



Awaiting Accolade

► **CATFISH!** THE word is usually spoken scornfully, as of an inferior creature, little better than the worm he gulps for bait.

Admittedly, things are against the catfish socially. He hasn't much for looks, or grace, or agility, or fighting spirit, like the patrician trout, the lordly bass, or even the robber-baron pike.

He seems quite content to dwell in the muddy slums of the aquatic world, snout-ing in the bottom slime for food and willing to eat almost anything. Only the carp will consent to live in worse quarters than a catfish will put up with. He is the pig among fishes.

That porcine metaphor, however, contains the catfish's vindication as well as his condemnation. For the pig, too, is un-beautiful, delights in mud, gobbles garbage, yet becomes most excellent eating when properly dressed and cooked. And just as the pig achieves a degree of splendor in the big wild boar, there is a catfish that comes very near to nobility—the big channel cat of the larger Midwestern rivers.

In that part of the country, at least, people have learned to appreciate the catfish that comes very near to nobility. A really properly fried catfish can taste mighty good. They have made a virtue of necessity, for their rivers yield no trout, and you may have to drive for scores of miles to find even fair bass or pickerel fishing.

Similarly in the South, the catfish becomes a tasty dish in the hands of a cook who really knows his subject.

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• RADIO

Saturday, August 15, 1953, 3:15-3:30 p.m., EDT
"Adventures in Science" with Watson Davis, director of Science Service, over the CBS Radio Network. Check your local CBS station.

Dr. Lawrence R. Hafstad, director of reactor development, Atomic Energy Commission, discusses "Atomic Furnaces."

An average of more than 500 forest fires a day was reported during 1952.

STATISTICS

Previous Marital Status

On basis of figures available from 14 states, statisticians find that only one out of five of those who marry have previously been married.

► **FOUR OUT** of five of those who marry have not been married before.

While nation-wide figures on previous marital status of brides and grooms are lacking, Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. statisticians have compiled the information for 1950 for 14 states for which information is available.

The relative importance of first and later marriages varies widely according to age. Among those marrying in 1950 at ages under 25, bachelors and spinsters constituted well over 90% of the total. However, the proportion decreased rapidly with advance in age.

For brides, only one-half of those at ages 30 to 34 entered their first marriage; at ages 45 to 49, the fraction was one-fifth; and at ages past 60, it was less than one-tenth.

The proportions were about the same for bachelors five years later in life—reflecting the somewhat older age at marriage for men than for women. Thus bachelors constituted one-half of the grooms at ages 35 to 39, and almost one-fifth at age 50 to 54.

Among the men and women who married in 1950 at ages 25 or older, a considerable proportion had already been divorced. One-quarter of all the brides at ages 25 to 29 were divorcees, and the proportion rose to a maximum of nearly one-half in the age range 35 to 44 years.

Of the brides in their early 50's, divorcees represented about a third. For grooms, the proportion previously divorced increased from one-eighth for those marrying at ages 25 to 29, to a maximum of one-half for those marrying at 40 to 49.

With advancing age, the widowed increased in relative importance among those marrying. For example, widows constituted one-quarter of the brides at ages 40 to 44, one-half at 50 to 54, and more than four-fifths at ages 65 and over. However, because marriages at the later ages make up only a small fraction of the total, the widowed accounted for only about 6% of all brides and grooms in 1950.

Individual states differ markedly in the proportions of the single, divorced and widowed among those getting married. The proportion of brides who married for the first time in 1950 ranged from a little more than 85% in Massachusetts and New York to somewhat less than 65% in Florida and Wyoming. These figures are inversely related to those for the divorced; the proportions of divorcees among women getting married ranged from 8.6% in New York to 28.3% in Wyoming. In every state, widows constituted the smallest group among those marrying.

These geographic variations reflect a number of factors, including the age and marital composition of the population, differences in attitudes toward divorce among various religious groups and, even more important, the diversity in our marriage and divorce laws.

Thus the high proportion of bachelors and spinsters among persons marrying in Massachusetts and New York reflects in part the tendency of many of their divorced residents to remarry in other states.

Such a movement from Massachusetts accounts in large measure for the relatively high proportion of divorced among the brides and grooms in New Hampshire. Similarly, many New Yorkers, as well as persons from other states, obtain their divorce in Florida and remarry there before returning home.

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ENGINEERING

Production Engineering Used in "Front Office"

► **THE METHODS** of the production engineer, whose time and motion studies revolutionized the manufacturing end of industry, are now being felt in the "front office" and sales departments.

Dr. Joseph Carrabino, a production management expert at the University of California at Los Angeles, has designed work simplification programs for such diverse enterprises as hospitals, banks, department stores and factories.

"Only recently has management come to realize that running an office or sales division is not much different than running a factory assembly line," Dr. Carrabino explained.

One of the nation's largest insurance companies now has a whole department devoted to simplifying its paper work and other operations. A large chain of banks has achieved huge savings by treating its paper work as a materials handling problem, which it is. A refining company recently used tools developed by the industrial engineer to increase its sales by 15% while reducing its sales force 38%.

"For years now," says Dr. Carrabino, "anyone wanting to cut down on the cost of his product has looked first to the production line. We are just beginning to take a new look at mounting distribution costs which have risen until they are now higher than the cost of manufacturing the product."

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