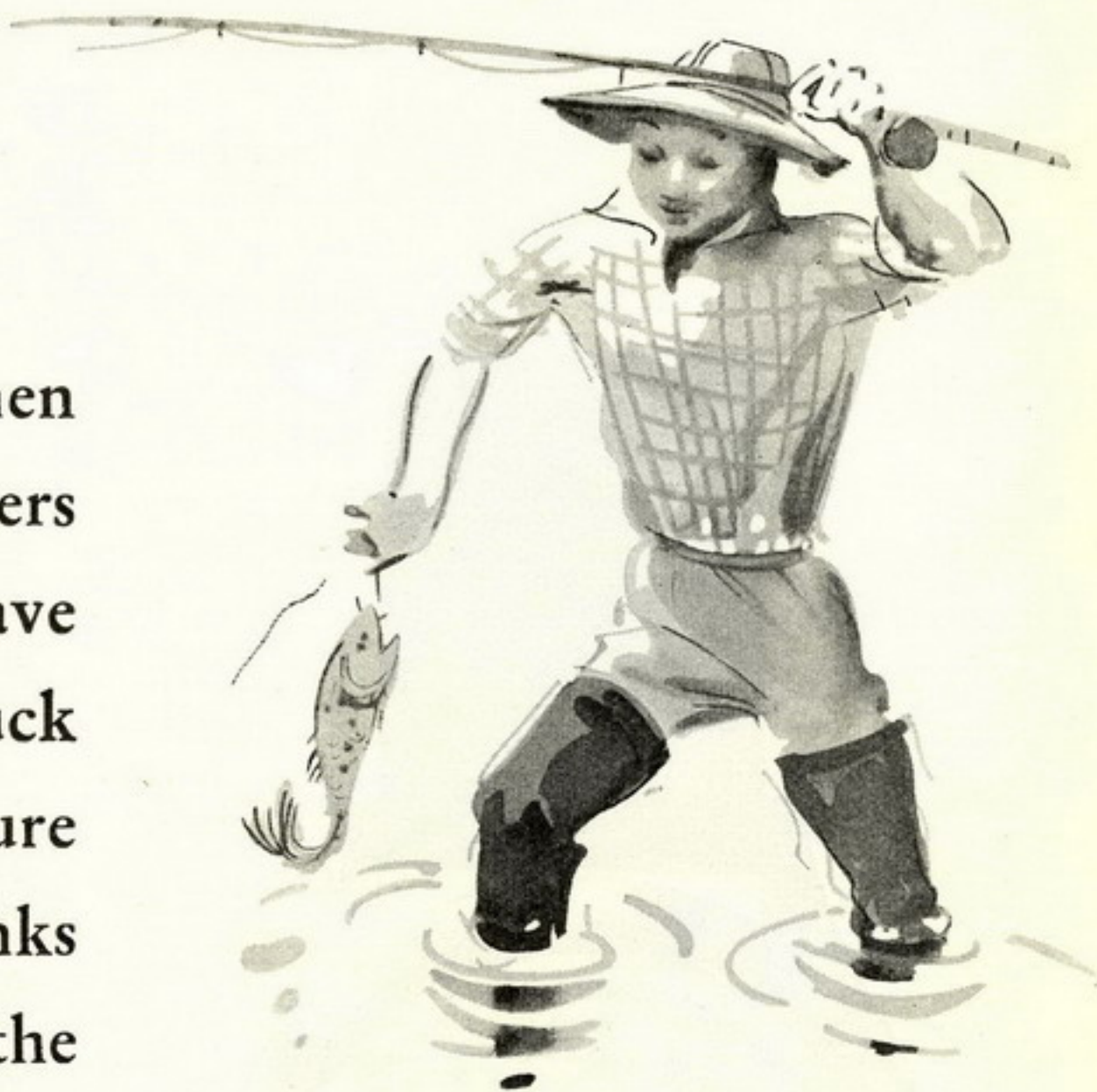


Fishermen  
and hunters  
will have  
better luck  
in future  
thanks  
to the



## HEUER «SOLUNAR» WATCH

*Have fishes and game a daily feeding cycle based on solar time? Observations made by Mr. J. A. Knight, an American, resulting in the establishing of «solunary tables» seem to prove this. As a result of these circumstances, Messrs. Ed. Heuer & Co. of Bienne, created the «Solunar» watch which will soon be the envy of all those addicted to fishing and hunting. Here are the reasons for this:*

Every fisherman, whether a beginner or long experienced, knows that in a river where there are trout, these fishes are not always ready to go for the bait, no matter how attractive. At other times, the fisherman is lucky without really knowing why.

An American, J. A. Knight, who was an enthusiastic fisherman, tried to find out, over many years, what was the reason of this behaviour on the part of the fish, so different from one period to another.

