinds of monkeys.

The campaign by the Penang branch of the Malaysian Nature Society to make Pantai Acheh a national park certainly deserves support.

Environmental and conservation work may seem rather "scientific" to the layman but the MNS in Penang is gathering good support from outside the scientific and academic fields.

In the past, MNS membership was largely confined to the university academic staff but it now has a membership of almost 300, many of whom are not academics.

The MNS in Penang is also concerned with several other educational and conservation projects.

Dr. Ong and Dr. Khoo Khay Huat are working on a project to set up a turtle hatchery in Pantai Krachut (also in the Pantai Acheh area).

For a start they will help conserve the green turtles which are not that common in Penang anymore and also the Ridley and hawk's bill turtles.

The green turtles which still go on the shores around the area to lay eggs are getting fewer and fewer. It is ho-

## ...ondok' boy

## ...is vision

## ...ew Kelantan

He resigned from the civil service and entered



Penang a national park. It is feared that if that declaration does not come there may be attempts to put commercial above environmental interests, as in the case of Endau-Rompin. If there are attempts to disturb the status of Pantal Acheh, which like Endau-Rompin has been designated a national park, the Penang branch of the Malaysian Nature Society is prepared to mount a campaign against them.

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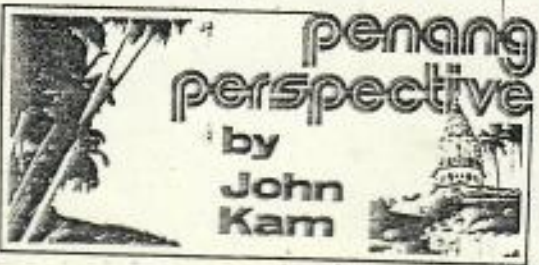
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At present a forest reserve in the northwest of the island, Pantal Acheh (3,126 acres) is ideal as a national park because it has a wide variety of features ranging from virgin jungle, logged forest and rocky coast to sandy beaches. There is also a meromittic lagoon — a lagoon with sea water at the bottom and fresh water on top.

There is a variety of timber including damar laut, meranti, rengkas, merawan, bintango and marpauh. The forest on the ridge is rich in Malaysian flora and numerous mammals inhabit

the place. These include the tree shrews, giant flying squirrel, slow lori and various kinds of monkeys.

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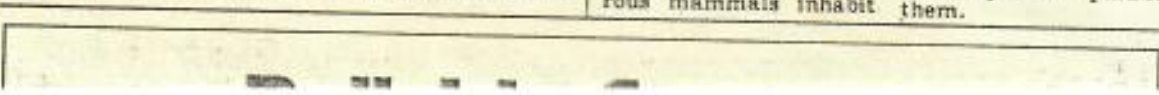
The green turtles which still go on the shores around the area to lay eggs are getting fewer and fewer. It is hoped that they will not become a rarity and eventually disappear from this area.

Dr. Ong and Dr. Khoo intend to "buy" their eggs from collectors to preserve the turtles. Collectors will also be paid for not collecting the eggs — that is, if they leave uncollected 10 per cent of the eggs that are laid they will be paid for them.

# Pondok' boy his vision new Kelantan

He resigned from the civil service and entered the thick of politics — Kelantan politics. The decision was to stand in Tanah Merah, where he had been an ADO some twenty years before, despite the fact it was a PAS stronghold. Datuk Mohamed went around armed not with high rhetoric but the humble demeanour, the simple argument, the soft voice. "The election was 50-50," according to Datuk Mohamed. He was not far wrong. For when the votes were counted, he found himself with

**"Our future as a nation is bright, if everyone can be tolerant and patient. We must build up the cake so that all can have a share. The sun is strong and big enough. No one need be in the darkness."**





## Our environment

# Endangered wildlife

By EDWARD FLATTAU

The survival of gray whales and Pacific sea turtles is being threatened by commercial pursuits in the Mexican coastal regions where these animals breed.

Unfortunately, this is an all too familiar pattern for wildlife throughout the world, especially in fiscally-strapped countries like Mexico, which often rationalize wildlife destruction as the inevitable price of sustaining economic momentum.

The only hope for wild creatures under these circumstances is that governments will wake up in time and muster enough political courage to act from foresight rather than expediency.

At first blush, Mexico seems to have adopted an enlightened stance towards wildlife's place in the scheme of things. Although not yet a signatory to the international treaty protecting endangered species, the Mexican government has expressed determina-

tion to prevent the whales' and turtles' extinction, and has promulgated laws to achieve that objective.

