

MEDFORD, OREGON, THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 1959

### German Beetles May Help Control Insects in U.S.

Washington (Science Service)—Beetles from Baden may help control a forest-destroying insect in the U.S. Approximately 20,000 beetles known to prey on the balsam woolly aphid are being imported from West Germany—mostly the Baden area near the city of Freiburg. Live beetles are being released by U.S. Forest Service entomologists on the most heavily infested trees in a small control test in Maine.

**Severe Losses Reported**

Some of the imported beetles will also be used to establish a colony in North Carolina. Severe losses of fir trees as a result of aphid infestation have already been reported in Washington, Oregon, Maine and North Carolina.

The balsam woolly aphid damages trees by attaching itself to the trunk and feeding on the sap. Mass infestations injure the trees so severely, the U.S. Department of Agriculture here reported, that trees die in about two years.

Aerial sprays of insecticides do not reach the aphids and ground spraying is too costly. Researchers are hopeful that using insect predators will solve the problem.

**Fires Donated**

The Canadian department of agriculture has donated 200,000 tiny flies, scientifically known as *Aphidoletes thompsoni*, that also prey on the aphid. The Canadians have been very successful in their work with both the flies and the beetles (*Laricobius erichsonii*) which they imported, released and colonized in the New Brunswick area.

The British Commonwealth Institute of Biological Control is assisting the USDA's Agricultural Research Service and Forest Service in their aphid control plans.

### Polio Strikes Boy Within Block of Free Salk Clinic

Washington (Science Service)—Paralytic polio struck a 17-year-old boy here who has never received a Salk shot although he lives one block from a clinic where the vaccine is given free.

He is now hospitalized, both legs paralyzed. This boy is one of more than 1,350 persons paralyzed this year by the polio virus. This is more than twice the 579 cases reported to the U.S. Public Health Service at this time last year.

As the number of cases continue to climb, presently there are more than 2,050 reported cases of all types of polio, more people are getting out for their Salk shots. This has resulted in a drain on the supply of available vaccine because many private, local and state clinics are open more hours to give the vaccine and because many new clinics have been established for the emergency period.

**To Relieve Situation**

Despite this seemingly pessimistic news, PHS officials expect the drug industry to be able to up their supply of the vaccine and relieve the situation soon. More than 2,



LISTING MRS. ALTHEA BASS as man, birth records in Newton County, Tex., are all fouled up according to Mrs. Bass who cites her son, Luther, 8, as proof of sex.

### Copper Oxide Might Reduce Smog Gases

Los Angeles (Science Service)—Copper oxide is a "highly effective" catalyst for breaking down and thus eliminating the two gases that produce most of our smog.

This is the finding of a two-year laboratory experiment by Dr. Srinivasa Sourirajan, assistant research engineer at the University of California, Los Angeles. Dr. Sourirajan's home is in Bangalore, India.

The smog gases are 1. nitric oxide, formed during combustion, and 2. hydrocarbons, which make up gasoline. In the main, they are emitted by auto exhaust when air and gas mix in a car's combustion chamber.

**Gases Lose Effects**

However, when nitric oxide is decomposed by copper oxide into nitrogen and oxygen, and hydrocarbons oxidized into carbon dioxide and water, both gases lost their pollution effects.

During his experiments, Dr. Sourirajan tested a large number of possible catalysts in a simulated auto exhaust system, at temperatures ranging from 600 to 1800 degrees Fahrenheit.

His next project is to design the apparatus which can actually put the copper oxide catalyst to work in an automobile's combustion chamber. The same catalytic method can be used to cut down the gaseous pollutants from oil refineries, blast furnaces, or any combustion process, he points out.

### Back To City Trend Forecast by Expert

Ann Arbor, Mich.—(UPI)—At least one expert on the subject thinks the post-war trend to the suburbs will be reversed in time and it'll be "back to the city" for millions of Americans.

