

Atomic Bullets Used to Sterilize, Preserve Food

WASHINGTON (UP) — The Army disclosed Thursday that it is using heretofore wasted "atomic bullets" to sterilize and preserve food.

These bullets are in the form of highly penetrating rays emitted by spent fuel elements removed from nuclear furnaces operated by the Atomic Energy Commission.

The food preservation project is part of a five-year research program being carried out at Dugway Proving Ground near Salt Lake City by the Army's Quartermaster Corps, Chemical Corps, and Medical Corps.

Results to date establish that

the safe storage life of meat and other foods can be greatly prolonged by irradiation.

The Quartermaster Corps got permission of the AEC to use "hot" fuel elements as a source of penetrating rays. Normally, the spent fuel elements are put aside until their radioactivity subsides enough to permit removal of atomic fuels remaining in them.

During this "cooling" period, hitherto, the slugs' intense radioactivity has been wasted. The Army now is using it, returning the elements to the AEC when their activity has diminished.

AEC Chairman Lewis L. Strauss said recently that research al-

ready has shown that "prepackaged meat, if exposed to mild gamma-ray pasteurization, can remain in the grocer's stock for nearly 21 days instead of three."

Potato storage has been similarly extended through irradiation.

The Army said gamma rays can completely penetrate an entire carcass of beef or a No. 10 can. "Radiation destroys the ability of micro-organisms to reproduce and thus eliminates," the Army said, "the most important factor involved in the spoilage of foods."

Radiation also destroys food-infesting insects and the trichina worms found in pork, it said.

The Army said it has found no

indications thus far that this so-called cold sterilization of food produces any harmful substances.

A GOOD GROUP
BARTLESVILLE, Okla.—(UP)—For a group that has no constitution, no president, no regular meeting time and even no official name, a "friendship circle" of about 10 women here is one of the closest and most active around. The women, all friends for more than a quarter of a century, have met frequently during the past six years to have breakfast, visit and remember birthdays.

Dam Plans Fund Said Inadequate

WASHINGTON (UP) — Sen. Richard L. Neuberger (D-Ore) said Thursday that a \$500,000 planning fund requested by Army engineers for John Day dam was inadequate.

Neuberger said two million dollars would be needed over a two-year period to do the job properly. He added he would seek an additional \$250,000 for the first year in the Senate Public Works Committee.

The half million dollars was contained in a lump sum request of five million asked in President Eisenhower's budget message for advance planning and engineering.

Battleship Oregon's Military Funeral Plans Given Setback

PORTLAND (UP) — Harry E. Williams, chairman of the Battleship Oregon Commission, has returned from conferences with the Navy department in Washington convinced that plans for a full military funeral for the famed ship are unworkable.

"The burial is just a hopeless situation," Williams said. "I had several conferences with the secretary of the Navy and his aides and they said it would take a special act of Congress."

"They were very nice," Wil-

Shooting a Lock Won't Open Door

CHICAGO (UP)—Hold it, cowboy. Don't shoot that padlock! Harry Sorel, a lock company executive, says that shooting a padlock in the manner of a horse opera cowboy rarely opens it. Shooting just jams the works, he said.

"Also, a bullet striking a padlock may ricochet and wound the would-be lock-breaker," Sorel warned.

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