Closer examination indicates, however, that when economic pressures are brought to bear, the government's resolve begins to crumble.

The prospect of rich oil and gas discoveries within the country's territorial borders has led Mexicans to accept a constitutional amendment which allows the government-owned PEMEX company to drill pretty much wherever it pleases.

Among the sites that PEMEX has chosen to probe are offshore locations adjacent to the Baja California breeding grounds of the gray whales, an endangered species that enthralls hundreds of thousands of Americans every autumn as it skirts the West coast on its way down from Alaska.

The lagoons in which the world's 11,000 or so gray whales procreate are supposedly wildlife sanctuaries under Mexican law. Furthermore, President Lopez-Portillo's Administration seems receptive to working out a bilateral marine mammal protection treaty with the United States, and to acting on a suggestion by Mexican and American conservationists that the gray whales' birthplace be designated a giant national park offlimits to any disruptive activity.

Yet all the while, drilling is proceeding in the vicinity of the lagoons, raising the question whether the government's conservation priorities are any kind of a serious counterbalance to those related to mineral exploration.

Also, despite Mexican protective laws, the latest reports from marine biologists at the time are that all five species of sea turtles are in danger of extinction as a result of excessive harvesting on the country's west coast nesting beaches.

With the turtle's meat a delicacy and its eggs considered an aphrodisiac, a lucrative illegal market has emerged that makes the government often look the other way at hunters' self-destructive exploitation practices in the economically-depressed region.

Nevertheless, the picture is not totally bleak.

There seems at least as persuasive an economic argument for protecting gray whales from oil spills as there is to subjecting them to the risk. Virtually everyone agrees that even from afar, the sight of gray whales cavorting in their winter retreat has tremendous tourist potential that could benefit the Mexican economy indefinitely. By contrast, any oil or gas extracted from the lagoons is a one-shot proposition that would cost far more than it returned if the whales were lost in the process.

American conservationists familiar with the Baja situation would like PEMEX to move its drilling operations elsewhere since preliminary geological surveys of the lagoons were not all that promising. But they add that if the drilling occurs far enough from the mouth of the lagoons and the necessary safeguards are instituted, an oil strike would not endanger the whales.

As for the turtles, they are no longer dietary staples of most of the people who live on Mexico's Pacific coast. Accordingly, American conservationists report that both the Indians and Mexican fisherman are amenable to a moratorium on turtle hunting until the animal's population are replenished, provided that the ban is obeyed by all.

Some Mexican biologists fear, however, that their government attaches such importance to economic recovery that it will act firmly and promptly against powerful commercial interests' questionable use of natural resources only if embarrassed into doing so by adverse publicity from abroad.

Vancouver Sun  
March, 1978

# Illegal cargo skipper faces spread-the-word campaign

A Scottish ship's captain charged with bringing a cargo of sperm whale oil into Portland, Ore., in September may be asked to conduct an information campaign to prevent similar infractions by other shipping firms.

The idea is being considered as part of stiff penalties facing the captain under the American Endangered Species Act which forbids transportation of sperm whale oil, or its derivatives, in American territorial seas.

In exchange, U.S. officials may lower "slightly" the maximum \$10,000 which is being levied against the captain who is employed by a Connecticut shipping firm.

The informational campaign is one of several such ideas under negotiation this week between National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration officials in Seattle and Joseph Boyles Hunter of the Sheeland Islands, the master of the British-registered Stolt Llandaff which carried the 1,200 tons of whale oil.

John Pedrick of the administration office stresses that the scheme is a possibility, but other options are open. He said the idea of requiring delinquent shipping firms to educate others in the law — a "let-the-penalty-fit-the-crime" philosophy — is being considered as a future policy.

"We're taking a tough-minded attitude towards violations," Pedrick said. "The maximum fine will not likely be reduced that much."

Hunter's lawyer, Bob Sanders of Portland, refuses to comment on penalty negotiations. It is expected that some agreement between the two parties will be reached by the second week in April.

Hunter is an employee of Stolt Nielsen Inc., a shipping firm incorporated in the state of Connecticut. The company has posted a \$10,000 bond with its solicitors to cover the assessment of any penalties against the captain.

Hunter's ship, en route to Britain from Australia, attempted to dock in Portland but was turned away by customs officials under the endangered species act which forbids the ship to travel within the three-mile American territorial limits.

The \$1.2 million worth of oil ended up in storage in Vancouver for several weeks where the environmental protection group, the Greenpeace Foundation, threatened to prevent any ship from transporting it elsewhere.

