

CRAYBOATS ADRIFT

Mr. M. Woodberry, a North Island crayfisherman, had a narrow escape from drowning when his 16-foot boat "Frolic" was swamped on June 13. Fortunately, Mr. Woodberry was able to reach a coral reef after swimming for more than an hour. He was washed off the reef several times before being rescued by another fisherman, Mr. E. McEvoy, shortly before dusk. It is understood that the "Frolic", which was insured for £500, broke up and sank after the swamping.

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The l.f.b. "Cutty Sark" broke away from her moorings about 200 yards from shore at Port Denison on June 17. Her skipper, Mr. J. Shields, of Applecross, swam out to the craft after attempts to launch a dinghy had failed; but was unable to start the engine. She was swept ashore on a dry weed bank on the main beach on the following day. It is understood that she was not seriously damaged despite the severe buffeting she received.

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On the night of June 2, the crayfishing boat "Falcon", owned by Mr. R. Crooks, of Wonthealla, dragged her anchor at Geraldton during a brief thunderstorm. Gale-force winds up to 45 knots blew her to the breakwater and damaged her planking.

MONEY FOR KANGAROOS

With the price of first grade skins rising to 9/- a lb., competent kangaroo hunters are currently earning large weekly sums from the sale of kangaroo skins and meat. It is understood that the increased price of skins has been brought about by a curtailment of leather production in South American countries. The growth of the trade in kangaroo meat, both in the export of tails and choice cuts for human consumption overseas, and in the processing into pet food for the local market, has received prominence in the press in recent weeks. It was reported that Mr. E.H. Karlovsky, Manager of the South Coast Ice and Trading Company, Safety Bay, who has been engaged in the trade for a number of years, recently installed a £1,000 freezing plant at Leonora. He was reported as saying that the newly installed plant could hold and chill up to 650 kangaroos prior to conveyance to the Safety Bay Works in an insulated vehicle.

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Mr. Karlovsky and his field associate, Mr. Ben Matthews, first commenced operation in the trade about 5 years ago. Since then a holding depot has been erected at Agnew and the number of carcasses processed had risen to 18,000 a year. With at least three other companies purchasing carcasses from hunters, the professional kangaroo shooter, who had become almost a legendary figure, seems now to be coming back into his own. Annual production of kangaroo meat processed as pet food is estimated to total about 1,500,000 lb., while the overall sales must be well in excess of that figure.