

Disputes Theories

# Twelve-Year-Old Studies Mating Habits of Sharks

For 12-year-old Mary Vonne Hambleton, homework can be very fishy. Mary Vonne, a sixth grade student at Hickory Elementary School, has been studying marine biology for several months in an effort to disprove some well accepted theories about sharks.

Dale Coogan, principal of Hickory School, Mary Vonne has been studying the mating habits of sharks as part of a school science fair project. She was one of three winners at Hickory School and will show her project at the North High Science Fair tomorrow.

Encouraged by her teacher, Mrs. Camille Bennett, and Dr.

A NEWCOMER to Torrance, Mary Vonne and her family

are from Prairie Village, Kan. The family came to California in September, 1963.

Recently Mary Vonne, a fabled marine biologist all over California when she correctly identified a "sea monster" which had baffled the experts after being washed ashore near Ventura. The "sea monster" was described on a KMPC Radio news program and Mary Vonne called the station. She told KMPC she thought the "monster" was a Cetorhinus Maximus, commonly known as a basking shark. Continued investigation proved the young lady correct.

Hugh Brundage, KMPC news director, invited the Hambleton family to tour the radio station, and at the end of the tour, Mary Vonne gave Brundage an embryonic specimen of a shark.

THE DAUGHTER of Mr. and Mrs. Howard W. Hambleton, Mary Vonne has a 9-year-old sister, Betsy, also a student at Hickory School, and a 15-year-old brother, Bill, who is a sophomore at Torrance High School. The family lives at 22712 Eriel Ave.

Mrs. Hambleton, when asked how long Mary Vonne had been interested in marine biology, told THE HERALD, "This is a relatively new thing. Before this, it was jet thrust and things like that." Mrs. Hambleton attributes Mary Vonne's keen interest in the shark project to a desire to find out about "home" and the guiding hand of her teachers at Hickory Elementary School.

The girl's father is a chemist employed by Union Carbide and Chemicals Co., and has spent many hours helping Mary Vonne with her project. The family garage has been turned into a research laboratory, and Hambleton has assisted his daughter in the dissection of a shark.

MARY VONNE is disputing theories about the mating season and the pregnancy of sharks and will tag some (Continued on Page 39)



FISHY NEWS . . . Twelve-year-old Mary Vonne Hambleton presents an embryonic shark specimen to Hugh Brundage, KMPC news director, after touring station facilities. Mary Vonne was invited to tour KMPC after she helped to correctly identify a "sea monster" which had washed ashore near Ventura. The shark had baffled marine biologists until Mary Vonne identified it from a description broadcast by KMPC news. (KMPC News Photo)



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(Continued from Page 1) fort to finance the new YMCA facility.

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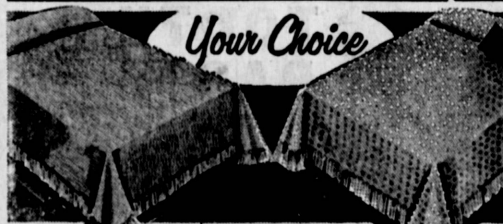
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