This view was expressed by Otto L. Nelson Jr., vice president in charge of housing for the New York Life Insurance Co., in a talk at the University of Michigan on "The City in Transition."

"We may well see an era when downtown living will appeal to many people," Nelson said.

"As our society becomes more mature, its cities will not be able to afford to extend their services farther out into the country. As our citizens become more sophisticated, they will want more of the cultural services which can be provided only in areas of high population concentration."

### Wife Shot As Prowler

Belzoni, Miss.—(UPI)—A husband who mistook his wife for a prowler killed her in their home Monday night, police said. Officers said Sidney Cobb had gone to bed early and was awakened when his wife slammed the door after bringing some laundry in from the yard. Cobb grabbed a gun and shot her, police said.

### Way Sought To Measure Varying Height of Smog

Los Angeles (Science Service)—A \$10,000 study at the University of California, Los Angeles, supported by the U.S. Weather Bureau and the U.S. Public Health Service, will attempt to find a way of continuously measuring the height of smog.

The results may help meteorologists make earlier and more accurate smog forecasts, according to James G. Edinger, assistant professor of meteorology at UCLA.

**Height Limited**

The height of the polluted air layer is limited by the base of the inversion layer, which serves as an effective lid on the smog layer. With a low inversion base, the pollutants are confined to a shallow layer, resulting in more concentrated smog than when the base is high and the pollutants are dispersed in a deep smog layer.

The height of the inversion base varies from zero to 4,000 feet above the earth surface, depending on the time of the day, the winds, and the seasons.

If an inexpensive method

can be found for running a continuous check on the height of the base, air pollution experts should be able to learn more about the causes of inversion, forecast

smog conditions more accurately, and give earlier warning for anti-smog emergency actions. Dr. Edinger will investigate such methods as sending up

small measuring instruments called radiosondes, using radar detection techniques, and, at night, following the beams of searchlights. In other phases of his proj-

ect, he will measure the vertical distribution of pollutants in the smog layer, and how the atmosphere diffuses pollutants from various complex sources.

### Blindness Claimed To Be Advantage

Warwick, R.I.—(UPI)—Stuart L. Rice, 38, bull-rakes for quahaugs like so many other Rhode Island men. But, unlike them, Rice is blind—able only to distinguish the difference between day and night.

Yet he ventures out into Warwick Cove two or three times a week and manages to rake up enough of the hard clams to supply his family and pay for the upkeep of his boat.

Rice guides himself to his boat with a long aluminum cane, hauls in the 15-foot skiff which is strung from a rope on pulleys to a stake, then climbs aboard.

He says he can hear echoes from moored boats as they pass them slowly. Other guides are the songs of birds, the barking of his dog onshore and outboards passing down the channel. When he gets to a likely spot, Rice dips in his rake, lifts it, shakes out the mud and feels with his fingers. Each quahaug is slipped through a metal ring gauge tied to the side of the skiff to measure it for legal size.

Says Rice: "I think the blindness is an advantage in quahauging. I can concentrate on the rake and not be distracted by passing boats."

### Red Scientist Calculates Waves

New York (Science Service)—A Russian scientist has calculated how atomic explosions result in the emission of radio waves, the American Institute of Physics reported here.

Prof. A. S. Kompaneets of the Institute for Chemical Physics, USSR Academy of Sciences, derived a theory showing the radio waves detected from atomic blasts are due to the presence of a current in the ionized air.

The duration of the pulse due to the electronic current is one or a few microseconds (millionths of a second), thus giving radio waves with a wave length of about three feet. Standard AM broadcasts at 1,500 kilocycles have a wave length of some 660 feet.

**HAVE TICKETS? WILL WED**

Christchurch, New Zealand—(UPI)—An apparently determined sports fan advertised in a local newspaper that he would like to meet a widow "with an eye to matrimony"—provided she has tickets to the forthcoming Britain-New Zealand rugby match. "Kindly send photographs of tickets," the ad concludes.