However in late January, the oil, which represents one-third of Australia's annual production, was transferred to the hold of the Liberian-registered tanker Stolt Spur. The tanker slipped quietly out of Vancouver en route to Japan.

John Saleeba, executive director of the Cheynes Beach Holding Co. in Albany, West Australia, which caught the whales, says the oil was bought and paid for months ago by a number of European Economic Community buyers.

Michael Ridley, general manager of Burmah-Castrol in Liverpool, England, has acknowledged his firm planned to buy the oil and use it in the manufacture of building material and lubricating oils.

However he said Burmah would not claim responsibility until the oil arrives in a British port.

Ridley said Monday in a telephone interview from Liverpool that he does not know where the oil is now.

"If it arrives, we may have some use for it," he said.

## Government to Observe Hunt for Bowhead Whales

WASHINGTON, April 4 (UPI)—A Government force of about 40 persons will observe the spring hunt of the endangered bowhead whale off Alaska's North Slope.

Peter Jensen, manager of the marine mammal program at the National Marine Fisheries Service, said today that the Government force would include researchers, Eskimos working for the Government as go-betweens with the whaling crews, and three-member enforcement teams, each with one Eskimo member, whose main job would be to inform whalers when quotas had been met.

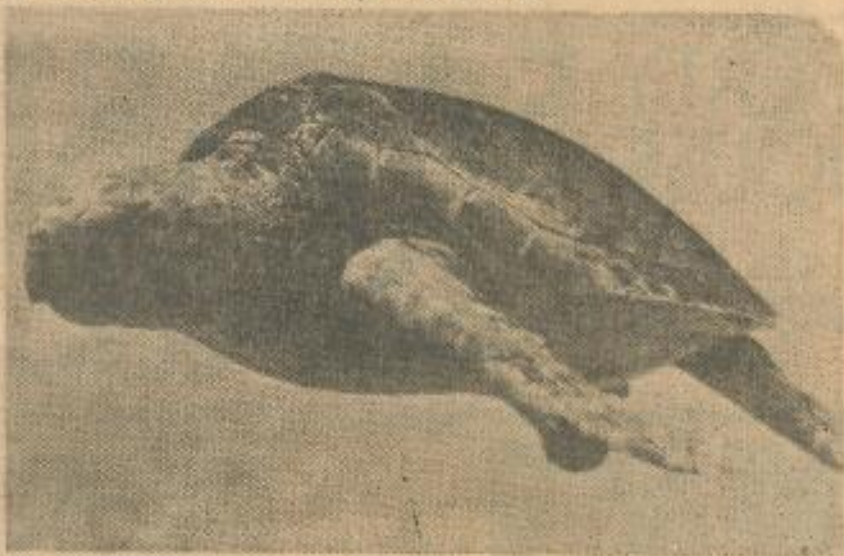
Eskimos are limited to a kill of 12 whales or 18 struck and lost, whichever comes first, under a ruling by the International Whaling Commission, of which the United States is a member.

"Despite their early stance, all evidence indicates the Eskimos will go along with I.M.C. quota recommendations," said William Aron, director of the office of ecology and conservation of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Although young bowheads have begun to migrate up the Alaska Coast, government officials do not expect whaling to get fully under way until the end of April. "Some Eskimos have indicated that since their hunt is limited this year, they will wait until the larger whales and the good weather arrives," Mr. Jensen said.



C-4 Honolulu Star-Bulletin Thursday, March 9, 1978



*Giant sea turtles that once numbered in the millions along North America's Pacific coast face extinction unless prompt action is taken to save them, conservationists warn.*

# A Race to Save the Turtle

WASHINGTON (AP)—Giant sea turtles that once numbered in the millions along North America's Pacific Coast face extinction unless prompt action is taken to save the ocean-dwelling reptiles, conservationists warn.

"Immediate action is vital to protect nesting beaches and stop the slaughter by fishermen," says Vivian Silverstein of the World Wildlife Fund.

Of the five species of marine turtles that inhabit the Pacific coast of North America, the populations of three species—the hawksbill, loggerhead and leatherback already are perilously low, according to the World Wildlife Fund.

As for the other two, more populous species, the green turtle "will be ex-

tinguish within three years unless immediate action is taken," a fund study concluded. "The Pacific Ridley turtle population, once the largest in the Western Hemisphere, will follow in less than eight years."

Biologists estimate that at least 13 million sea turtles inhabited the Pacific Coast of North America before white men arrived. Their numbers were so great that some ships' voyages were slowed by dense concentrations of thousands of turtles basking on the ocean surface.

