

## Boatmen And Axmen Prepare Fulk's Lake For Operation Flipper



Operation Turtle . . . Volunteers carry boats from a truck to Fulk's Lake on the property of Gale Harris to serve as a platform for diving operations which were to begin today. Quest of the dive is the giant (?) turtle, said to weigh 500 pounds, somewhere in the muddy bottom of the lake.



An Ax for Mr. Turtle . . . Volunteers chop away the inch-thick ice of Fulk's Lake to prepare a hole through which Woodrow Rigsby could dive today in quest of the terrible terrapin of Churubusco. Spectators lined the bank to watch the operations.

## 'Crossroads' to Get TV Showing Here

"Crossroads," depicting aid to crippled children through the purchase of Easter Seals, will be presented at a television show at 3:30 p. m. Sunday in the Manufacturers' building at the State Fairgrounds.

The production, written by Dick Griffith, Butler University student, will be presented by the Marion County Society for Crippled Children and Adults, Inc., and the Butler radio department.

The cast includes Gloria Novak, Jim Gates, Bill Fagin, Dick Griffith and Wallace Waters of Butler, children from Crossroads Kindergarten, Happy Hoboes and Sad Sacks Clubs and adults from the Indiana Rehabilitation League and Crossroads Sheltered Shop.

## Has Feature Role

James Coffey, son of Mrs. Doris Coffey, 3508 N. Illinois St., has a feature role in the mystery-melodrama, "The Visitor," which is being presented by the Gargoyle Club of Lake Forest Academy Mar. 24 on the academy campus. The three-act play is directed by Leslie G. Mayer, faculty adviser.

## Turtle Diver, Spectators Await Payoff Plunge

Rigsby Poses in Suit for Photographs; Family on Hand to Watch Descent

By VICTOR PETERSON, Times Star Writer

CHURUBUSCO, Mar. 18.—The only undisturbed animal—human or otherwise, on the Gale Harris farm today was the Beast of Churubusco, a turtle who would rather not be bothered.

Turmoil prevailed above water, apparent calm below. The monstrous moshack continued to lie undisturbed in his muddy home while feverish efforts were made to prepare Woodrow Rigsby for his dive into the icy waters of Fulk's Lake.

It was strictly dress rehearsal this morning when Diver Rigsby donned the snow white suit borrowed from the Navy in Chicago. Some two to three hundred curious onlookers from the surrounding countryside gawked at the unusual underwater outfit which Rigsby will wear in his search for the Timid Terrapin.

The giant turtle probably would be thoroughly amazed at the antics of the human animal if he could understand the human mind. Diver Rigsby, who has confined his previous efforts to finding clams in White River near Noblesville, tried on the suit and posed for hundreds of pictures taken by newspaper and magazine photographers from throughout the Midwest.

On hand to watch the descent when it finally happens, believed to be this afternoon, were his mother, Mrs. Maude A. Rigsby; his wife and two children, Franklin, 8, and Barbara Lee, 4.

## Need Fittings

The son and daughter of Diver Rigsby appeared a bit confused by the whole operation and found it difficult to smile for the photographers who pleaded incessantly.

Last-minute preparations for the dive revolved about the search for fittings which would couple the air hose to the air compressor. This was the second time that an incomplete outfit arrived for the dive. The first suit came without pants. The second is obviously worthless, the diver can't get any air.

A search party was dispatched to Churubusco and Ft. Wayne seeking the vital couplings which will make the suit functional.

Meanwhile a somber note was added with the appearance of R. J. Krider, Churubusco undertaker, who arrived on the scene with his pulmotor.

A daytime employee of the International Harvester plant, Mr. Rigsby has been given time off to assist in the trapping ceremonies which has all of Whitley County in an uproar.

The fact that Diver Rigsby also is an employee of the Ft. Wayne Journal-Gazette further complicates the procedure. The Gazette, a morning paper, is in stiff competition with the afternoon Ft. Wayne News-Sentinel.

It is more than an unsubstantiated rumor that the snapper will not be snatched in time for any of the News-Sentinel editions.

## Agency Ranks Fifth

The Indianapolis agency of the Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance Co. ranks fifth in the increase of life insurance placed during the first two months of this year over the same period in 1948, officials at the company headquarters in Hartford, Conn., said today.

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