

Pollution, Parasites Prey On Chesapeake Oyster Beds

By REYNOLDS KNIGHT
If you're an oyster lover it would be wise to stock a batch of them in your deep freezer. They're getting scarce.

Little more than ten years ago about 82 million pounds of oysters were pulled each year from the waters of America. In the 1966-67 season this figure shrank to 52 million pounds, and oyster-men predict that the total for the season just ending will be even lower.

To get a better idea of the situation consider the fact that currently there are only 42 boats operating in Chesapeake Bay, the biggest source of oysters in the United States whereas at one time there was a fleet of 2,000 oyster boats dredging the bay.

THERE ARE a number of reasons advanced for the oyster decline. One is water pollution; another is over-dredging of oyster beds. In the Delaware Bay and in parts of Chesapeake Bay a parasite of undetermined nature is preying on oysters. And environmental changes in Long Island's Oyster Bay have brought in another nemesis of oysters — the starfish.

To make matters worse the quality of today's oysters is being questioned. One source claims that because of skimpy oyster beds oysters are being harvested before they are mature. It takes four years for an oyster to reach full size. They are now being harvested after two and a half years. And when oysters are too small they tend to be tough.

FOUND: a new and possibly important use for the smashed fenders, battered bodies and other rusted junk that accumulates in unsightly heaps in automobile graveyards.

At an experimental ore-recovery plant operated by the U.S. Bureau of Mines, auto scrap is mixed with low-grade taconite ore which contains so little iron it would hardly be worth processing in its natural state. But the junked jalopies supply what's missing. When the low-grade taconite and the auto scrap are roasted together under carefully controlled conditions the result is a high-grade magnetic ore containing 95 per cent iron.

Key to the special roasting process is a combustion Corp. of America, Dresher, system developed by Selas,

Pa., which burns a precisely controlled, pre-selected mixture of natural gas and air inside a rotary kiln. The flame temperature and the "mix" of combustion by-products must be just right at all times if the scrap and taconite are to be properly mated.

THE RESULTANT high-grade ore can be processed into iron which in turn can be made into high-performance, alloys so that the dashed-in fender from last year's wreck may help supply the tough, gleaming steel for Detroit's newest dreamboats.

A machine manufacturer claims its new machine tool is

the largest internal grinder ever built by an American firm. Measuring 40 feet in length, the machine reportedly grinds holes as deep as 65 inches and as wide as 20 inches in metal. The tool is used for large parts such as struts for supersized aircraft landing gear. A new company in Chicago handles domestic chores under yearly contracts. It will do light cleaning in a four-bedroom house on a once-monthly basis at an average cost of \$55.

A LEADING paper maker has come up with part of the answer to a question that has worried many woodsmen in

recent years. That question is: How do we fill America's growing need for timber at a time when our acreage of forest land is shrinking?

This year 509 million acres of commercial timber lands in the United States will have to yield some 11 billion cubic feet of wood. Nearly one-third of that wood will be needed for paper production. To meet this challenge, Kimberly-Clark Corp. is driving to make the most effective use of available woodlands. Company foresters are applying to trees the same principles of breeding control that have produced better corn, wheat and sugar beets for farmers in just a few generations.

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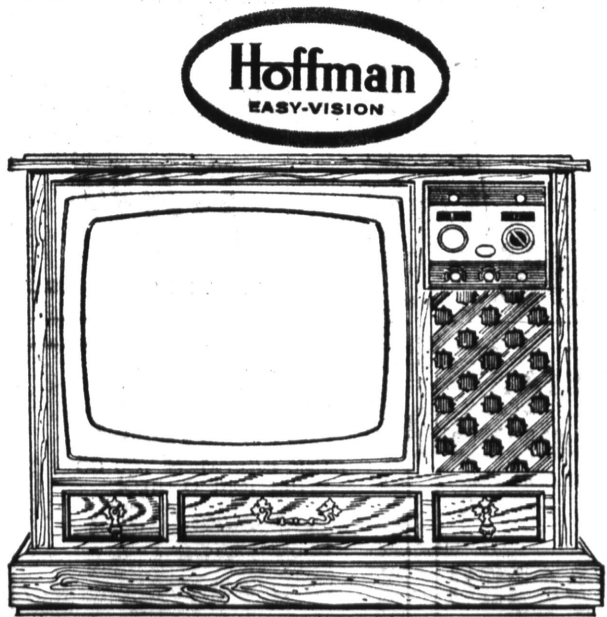
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