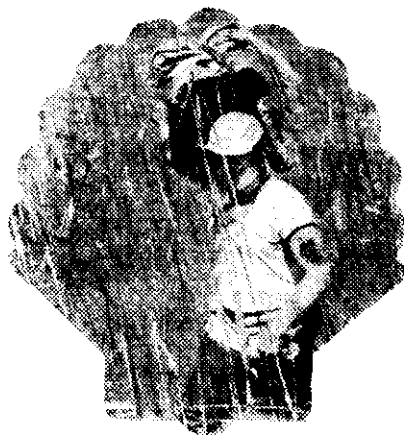


merely going through the motions. More excitement and suspense follow in a chase and an attempt to cross the river, but the last shots are clichés. Perhaps I expected too much suspense, for this is one of those films I would like to have liked more.

TO HELL AND BACK

(Universal-International-CinemaScope)

IN war, says General Bedell Smith, in a prologue to this film, men are given new and different rules of conduct which they learn to accept. At the movies also, he might have added. We all tend to identify ourselves with heroes we wouldn't care to emulate, but laughter from an audience for such exploits as a bomb tossed into a roomful of Germans is new to me and recalls wartime hate. *To Hell and Back* is the story of Audie Murphy, America's most decorated soldier. It's odd that a man apparently so modest should play himself; odder that he should do so without losing our sympathy. (Perhaps because there are echoes of his fine performance in *The Red Badge of Courage*?) The story suffers, though, from its concentration on his personal bravery: as one exploit succeeds another we begin to feel that the U.S. Army had to call on him, like a sort of Walter Mitty, to get it out of every tight spot on the road to victory. Apart from its central theme, the film tells a story of the private soldier at war, and manages at times to convey something of the horror and futility of the thing.



If the world were a *homogeneous* body in the form of a perfect sphere—that is, not flattened at the poles, and without mountain ridges or sea basins—a spring balance on which a 1 lb. weight was placed would register the same result everywhere on its surface. But the world is not composed of homogeneous, concentric layers, nor is it completely spherical. Consequently, the force of gravity—the attracting force of the earth—exhibits small local differences.

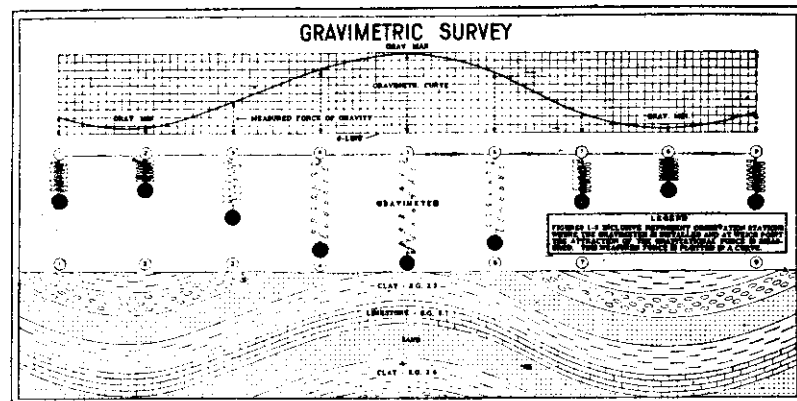
These differences may be caused by the fact that layers of earth which

A Pound doesn't always weigh a Pound

are heavier or lighter than those above them approach the surface of the earth more closely here and there. The 1 lb. weight suspended from a spring balance thus weighs at that point a little more or less than it does at a calibrating point elsewhere. This difference lies in the neighbourhood of 1/10,000,000th of a lb.

geophysicist is able to form a picture of the subsoil. By this means the upward vaulting movements of the earth, which *might* be collecting places for oil, are determined. But in the final analysis, it is the drilling rig which will have to give the ultimate verdict as to whether or not oil is actually present.

The Shell group of oil companies is carrying out gravimetric work in



balance, should wish to exploit this difference between, say, purchasing and selling points in weighing his sugar, he would need 10,000 days—a good 27 years—with a turnover of 1,000 lbs. of sugar a day in order to save 1 lb.

Crime does not pay!

The differences caused by gravity are measured by using very delicate instruments, and by means of a large number of observations made over a great distance. In this way the

many countries of the world, and under the most widely varying climatic and topographical conditions. Extensive operations have been carried out, for instance, in the coastal swamps of Louisiana. One of the photographs on this page gives a good impression of the work there.

Above: Diagrammatic representation of gravimetric survey.

Top, left: In the Louisiana swamps.

Below, left: A gravimeter is lowered into the water.

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Notable N.Z. Trees

TREES are part of the common furnishings of our world. We climb them when young, scrawl on them to mark our transitory lives and see them still sprouting new life when we are old. It is three-quarters of a century since Arbor Day was instituted in the U.S.A.—the first social recognition of mankind's dependence on the tree; but thirty-five years before that again, Captain Harris, a settler in Poverty Bay, planted what is now known as the Manutuke oak.

Ships were a bridge to the world the settlers had left, and Harris, aware of the drawbacks of native timbers, saw that oak was a necessity if his descendants were to build ships. So here, near where the Maori migrants of 1350 first planted the kumara, Harris planted his acorn. The story of the Manutuke oak is one of a series of talks on notable New Zealand trees to be broadcast from Station 3YA.

The locale of the talks ranges from Ngaruawahia in the North to Peel Forest in the South, from Cheviot Hills to Frimley Park, Hastings, and many trees are represented, both native and exotic. For example, other talks in the series deal with the giant pohutukawa at Kawhia, where, according to tradition, the Tainui canoe was moored at the end of its voyaging; the Californian Redwoods and Wych elms in the grounds of St. Mary's Church, Blenheim; the Puriri in Bell Street, New Plymouth; and other trees and plantations of horticultural and historic interest.

The first talk in this series will be broadcast from 3YA at 5.45 p.m. on Monday, April 16, and the series will be heard later from other National stations.