Some of the turtles weighed upwards of 1,000 pounds. They provided meat, leather and, in the case of the hawksbill, shells for tortoise-shell jewelry.

Factors cited for the turtles' decline

include coastal development that destroyed nesting beaches on the Mexican coast, overharvesting by fishermen and nest predation by both humans and animals.

Many Latin Americans eat turtle eggs in the belief they increase an individual's sex drive.

Conservationists say the Mexican government should impose an immediate moratorium on the killing of all sea turtles and guard nesting beaches throughout the nesting and incubation period to protect the eggs from predation.

Additionally, they say, the United States should officially classify the green and Pacific Ridley as endangered, a move that would halt the importation of turtle skins and products.

### Breeding ground for river turtles

**KUALA TRENGGANU, Sat.** — The State Government has gazetted the Pasir Lubok Kawah and Pasir Lubok Temir along the length of the Trengganu River as breeding ground for the tuntung — a large river turtle with edible eggs.

According to the deputy director of the State Wildlife Protection Department, Engku Abdul Rahman Engku Ngah, the department was now collecting about 5,000 tuntung eggs for breeding this year.

#### Protection

He said about 200 eggs were collected for a trial project last year. These had already hatched and were now being bred in a pool here.

On wildlife protection, Engku Abdul Rahman said the department planned to breed mouse-deer in an area provided by the district office here next year.

A total of 485 types of birds and 71 other types of wildlife were now under protection, he added. — Bernama.

### \$17,000 tin ore seized from a parked car

**JOHORE BARU, Sat.** — Customs officers seized 728 kilogrammes of tin ore worth \$17,000 from a car parked along Jalan Tun Abdul Razak here last night.

Duty on the 18 bags of ore amounted to \$44,058.

Acting on information a four-man Customs party sped to a car parked behind the Tan Kim Chua Building at 9.30 p.m.

On searching they found the 18 bags of ore hidden in various parts of the car.

### Suspected pusher arrested

**KUALA LUMPUR, Sat.** — Police arrested a suspected drug pusher and seized 17 packets of heroin.

# Blue chips un selling press

## SHARE MARKET REVIEW BY SUSAN THAM

THE week must have been a big disappointment to share traders. In contrast to the relatively cheerful conditions seen previously, the Kuala Lumpur stock market reversed its upward course and headed doggedly lower.

Bearish influences from both the local front and the overseas centres contributed to a large extent, the uneasiness that shrouded the market when it reopened on Tuesday. Prices were pared across a broad front with both blue chips and speculative stocks subjected to varying degrees of selling pressure.

#### Popular counters

The weakness of the overall market was reflected in a substantial 9.27-point drop in the Business Times Index and a loss of 2.11 points in the New Straits Times Industrial ordinary share index.

Sentiment fluctuated uncertainly between mildly bearish and marginally steady for the next two days as operators turned increasingly cautious and withdrawn.

Attempts at rallying were generally too feeble to be sustained and it was not until Friday that the market was able to put on a brighter front.

But for the greater part of the week, the market languished in the doldrums with volumes down and prices moving

lower. On the week, the NST Industrial index fell 4.25 points to 295.18, while the BT index declined 8.05 points to 783.47.

The week's total volume shrank to 9,632 million units valued at \$16,214 million for the four-day week, compared with 17,715 million units valued at \$29,708 million previously. Initially at least, a large portion of the deals must have been due to further stop-loss and liquidation by weak holders.

Over the week, speculative enthusiasm also appears to have been slightly dampened although support was still strongly visible in a handful of popular counters. Heading the list again was Associated Plastics Industries which continued to gain headway. The share moved moderately up in the first two trading days, eased back slightly on Thursday but recovered at the close — providing its shareholders with a net gain of seven cents to \$1.14. However, volumes were sharply down to 1,067 million units against 3,09 million units traded last week.

Once a relatively quiet stock, Boustead sprang into the limelight when the share attracted strong and sustained interest towards the second half of the week. The share rallied a total of 19 cents to \$2.33 this

week over a volume of 215,000 units, of which more than half were produced on Friday alone. Market talks have attributed the current bullishness in this counter to expectations of better performance from the company.

Malakoff in the rubber sector, where the Boustead group has a 55 per cent interest, also enjoyed some good spillover effects, the share rising seven cents at the close. On the week, Malakoff was up four cents to \$2.06 over 68,000 units traded.