The first opportunity for examining this problem was given him by an old fisherman, one summer day, on the edge of a pond in Florida. They had not been successful at all during the

whole morning; quite discouraged, they were eating their lunch, when all of a sudden the old fisherman said, «Let's go, now's the time!» Knight was rather sceptical; what was the idea—going to fish in the very middle of the day, in torrid heat? But the old fisherman was stubborn. He said that the moon had just set, and the trout were going to try to feed. The young man was asking himself what the moon had to do with the fishes; however, it seems that this theory of the influence of the moon is the result of long drawn-out observations. In spite of the young man's doubts, in spite of the stifling heat, results were good.

J. A. Knight did not forget this day, and he





*The Heuer « SOLUNAR » Watch*

started to apply the lunar theory of which he had just seen the results. If at times the theory appeared to be right, at others, this was not the case. Either it had been a stroke of luck or the kernel of a truth.

When thinking about the influence which the moon could have over fish, Knight thought about lunar attraction; but then the attraction of the sun might also have some influence. In fact, it might be at the turn of the tide that the fishes were ready to feed. This might appear normal in the case of fishes in the sea, but where there was no tide, the fish did not feel its influence; however in such cases as well they also were subjected to the attraction which caused the tides.

Knight elaborated his «solunar» theory according to which the most favourable moments for fishing might be those just following high tide; they last about  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 2 hours. First of all one must know the time at which it would be high tide wherever the fisherman might find himself; this time depends on several factors the most important of which is longitude; astronomers indicate the way in which it can be calculated at least approximately. This method can be applied to inland places; there will be no possibility however of checking the exactitude of the calculation inasmuch as it will not be possible to observe the tide. But this result, even approximate, is not without value, and fishermen do not care whether there is a quarter of an hour more or less.

This theory was most attractive; it easily explained the well-known fact that at a certain time all the trout in one river or in one part of the country start biting at the same time; suddenly they all become passive just as if they had passed along the word.

The «solunar» theory is simple, too simple, we think. These phenomena, be they of a physical or moral kind, are most complicated; this complication is all the greater when it comes to vital phenomena. It is rather difficult to admit that the attraction of the moon and that of the sun are the only reasons explaining the activity or the indifference of the fish. The author himself had some scruples about this. He endeavoured to support this theory by numerous observations; he gave lectures, courses, published «The Solunar Tables»; his auditors and readers of his



Tables were, for him, most precious collaborators.

The « Solunar Tables » indicate for every day of the year, four hours which are those of high tide and low tide ; the former are printed in heavy type, they point out the start of the periods in which fishing is good, periods which last from  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 2 hours and sometimes more. The success of the solunar tables is very great amongst fishermen ; they are used by tens of thousands of them in all countries of the world. We can therefore conclude that they are of very great service.

However the author remains objective : success does not go to his head. He knows that the solunar tables are not an infallible medium, and that the activity of the fish is influenced by certain factors such as variations in temperature or atmospheric pressure, winds, fog, etc. However he remains persuaded that the solunar tables give greater possibilities of success to fishermen; if he uses the tables « any man fishing trout may be more or less certain of being on the spot at the time the fish has the greatest chance of trying to find its food ».

J. A. Knight's observations are principally related to troutfishing, but with his friends, he made numerous experiments concerning the fishing of trout and of ocean fishes. In each case the solunar periods seem to correspond to the periods of the fishes' increased activity.

Why should the other animals remain indifferent to the attraction of the moon and that of the sun ? There is no doubt a vast field of observation for huntsmen concerning the demeanour of game (birds, pheasant, hares, deer, etc.) during the solunar periods.

The tables are issued each year in English :

«The Solunar Tables » by John Alden Knight (published by the author, J. A. Knight, Box 208, Williamsport, Penn. U. S. A.) and in French : «Tables solunaires » de J. A. Knight (published by «Au bord de l'eau», 52 rue Mathurin Régnier, Paris 15e).

Messrs. Ed. Heuer, of Bienne, who presented last year the « Mareograph » (Tide watch) described by the Journal Suisse d'Horlogerie (No. 7/8, 1949, page 279) have just created «Solunar» the fisherman's watch. This watch indicates the solar time like an ordinary watch, as well as the solunar periods, just as the «Mareograph» indicated the time of the tides. The beginning of the solunar period or high tide is the local time ; it is therefore necessary to adjust, by means of a pusher, the position of the dial showing the tides according to the area in which the watch is worn. Once this adjustment has been made, the lunar dial comprising four indexes suddenly turns each day at an angle corresponding to the difference between the solar and the lunar days, that is about 50 minutes.

The solunar watch replaces the solunar tables ; at the same time it gives civil time. It will no doubt meet with great success amongst the numerous sportsmen who admit the value of the solunar theory of J. A. Knight as far as fishermen and hunters are concerned.

Similarly to the owners of Solunar Tables, wearers of the « Solunar » watch do not lose sight of the fact that the indications of the tables, just as those of the watch are only probabilities. If they are real sportsmen, they will rejoice in this fact, for where would be the pleasure of fishing or hunting if they were absolutely sure of bagging their game ? Let us trust that the « industrialisation » of these outdoor sports will not take place in the near future.