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LET WELL ENOUGH ALONE

Charles V. Stanton

Although Conservation Week was proclaimed by Governor Paul Patterson for the dates of May 1 to 7, observance in Douglas County continues. Various organizations meeting at monthly intervals are devoting their May programs to conservation subjects. Particularly is this true of Granges and other farm organizations, as well as some service clubs.

Governor Patterson reports that the week attracted widespread interest over the state. That was true especially in Douglas County where the public entered wholeheartedly into the observance.

Sponsors now are considering making the week an annual event. I hope they will reconsider.

Readers of this column know that conservation is one of my hobbies. But, despite my intense interest in the subject, I believe it would be a mistake to attempt a program each year.

The fad for special weeks, days and months has been greatly overworked. For example, special days in May include Child Health Day, Fellowship Sunday, Mother's Day, Hospital Day, Straw Hat Day, Armed Forces Day, Maritime Day, Memorial Poppy Day, Memorial Day, and others. Then for special weeks, May presents, Goodwill Week, Music Week, American Camp Week, Family Week, Frozen Foods Week, Cotton Week, Foot Health Week, Health Baked Bread Week, Pickle Week, Let's Go Fishing Week, Luggage Week, World Trade Week, Sunglass Week, just to mention a few.

Don't Cheapen Conservation

To include Conservation Week as one on such a list would, in my opinion, serve to cheapen and degrade rather than promote.

Conservation Week developed much enthusiasm as a one-time event. Despite its importance, it would generate less interest next year and probably would be virtually ignored thereafter.

Newspapers gave much space to conservation activities this time. Newspapers are continually besieged for free space in connection with the hundreds of special observances throughout the year. They cannot conscientiously continue to promote Conservation Week while ignoring other promotional days and weeks. Conservation is something that shouldn't be ignored.

It is true that we need vastly more information and education on the subject of conservation. But education should be a year around process and not merely promoted upon occasion.

The sponsors of Conservation Week achieved outstanding success this time. Consequently they are enthusiastic. They realize much good was accomplished and hold the opinion that annual promotion would continue to command public attention. But, I fear, that carrying the bucket to the well too often is not good practice, and that an annual observance would, within a few years, decrease rather than increase public interest.

Cooperation Appreciated

Enthusiasm generated by the recent observance of Conservation Week will not be immediately lost. Many people have been caused to think seriously and they will continue to be interested for many years to come. Observance of Conservation week at more widely spaced intervals might have some merit, in my opinion, but I fear that these people who now have started giving thought to conservation may lose interest if asked to celebrate too often.

On behalf of Bert Roberts of Reedsport and myself, appointed as co-chairmen of Conservation Week for Douglas County, I wish to thank everyone who contributed to the program. I have never known any such event previously in which there was so much voluntary and enthusiastic cooperation. A large number of people offered their services and came seeking assignments, while no one rejected a request to serve. Every committee and committee member gave freely of time and effort. Every Douglas County school did an outstanding job — and conservation observance in schools is, in my opinion, by far the most productive part of the program. It is interesting to know that our schools are teaching conservation throughout the entire school year.

It is not possible to contact personally or by mail all the committee chairmen, committee members and voluntary workers and leaders. So Mr. Roberts and I take this means of expressing our appreciation for the excellent cooperation in making the Douglas County program so successful.

Hal Boyle

NEW YORK (AP) — Everyone knows American people are getting healthier. But did you know American houseflies are getting tougher and more durable, too?

They are so rugged now that Herbert F. Tomasek of Pittsburgh is employing a variant of a German wartime nerve gas as the killing agent in a new fly trap he developed.

Tomasek, who spent a year perfecting his trap, known as the "fly-charmer," learned a great deal about houseflies during experiments in which he reared, then trapped and killed more than 150,000 insects at the rate of 5,000 a week.

"We found, for example," he remarked, "that it is easier to train male flies than female flies, and that flies are somewhat color conscious. They are attracted to a black landing surface but repelled by a yellow colored one."

Ten years ago the world was hopeful that DDT promised to spell the doom of the household fly. Unfortunately, DDT-resistant strains of flies now have developed.

"It is doubtful if any one chemical agent will ever prove the final answer," Tomasek said. "Twenty years from now we'll still be looking for new ones. There'll never

be a surer way to kill a fly than to hit him with a swatter, but that does take a lot of time and manpower."

Over the years inventors have probably come up with as many different kinds of fly traps as they have can openers.

