

Balsam Woolly Aphid Gets Study In OSC Forest Service Project

Corvallis — The balsam woolly aphid, a tiny European insect that is threatening the true fir forests of Oregon and Washington, is under study at Oregon State college in a cooperative research project with the U.S. forest service Pacific Northwest forest and range experiment station, Portland.

The aphid is now in epidemic stage in Pacific silver fir and subalpine fir in western Oregon and Washington. Some 350,000 acres of trees were infested in 1956, according to forest service estimates.

The true firs include silver, subalpine, grand, noble, white, Shasta red fir, and others, but not Douglas fir. Noble and Shasta red fir are least affected and appear to have some degree of resistance to the aphids.

The OSC research will be financed by a \$5,860 grant from the Pacific Northwest forest and range experiment station. It will support work by Russell Mitchell, graduate student, who will work under the direction of Dr. J. A. Rudinsky, forest entomologist.

Entomologists from the Pacific Northwest forest and range experiment station also will serve as advisers on the project. Mitchell is on the forest service station staff in Portland this summer and is assigned to the aphid problem.

Although the aphid is tiny — only about 1/24th of an inch long — the control problem is extremely complex, Rudinsky said.

One way has been found to bring the aphid under complete control in any of the other areas — Europe, Canada, and eastern U.S. — where it has been found earlier. Chemical control is used only for small, localized infestations, including nurseries. Cost and difficulties in application, combined with limited effectiveness, make it largely impractical for field control.

Use of predators — or insects that feed upon the aphids — has been tried with reasonable success in other areas and will be used under the cooperative forest service — OSC research. A shipment of about 10,000 predaceous insects has been given to the forest service by Canadian officials for the tests. The predaceous insects are not harmful in any way and have a "taste" only for the aphids, Rudinsky noted.

The predator insects were brought to Canada from Europe. Since the aphids have been a problem for decades. No native predators have been found in Canada. Checks will be made as part of the study to determine whether there are any "feeders" on the aphid in this region.

Help is Control
To help control the infestation, such drastic measures as cutting and burning have been recommended in some parts of Europe and in northwestern United States.

Salvage logging is underway in the Northwest. Rudinsky noted the bark surface. Salivary injections at the feeding points affect the cell walls and produce swellings or "gouts" that inhibit bud growth and eventually kill the tree, he said.

Susceptible to Beetle
Firs seriously weakened by the aphid become susceptible to

noted, but care must be taken to see that these operations do not help spread the aphids to healthy areas. Salvaging dead trees killed by the aphids holds no danger, since the insects died with the trees.

The aphid feeds on the tree with a sucking tube, which may be several times as long as its body. It inserts the tube into the living tissue immediately be-

their bark beetle enemies also.

The "woolly" part of the name comes from the fact that eggs and adults are covered by a woolly material that can be seen on the bark. The insect overwinters as a tiny larva with its mouthparts or tube inserted into the bark of the tree. Early in the spring, it begins to feed and its development starts. Adults are formed in warm temperatures of April or May.

The aphids are spread mainly by wind during the crawler stage of development and also by birds and other animals.



GRIEF-STRICKEN — Mrs. Marie Ficalora (right) is comforted by a cousin moments after she was informed at Oyster Bay, N. Y., that her son, Salvatore, 11, had drowned.

Highway Funds Claimed Diverted

Boston — The Automobile Legal Association estimates that 130,000 miles of new highways could have been built with highway funds diverted to other purposes in the United States since 1934.

Approximately \$4 billion, originally earmarked for highway projects, has been diverted for such purposes as mosquito control, oyster propagation, unemployment relief, and the like, the ALA said.

"In this manner, the year 1956 alone saw this country lose 5,150 miles of new highways," the ALA elaborated. "New Jersey, all by itself, lost 1,495 miles last year by diverting highway funds."

The Oklahoma Turnpike, the New York Thruway and the Florida Sunshine State Parkway — all toll facilities — could have been financed with highway funds which those states diverted, said the ALA.

Twenty-seven states have amended their constitutions to specify that highway-use taxes must be spent for highway purposes only. But the other 21 states have no anti-diversion amendments.

These states are Rhode Island, Connecticut, Vermont, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Florida, Mississippi, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Nebraska, Utah, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana and New Mexico.

"In fairness to a few of these states—Connecticut for example—it is to the credit of the state legislature that the highway fund has been used for its intended purpose..." said the ALA.

Chicago — A University of Illinois research economist has suggested that public opinion pollsters check their subjects to see if they know what a question is all about—in addition to having an opinion on it.

Prof. Robert Ferber said that public opinion polls can go all wrong by using the answers of persons who are uninformed on the question they are asked.

Ferber analyzed a study of opinion polls in a article published in the Journal of the American Statistical association.

He found that persons who are asked a question they know nothing about dislike to admit their ignorance and reply haphazardly. He discovered that when they give an uninformed answer, they divide about equally on a question with two alternative replies.

Ferber also found a high correspondence between self-interest and knowledge on a given question. He said laborers tended to know more about the minimum wage, and the higher income groups were better informed on government bond yields.

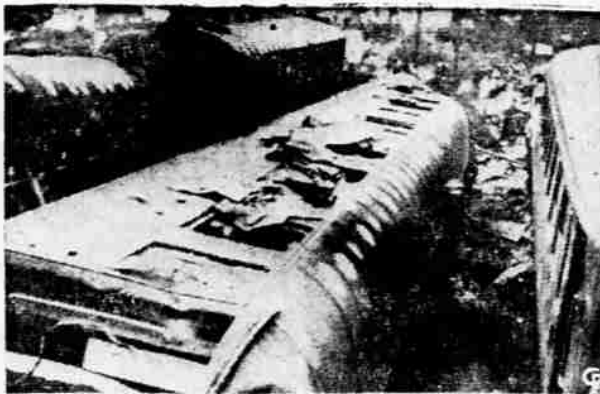
Hot Rod Club Formed To Promote Safety

Rapid City, S.D. — A hot rod club has been formed here to promote hot rod activity, "good fellowship and sportsmanship," "good government" and "highway safety."

Articles of incorporation for Rapid Shifters Inc. were filed with the secretary of state in Pierre.

The organization will have no capital stock and will be non-profit. It will also conduct races, time trials, demonstrations and safety programs.

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CRASHING INTO CORNFIELD, 150 yards from tracks, these two cars of crack Cote D'Azur Express are among seven which jumped tracks, killing 17 persons and injuring more than 100 passengers, in France. (International)

Doctor Finds Method Of Measuring Kidney

Chicago — A Howard University professor says he was found a new method to measure dimensional changes of the kidney.

Sheridan Perry, assistant professor of physiology at Howard, told the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology that the new method makes use of small "c-shaped" caliper-like devices which include a strain gauge.

Perry said the device transforms the dimensional changes of the kidney into electrical impulses which are fed to electronic amplifiers and are recorded graphically.

Perry said the experiments are designed to gain more knowledge of kidney blood circulation, which is generally considered im-

portant in regulation of overall blood pressure.

The National Heart Institute has been supporting Perry's research into the problem.

Detroit — There was a hospital for cats and dogs in Detroit before one was built for people. Patterson's Dog and Cat hospital was established in 1844, the year before the Good Sisters of Charity set up St. Mary's Hospital — Detroit's first.



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