

When Whale Becomes Meat, Is It Fish or Beef? . . . New Deal, Thinking of Thanksgiving, Must Make Decision

By DANIEL M. KIDNEY
Times Staff Writer
WASHINGTON, Sept. 16.—Unless President Roosevelt stands firm on his "no interdepartmental feudings" order, interior and agriculture officials may soon be battling over who has jurisdiction over a harpooned whale.

Whale steaks and whaleburgers have become popular on the west coast.
Now the co-ordinator of fisheries (interior) has admitted that a whale is a mammal, although for all red-tape purposes it still is classified as a fish. Steak-making mammals might come under the auspices of the agriculture department.

Interior, however, links the fish and wildlife services, so if the whale loses out on the fish test he may qualify under wildlife.
To a man whose whaling knowledge is confined to seeing a movie with a whale and radio announcer spouting off together, this discussion becomes a bit academic. So we had better stick to steaks.

After the interior department revealed last April that whales are swell wartime food and can be had without OPA ration coupons, great demand was made by citizens wanting to know how to cook a whale after you catch it.

So Miss Edith Hopkins, food technologist, went to work on the whale problem at the fish and wildlife service laboratories.
Today she has recipes for stuffed whale roast, fillet of whale with mushrooms, whale pot roast, broiled whale steaks and whale bobotee. According to fishery leaflet 33, which

contains these recipes, whalemeat resembles venison in taste and beef in color and texture. Humpback, sei and finback whales, considered the best for eating, yield meat in tons—about six, five and eight respectively—when dressed.
So it is best to share your whale with the neighbors.
Catching whales has been simplified by mechanization, officials re-

port. All you need is a whale-boat, harpoon gun and an old bicycle pump. The latter is used to pump the harpooned whale full of air so it can be towed ashore to the butcher shop. Dead whales, not given air, sink.
"The whale," says the co-ordinator, "is the largest of all animals."

It is a mammal and as such has warm red blood and produces living young. It still shows traces of its connection with land animals. It has hair, although only of a rudimentary character, and traces of limbs. Mammal or no mammal, Mr. Jones is ready to claim jurisdiction over anything that swims from a minnow to a mermaid—including whales.

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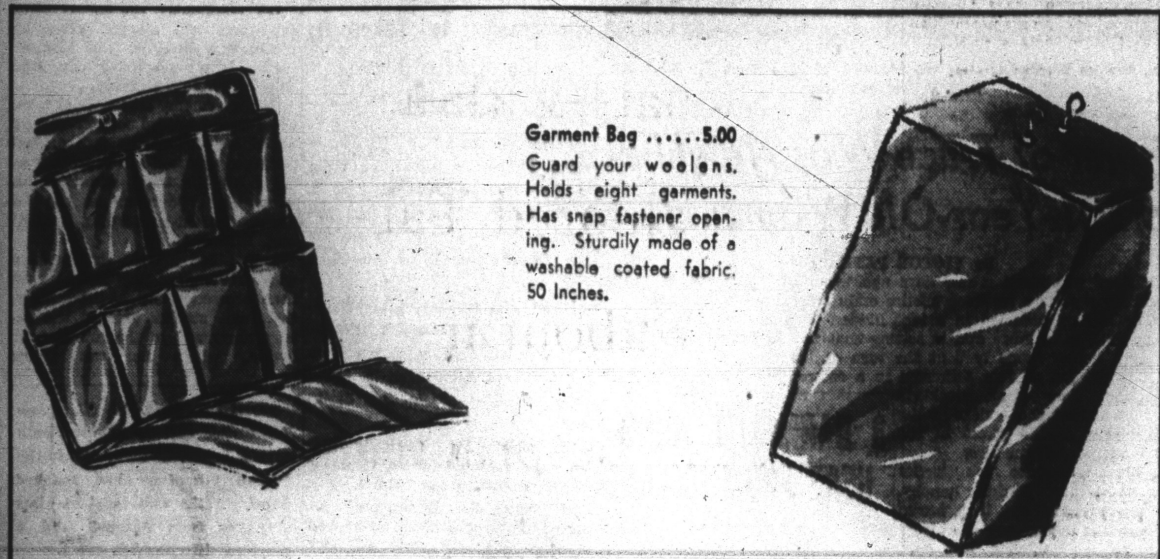
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