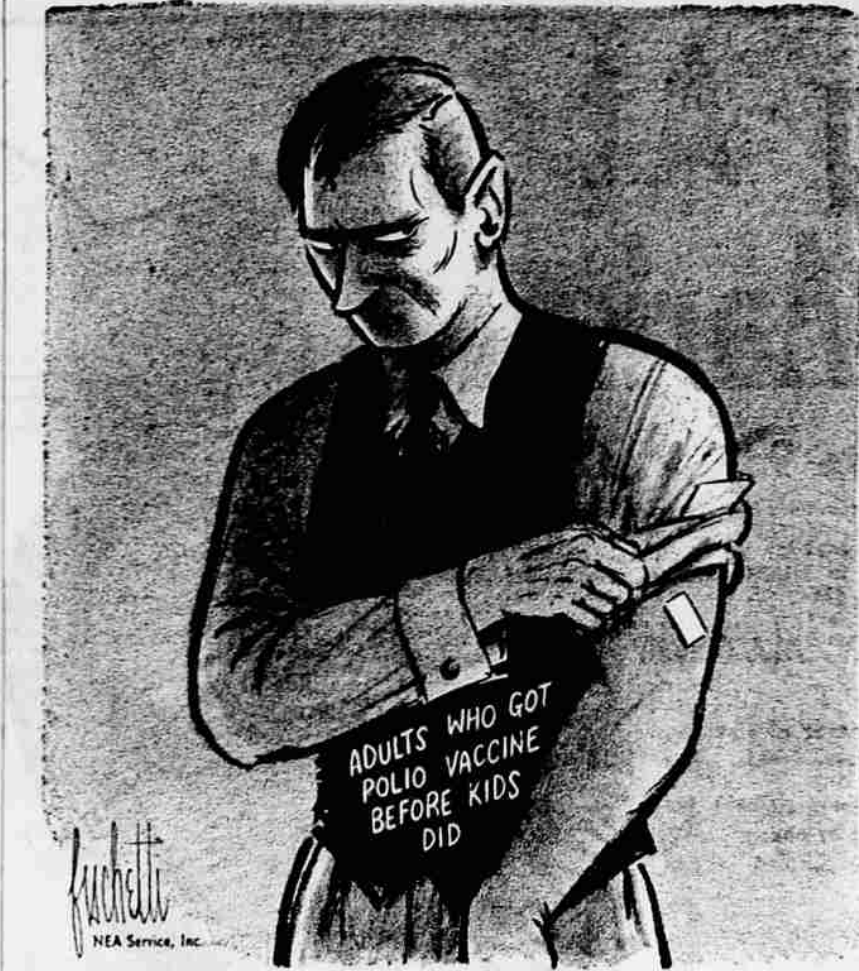
Tomasek, general manager of the Pittsburgh Coke and Chemical Co.'s agricultural chemical division, set out in September, 1944,

to design still another fly trap using as the lethal ingredient a new insecticide called L-13-39 or dipterex. It is an organic phosphorus compound developed by Dr. Gerhard Schrader, a German scientist.

Operating on the same principle as nerve gas, it destroys the fly by attacking its central nervous system.

"But it is only mildly toxic to human beings," Tomasek said. "A 200-pound man would have to drink 60 bottles of the insecticide to get a fatal dose."

Early in the 20th Century glass fly traps baited with beer and sugar were common. Tomasek ex-



Science Ignorant Of Atom's Nature, Says Oppenheimer

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) — Science is still remarkably ignorant of the deeper nature of the atom, says Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer.

"We've got a little bit of order in one tiny corner, but we have a real shambles in other parts," he said in an interview recently while here to lecture at California Institute of Technology.

"Atomic physics has never been in such a disorganized, chaotic state. There are more things we don't understand than we do understand."

"Socialization has gone so far," said Dr. Oppenheimer, "that mathematicians no longer understand physics and vice versa."

Some of the mysteries of the subatomic particles that make up the atom are beginning to show up in the laboratory, Oppenheimer said, "but we don't as yet understand them."

It was once thought, he said, there might be as many as 2,000 of these particles. But he now believes the number is "finite" and may be even as few as "a couple of dozen."

The first director of Los Alamos Laboratory made no reference to nuclear or thermonuclear weapons.

Now head of the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton, N. J., Oppenheimer said his colleagues are gathering notes and papers of the late Dr. Albert Einstein for possible publication. Dr. Einstein worked for years at the institute.

Experimented with the same principle, but sought to employ psychology to create a trap that would be even mentally attractive to flies.

He feels his fly trap is the first that has landing fields especially geared to the fly's own preferences. In essence it is a bottle with a pylon in the center around which are four flat black landing surfaces in tiers. The tiers are baited with insecticide mixed with a perfumed sugar base to attract the insects.

"We discovered the flies preferred horizontal landing surfaces rather than vertical or sloping surfaces," he said.