#### Widespread losses

Some speculative interest was also noted in a few selected stocks in the other market areas such as Pahang Consolidated and Bandar Raya. Other active features include General Ceramics and Sim Lim which found keen demand to move 11 cents and 7½ cents up to \$2.47 and 95 cents over 246,000 units and 578,000 units.

The few gains that managed to surface in the industrial sector, despite the generally easier trend, included United Asbestos Cement, Matashila and JC-MPH. The former, which rose seven cents to \$2.33, announced this week that it had achieved higher net pre-tax profits of \$7.17 million for the half year ending December 1977

against \$5.03 million the same period previously. UAC will issue an interim dividend 7½ per cent less than last year.

However, losses were clearly more widespread, encompassing both the heavyweights and cheaper price stocks.

Fraser and Neave, Dunlop Industries, Carlsberg, M&B, Shell and Rothmans were among the investment and better quality stocks to lose between six and 10 cents.

Elsewhere, declines were seen in Central Finance, Federal Cables and Wires, Fusan Fish Net, General Lumber, Haw Par, Inchcape, Li Hoe Industries, Pacific Electric and Olymp Plywood.

Heavier price falls were suffered by Prim Flour Mills which fell 1 cent to \$2.42, and Ta Chong which eased 1 cent to \$2.57.

In the finance sector declines were widespread with falls of between three and 10 cents incurred by all the banking issues. The most active stock here was Malayan Credit which dropped two cents to 95 cents over 118,000 units.

Trading in both the Hotel and Property sectors remained depressed and dull. Faber Meritt was driven four cents lower to 89 cents over

# Why Malays lag behind in economic progress

**PENANG, Sat.** — Colonial indoctrination is the main stumbling block to greater achievement of the Malays in economic development, said Dr. Kamal Salleh, Dean of University of Malaya.

He was speaking at a symposium on *Progress, Development and Humanity in Context with the Present Malay Society* held at the USM campus here.

The three-day symposium

factors like feudalism, technical competition and influence of modern society were contributory, colonial indoctrination was the main stumbling block.

mented Green Book projects, involved in small business and joint-ventures and even migrated to the urban areas and yet they still lag behind.

## Wildlife thrives — a culture survives

**O**N THE TRAIL of a threatened species, Dr. Bernard Nietschmann examines a green sea turtle on an island in the Torres Strait between Australia and Papua New Guinea. Endangered elsewhere by human exploitation, the turtles thrive here, along with marine mammals called dugongs, or sea cows. The strait's sea-grass beds offer pastures of plenty to both animals—the only large species that graze on earth's underwater grasslands. Aided by a National Geographic Society grant, the University of California geographer and his family have studied the animals, their ecosystem, and the islanders, who legally hunt them for subsistence.

With his wife, Judith, an anthropologist, and their son, Barney, Dr. Nietschmann endured hardships from storms to stinging jellyfish. After traveling 5,000 miles in a motorized dinghy, he joked, "My hands and feet got so waterlogged that I turned into an albino prune."

His arduous quest yielded a gold mine of knowledge. "Beneath the islanders' veneer of transistor radios and other modern trappings lies a very resilient culture," he reports. "They have maintained their legends, lore, and skills—their hunting repertoire—while adapting to the modern era. For them, hunting is more than a means of acquiring meat, it is a way of life."

Each year your Society dues support more than a hundred such research projects around the world. Your friends can help these worthwhile studies. Simply fill in the form below.



CHELORIA NYONG, JUDITH NIETSCHMANN

Los Angeles Herald-Examiner Friday, January 6, 1978.

## Repairing Aquarium a Whale of a Job

By TOM BALDWIN

BOSTON (AP) — Myrtle the sea turtle and Snaggle Tooth the shark are among 280 denizens of the deep and shallows who are headed for temporary tanks because of a crack in the giant glass fishbowl they call home at the New England Aquarium.

"The moray eels might be a problem too," said John Prescott, executive director of the aquarium on Boston's waterfront.

"The tank will be empty for about a week," he said in a telephone interview Thursday. "This is going to be a heck of a big undertaking.

"We have to catch the animals, then drain the tank. It will take some time to fix the glass, then refill the tank and heat it."

Aquarium officials say the operation will start within the next six weeks. They do not know how long it will take to remove all the sealife to reserve tanks and bowls, complete the repairs, then refill the giant tank with properly heated water.

Smaller fishes will be trapped in water tanks, said Prescott, but the big guys like Snaggle Tooth, a 400-pound, eight-foot sand tiger shark, could turn feisty.

