

# U. S. Declines To Take Role In Fish Drama

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Robert E. Hickson of the United States army engineer's office told The Journal today his department had no objection to the whale inhabiting Oregon slough and that he had no intention of effecting its death or removal to other waters.

"Getting rid of whales is entirely out of our line," Hickson said. "We haven't yet been appealed to by the Humane society. I have read in the newspapers that the society intends to ask us, but I don't see why they should pick on us."

This was Hickson's reaction to a resolution, adopted late Wednesday by the board of directors of the Oregon Humane society, appealing to the engineers to "dispose" of the whale in a "humane manner as soon as possible." The directors also unanimously opposed a proposal to capture the whale and place it in the Jantzen Beach tank for exhibition purposes.

The resolution was adopted after Byron B. Allison, 1449 Skidmore street, ex-chief engineer for the Pacific-American Whaling company, told the directors the whale is sick and will shortly die and become a public nuisance from lack of food.

Allison declared the creature never would go back to the sea, that it would speedily exhaust the slough of all the small fish therein and then die of starvation. He said it would be folly to attempt to remove it from the slough to a tank because from his long experience in whaling he was convinced no such tackle as nets and ropes could hold it.

This statement corroborated a statement made to the society earlier in the day by William L. Finley, nationally known naturalist who has recently returned from Alaskan waters where he photographed and observed the habits of countless whales. Finley, hearing that the society was considering its sanction of the transfer to the tank at Jantzen Beach, had called to protest against such action as being absurd as well as inhumane.

Finley is for leaving the whale alone. He sees no reason why it should be killed. Left to its own resources, he said, the creature will find food and get along very well.

Allison told the board that the slough probably is obstructed upstream from the highway bridge or

else the whale would have gone on its way upstream long since.

The resolution reads: "Whereas the Oregon Humane society has received the expert opinion of Byron B. Allison that the whale in Columbia slough will shortly die and become a public nuisance, and whereas the whale is apparently suffering from lack of any food out of natural element

"Be it resolved, That this society ask the State of Oregon and the United States engineers to dispose of the mammal in a humane manner and as soon as possible."

# DOOM TO WHALE FINDS OPPOSITION

Jimmy McCool Voices  
Public Sentiment.

VISITOR APPEARS CARE-FREE

Engineers Refuse to Accept  
Humane Society Demand.

POOL SHOW ABANDONED

Reports of Experts Discounted in  
Theory of Habits of Killer  
in Pacific Waters.

As long as Jimmy McCool's whale continues to give a free and entertaining show with his diving and rolling acts in Oregon slough for thousands of persons each day—they appreciate something for nothing—he should be left there unmolested, they believe.

"Let him alone!" is the solution to the problem offered by nature lovers and the general public.

There is as much opposition to the plan of the Oregon Humane society to kill the whale as there is to catching him or shooting him.

"We have made no plans to kill the big fellow," explained A. L. Cross, officer of the Humane society, yesterday. "He will not be killed today, anyway—or tomorrow, either. But we are not going to permit anyone to molest the whale as long as we can help it."

Because the whale is not a menace to navigation, the United States engineers have refused to accept the responsibility of "disposing" of the mammal. The engineers' work has to do with harbor and river improvements and not with killing or moving whales.

Allison Reiterates Stand.  
"That whale should be dynamited!" reiterated Byron B. Allison, supporter of the Humane society's demand, last night.

"He can get nothing to eat, is becoming more sluggish every day and will probably starve to death. The humane thing to do it to dynamite him."

Two boats were chased off the slough yesterday by officers of the game commission because the men in them were trying to catch the whale with drag nets and then harpoon him.

"We have given up the idea definitely of placing him in the pool," declared Harvey Wells, president of the Hayden Island Amusement company.

McCool Voices Plea.

"Let nature take her course," urged Mr. McCool, alleged sponsor for the whale and wild life expert of The Oregonian. "I believe that the whale should either be let alone or be herded down the river and out to sea."

Stanley G. Jewett, director here for the biological survey, and Ed Averill, ex-state game warden, yesterday joined the list of persons who have identified the visitor as a "killer" whale.

"The best thing to do is to leave him alone," Mr. Jewett said.

Statements made by Mr. Allison, ex-chief engineer of the Pacific-American Whaling company, in describing the activities and characteristics of killer whales, upon which the Oregon Humane society based its resolution to kill the whale, were questioned by William L. Finley, Oregon naturalist.

"He is wrong in regard to information about this type of whale," Mr. Finley said. "The whale—and it is a 'killer' beyond any doubt—can swallow carp or salmon or large fish of any kind, and has a mouth large enough to handle baby seals and sea lions."

"It is absurd for the Oregon Humane society to try to kill the whale. He is getting along all right. Leave him alone—he came of his own accord and will probably leave when he wishes."