"Flies land, ingest the bait and die within 40 seconds. Flies ordinarily live about 20 days. We found it harder to kill a 4-day-old fly than an 8-day-old one. But oddly, a 15-day-old fly was harder to trap than either."

His explanation for this anomaly is that the older flies aren't necessarily either wiser or slier. They simply are probably less adventurous or are less moved by hunger pangs. The average fly seeks a new meal about every three hours.

Why is it easier to trap male than female flies?

"The male flies roam more," said Tomasek. "They are looking for girl friends as well as food. The female flies seem to move about only when in search of food. They don't search for boy friends. They let the gentlemen of the species do the courting."

Tomasek doesn't expect his "fly-charmer" or any other manmade flytrap will rid the earth of musca domestica, the common housefly.

"All you can do is keep them in check in a given area," he said. "It is unlikely that man will ever find a way to get rid of all insect pests. This is as much the age of insects, historically speaking, as it is the age of man."

"Someone has figured that if all the insects in the world were put on one end of a giant teeter-totter, and all other forms of animal life, including man, were put on the other end, the insects would outweigh them."

"No, we'll hardly wipe out the housefly in our lifetime. For several years the number of flies has been actually increasing."

SLATE REUNION

TEMPE, Ariz. (AP) — Veterans of the Persian Gulf Command who served in Iran during World War II will hold their eighth national reunion here May 25.

Bruce Bioassat

Since the Senate approved reciprocal trade bill contains stiffer protectionist features than the previously voted House measures, we may fairly assume that the proposal will get no more serious backing before it reaches President Eisenhower's desk.

As endorsed by the Senate, the bill is a compromise between the President's liberalizing trade plans and the high tariff protectionism urged vigorously by many lawmakers.

Yet, as has been noted before, the palm belongs more to Mr. Eisenhower than to the high tariff bloc. For the generalized amendments which were the principal concessions to protectionism were not the specific import restrictions the objectors desired.

AND even those changes which were adopted leave finally to the President's discretion the question whether to impose import quotas or act otherwise to shield American industry from foreign competition.

On top of this the President won three important battles. First, he gained a three-year extension of the trade law instead of the usual one-year renewal. In recent years all efforts to achieve longer extensions than a year had failed. He gained the power to make tariff reductions of five per cent per year on most trade items for the next three years.

And he will also be able to reduce to 50 per cent any tariffs which now are above that rate.

THE only victory on specific items won by the President's opposition was an amendment that is designed to safeguard the textile and chemical industries by banning cuts in duties on Japanese products more than 50 per cent below levels prevailing in 1945.

The textile restrictions might have been far more sweeping but for the thorough job done by Senator Gore of Tennessee in showing the true effects of foreign trade on the textile field.

Documenting his argument fully with statistics and other evidence, he demonstrated that the industry's difficulties cannot be blamed on textile imports, that on the contrary it benefits substantially from the exports which other lands can only pay for by selling in this country.

The chronically sick coal industry could not make out a case, either, for blaming all its ills on oil imports.

This was a triumph for Mr. Eisenhower. But many would say it is a victory for the national interest, on the theory that the American economy will be stronger in the long run if it is trading actively with other nations and thus boosting their economic health and staying power.

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In The Day's News

(Continued from Page One)

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Singapore Police Say Dead Photos Properly Warned

SINGAPORE (AP) — Police said Saturday American newsmen Gene Symonds, who died at the hands of a mob of strikers, had been warned by police against going into the troubled area.

Police Commissioner Nigel Morris said allegations that police radio cars stood by while Symonds, United Press manager for Southeast Asia, was beaten into unconsciousness are not correct.

"We have the full story from the time Symonds left the American Club and drove in a taxi to his home to pick up his camera then into the riot area," he said.

Morris gave this version of Thursday's incident.

Symonds' taxi was stopped at two police roadblocks and each time warned against going past. The first time he noticed the driver to drive on. The second time he said four constables manning the block "I have an important job to do."

Symonds handed the car driver his papers instructing him to go to the police station anything serious happens to him. The correspondent then left the car and walked toward the rioting crowd. They noticed him. He tried to turn back but was then beaten.

Morris said the assault on Symonds took place 330 yards from the last police post. He explained the officers there had orders not to leave their posts on any account. They notified headquarters by radio of the attack and a police van drove into the area to pick up Symonds.

According to police records, Morris said, Symonds was attacked between 11:40 and 11:45 a.m. He was admitted to a hospital at 12:50 p.m. The commissioner said the delay was due to size of the mob and the fact that police were being stoned by the mob at the time.

The allegations against the police were made in New York Friday by Frank H. Bartholomew, president of the United Press. A verbal UP protest was delivered to police Saturday by officials of the agency in Singapore.

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