Snaggle Tooth, who always looks like he's mad at someone, is a favorite with aquarium visitors.

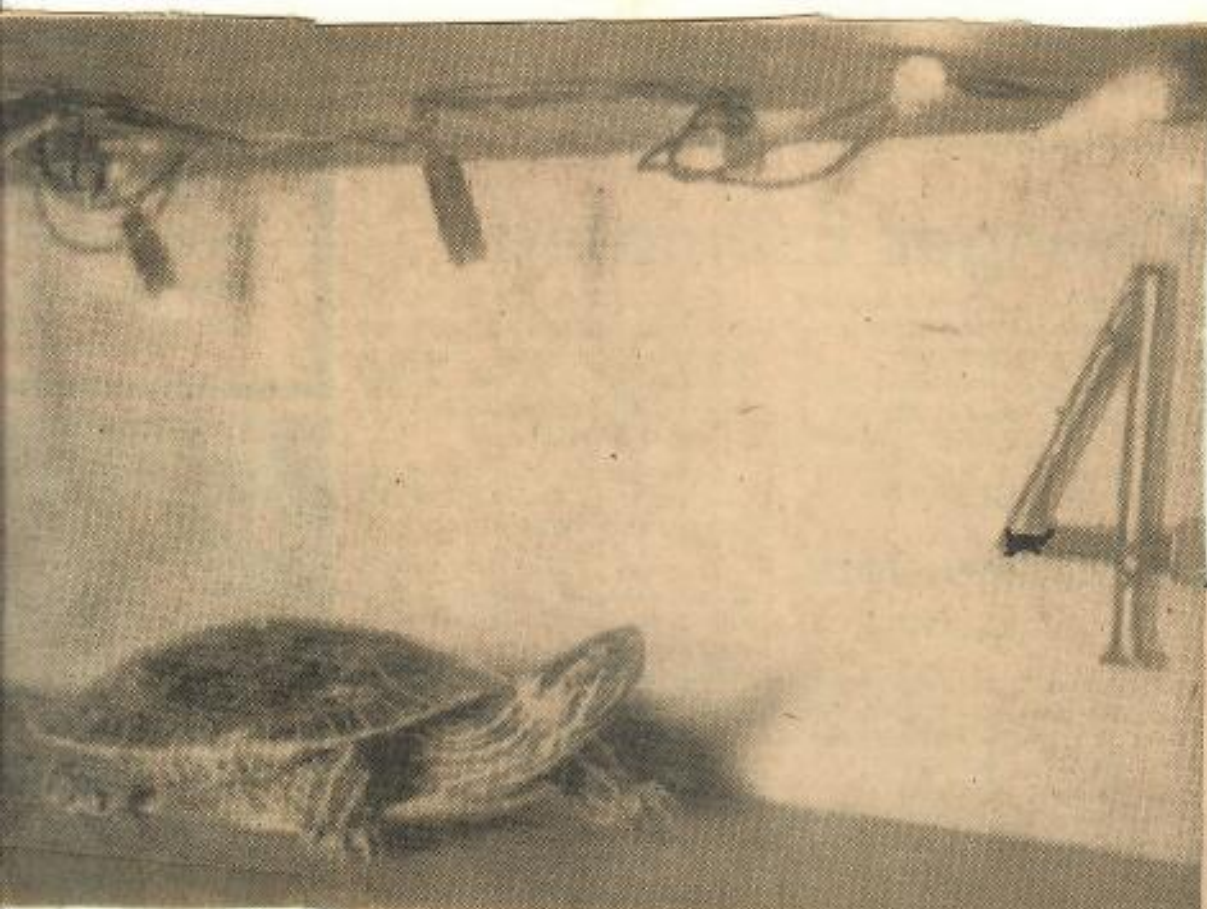
Prescott said divers will try to coax the morays out of their homes in the rocks with food, then trap them in glass bowls. He said sharks will be netted by the divers. Myrtle, a peaceful 800-pound sea turtle captured off Cape Cod, will be escorted out.

"We will try not to use tranquilizers," Prescott said. "We really don't want to have to grab hold and wrestle with anyone."

The tank, considered one of the world's finest for viewing aquatic life, measures 20 feet deep and 50 feet across the diameter of its circular surface. Prescott said it holds the equivalent of more than 20 backyard swimming pools.

"Have you ever tried to heat 250,000 gallons of sea water?" he asked. The tank is kept at 70 degrees.

"The bigger fish will be a problem because we will have to hold some out of the water for as much as four or five minutes. We'll have to run like hell to get them to other tanks," he said.