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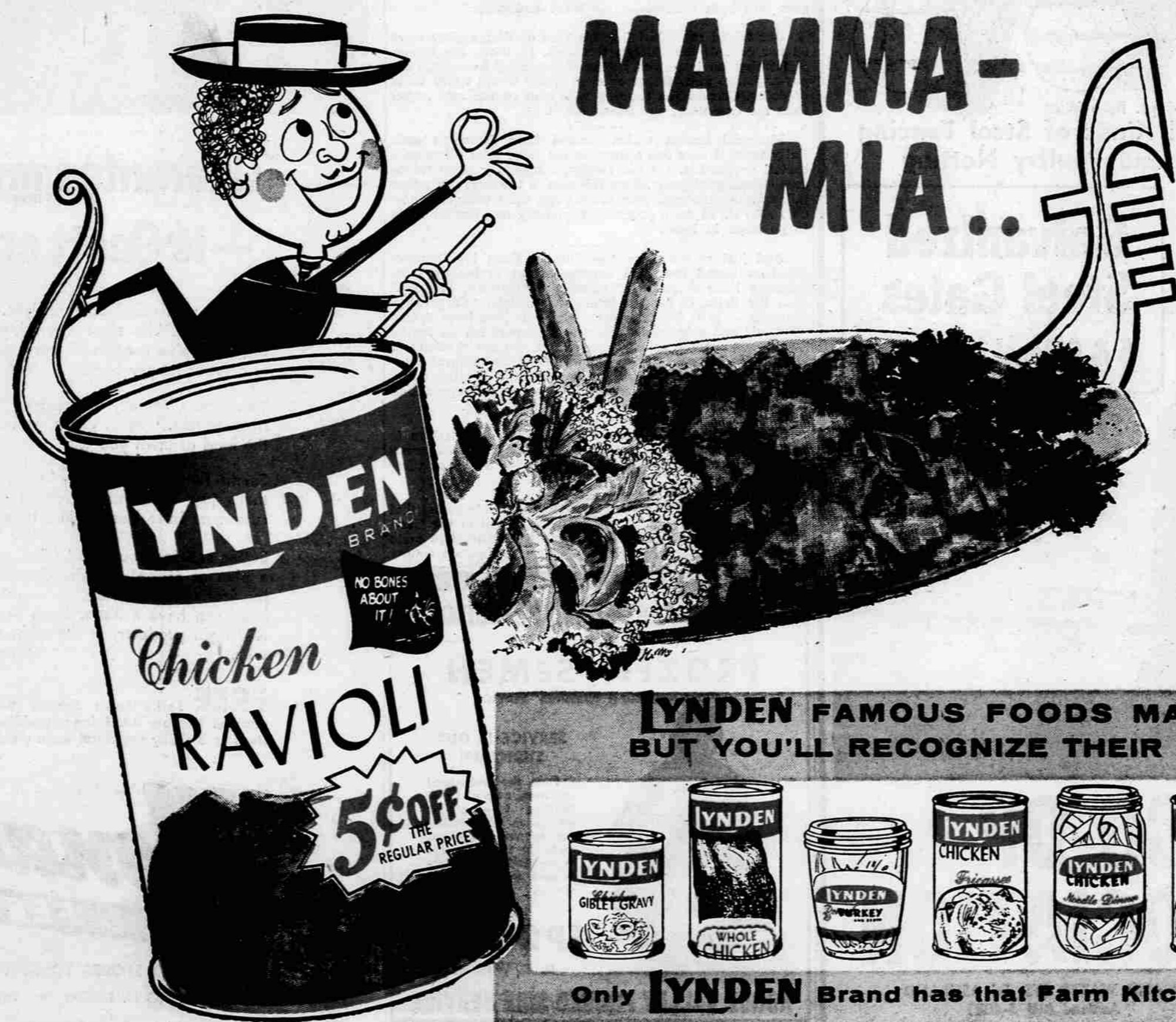
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