1978 -  
Glondy

Nerd's out in front at the turtle races in Warren. 'Turtling' began last year as a way to keep laughing through the cold winter

Associated Press Wirephoto

## Scramble for Glory at Mad River

Note: This is a ski resort in Vt., not representative of the state!!!!

By NANCY SHULINS  
The Associated Press

WARREN — "And they're off," yells Kenny Worthington, raising the starting gate. Nothing happens.

"Don't worry," Worthington assures spectators. "Turtles are like that."

Finally, one entry yawns and blinks. Another in the glass cage nearly completes the course twice, but turns around before crossing the finish line.

A half hour later the results are in: "It's 'Nerd' by an eyeball," Worthington shouts.

Shrieks and groans reverberate throughout the Lantern Lodge, a hilltop inn where turtle racing is a semi-weekly event.

"The nice thing about turtle racing," says Worthington, "is that there are no big losers. Nobody loses his shirt and nobody gets rich — the betting limit is 25 cents."

Since the advent of turtle racing at the beginning of this year's ski season, the word has spread.

Racing fans from as far away as Virginia have come to try their luck at turtling.

A bearded figure in Hawaiian shirt and sneakers, Worthington came as a visitor from California four years ago and never went home.

He credits his reputation as a showman throughout the area known as the Mad River Valley for landing him the job of "chief turtle herder."

Worthington, 27, who doubles as a skateboarder and local nightclub emcee, says turtle racing has become just one more way the Mad River Valley tries to live up to its name.

He says turtle racing is totally unpredictable. "In horse or dog racing, at least, you always know the animals are going to run toward the finish line, not away from it," he said.

The turtles come from pet shops, are about six inches long and resemble dusty flying saucers. They "run" on a seven-foot glassed-in "track."

Between races, they sleep, swim and eat hamburger Worthington tosses into their tank.

"It's a lot like having a pet rock," he says. "They're very quiet."

Choosing a turtle is similar to picking a thoroughbred or greyhound, he says. "People stand around the tank and contemplate the turtles. It's really funny; they always look for the big movers."

"But the little guys, the sleepers, are the ones. The big guys have seen it all, they aren't too interested."

So, between other zany pastimes at the Mad River, Worthington studies the possibility of an astroturf track and searches for the ultimate turtle.

"Ideally, he would be medium-sized, with short stubby legs," he says.

It's a slow process, but Worthington says when you race turtles for a living, it's best not to be in a hurry.

*Market Newspaper*  
**Sunday** January 15, 1978

13 The Travels of Lord  
Mito. (Mito Kemon.) (R)

—7 p.m.—

9-3-9 The Coral Jungle:  
"Islands Of Tragedy."  
Host Leonard Nimoy ex-  
plores the cays and reefs  
beyond Australia's Great  
Barrier Reef.

11-10-4 Firing Line.

—7:30 p.m.—

★ **Bob Hope's**  
Vaudeville Special w/  
George Burns, Sammy  
Davis & Donny & Marie  
Osmond.

2-7-11 Special: "All-Star  
Comedy Tribute To The  
Palace Theatre" With  
host Bob Hope, George  
Burns, Sammy Davis, Jr.,  
Eydie Gorme, Carol Law-  
rence, Steve Lawrence,  
Donny & Marie Osmond.

# China the easy way

By JAY MATHEWS  
Washington Post Service

HONG KONG — Remembering my own many unsuccessful requests for a visa to China, I watched skeptically as my parents, Tom and Frances Mathews of San Mateo, Calif., walked unannounced into the China Travel Service office here and asked to go to Canton.

"How about next Saturday?" the young Chinese travel agent said. My jaw dropped. Tourism was catching up with Maoism.

Even after 1971's ping-pong diplomacy made American travel to China possible, U.S. citizens have had to scheme and beg for months or years to get a treasured China visa.

Most have only been able to go under the guise of "special-interest" groups studying health care or rice farming, rather than as carefree tourists.

No longer. Many prospective China travelers back in the United States are still adding their names to long waiting lists for a few U.S.-organized tour groups.

But Americans who happened to be in Hong Kong in recent weeks have found that a quick and, by all accounts, delightful trip to China is almost as easy to arrange as a visit to one of the local tailors.

The official China Travel Service, with help from a few private Hong Kong travel agencies, has been granting visas on only two or three days notice to nearly anyone interested in a four-day, three-night tour of nearby Canton and the surrounding countryside.

The Chinese are experimenting with what may be a much more ambitious program and so far have forbidden newspaper advertising.

Their secret has been well enough kept that the Canton weekend tour has yet to be fully booked, although longer and less frequent tours to Kweilin and to Peking have built up waiting lists at least through June.

My parents heard of the tour by word of mouth, as did most of the 73 others in their Canton group, which included perhaps 40 Americans.

My wife had called to tell them about the Canton offer while they were still packing for a long-planned trip here. When my mother passed on this news to her travel agent in San Mateo, three other agents called within hours for more information.

The Canton tours can take up to 150 people each weekend. No more than a third are supposed to be Americans, although some travel agents here say that quota is not rigidly enforced.

As far as is known, no Americans have been turned away except those the Chinese can clearly identify as journalists, diplomats or missionaries.

Missionaries are barred, and journalists and diplomats usually must clear trips through the foreign ministry in Peking.

The weekend tour leaves every Saturday morning for a 90-mile railroad trip over the border to Canton. It returns from Canton Tuesday morning.

The cost will increase to \$180 per person this month, from a rate of \$163 that was in effect for the first two months.

That covers nearly everything — food and lodging at Canton's cavernous Tung Fang Hotel, transportation, guide service and evening entertainment.

Every tour group spends one day at a rural commune outside the city. They see and eat a delicious country meal.

Another day is spent at a ceramic factory and an ancient temple in the smaller city of Foshan, north of Canton.

Tour members usually see one evening ballet or acrobatic performance, visit the pandas at the Canton Zoo, and hear a brief lecture on the sins of imperialism at a spot where Chinese revolutionaries were cut down by British and French guns. "We all shook our heads sorrowfully," my mother said.

"Nobody in our group had more than a week's notice that they could get on such a trip," she said. "Many people were sending wires to friends who were expecting them elsewhere that weekend."

My parents walked into China Travel Service at 77 Queens Road Central in Hong Kong (the Kow-

loon branch is at 27 Nathan Road), filled out application forms in duplicate, left two photos each and a \$44 deposit.

They applied on a Friday, too late for the next day's tour but in plenty of time for the following Saturday.

On Wednesday, they joined other tour members for a briefing at the Miramar Hotel.

China Travel Service officials took their passports and dispensed advice: "You cannot cash American Express or Citibank travelers checks in China," said tour guide Li Wai-Wing.

"You can take exposed film out of the country if you don't take pictures of military installations."

Americans with Taiwan visas stamped on their passports had no trouble: The Chinese stamped their visa on a separate slip of paper and paperclipped it to the passport.

Citizens of South Africa, Rhodesia, Israel and South Korea were supposedly barred, but two Rhodesians traveling with British passports got on the trip. Two Canadian Christian missionaries, after apparently claiming other more innocuous occupations on their applications, also joined the tour.

There was no word of what happened to the Chinese-language Bible they brought in with them.

After two decades of entertaining foreign trade-fair delegates twice a year, the citizens of Canton might be expected to be accustomed to Westerners walking their streets. But the Americans found themselves stared at wherever they went.

"When we got to the zoo they stopped watching the animals," my mother said.

For some that was one of the trips' delights. For others it was the clash of cultures, or the sight of new ways being grafted onto old, that every visitor to China seems to discover in some different way.

Strolling around a mid-city park, my father came upon the rare sight of a Chinese tennis team practice, with tall, well-trained young women mastering the capitalist art of rushing the net.





*An American visitor takes close look at sculpture.*

Other tour members enjoyed explaining to an inquisitive hotel waiter what "B.Y.O.B." meant in the announcement of an impromptu tour group party pinned to the hotel bulletin board.

The low ebb of tourist travel to Hong Kong in cloudy mid-winter and China Travel Service's low profile have kept the Canton tours small so far.

Perhaps it's just as well. Tour members found they had to eat, and sometimes sleep, in their coats in the chilly Tung Fang.

Inexperienced guides sometimes failed to inform all tour members of where to get buses for evening performances.

But better weather, better service and the travel grapevine may quickly fill up the weekend tours,

which will be suspended from mid-April to mid-May for the spring trade fair.

A friend or relative in Hong Kong can make a preliminary booking: No reservations can be confirmed until the applicant has personally handed in his passport.

People without other contacts in Hong Kong can write private travel agents such as Swire Travel Ltd., 9 Connaught Road C.; Travel Advisers Ltd., Peninsula Hotel, Kowloon; or Arrow Travel Agency, 2101 Alexander House, all in Hong Kong.