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Many Chemicals Enter Food Supply During Processing

Editor's Note: This is the second of three dispatches on the problems raised by the increasing use of chemicals in the production and processing of food in the United States.

By LOUIS CASSELS
Washington—UPI—Traces of more than 1,000 different chemicals get into America's food supply in the course of processing and packaging.

These chemicals—usually called "additives"—are in addition to any pesticide residues or other contaminants that may get into food while it is being grown on the farm.

Many types of chemicals are deliberately introduced into food to help preserve it, to change its color or texture, or to improve its flavor. Other chemicals get into your diet as "accidental additives." They migrate into food from packaging materials, from processing equipment which has been chemically-cleaned, or in other incidental ways.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration warned Congress in 1958 that hundreds of chemicals were being widely used in food that had not been adequately tested for possible bad effects on human health.

Obvious Dangers
The FDA, which is responsible for guarding the purity of the food supply, was able at that time to ban use of a food additive only if it could produce positive proof that the chemical in question was harmful.

With new chemicals coming into use much more rapidly than FDA could test them, the situation contained obvious dangers.

Congress responded by enacting a law that bans from food any chemical additive—whether deliberately or accidentally introduced—that has not been established as safe. If there is any doubt about the safety of a chemical, it is up to the producer to prove it safe rather than to the FDA to prove it dangerous.

Congress gave the food industry an 18-month grace period to get ready for enforcement of this new law. It becomes effective next March 6.

FDA believes it will greatly increase the consumer's protection against health hazards presented by indiscriminate use of untested chemicals in food.

Any chemical believed to cause cancer is totally banned from food use. Other chemicals, even if potentially toxic in sufficient quantity, may be used within "tolerances" set by FDA. These tolerances are often quite tiny. For example, FDA may permit some chemicals to be present in food at a rate of only one part per ten million.

Fed To Animals
As is the case in setting tolerances for agricultural pesticide residues in food, the usual procedure is to test the chemical by feeding it to laboratory animals for a prolonged period. When the smallest amount of chemical that will harm a small animal is determined, the FDA permits one one-hundredth that amount in human food.

To simplify industry's problem in complying with the new law, the FDA has published a series of "white lists" which grant advance clearance to a large number of commonly-used chemicals whose safety is regarded as already well established.

Nearly 500 chemicals used in food have been cleared in this way. FDA is processing a batch of 50 applications for clearances, submitted by manufacturers who want to get other chemicals on the approved list before the March 6 deadline.

But upwards of 400 chemicals now in use have not yet been cleared—and many of them obviously will not be cleared before the cutoff date. The FDA has authority to grant time extensions, but has indicated it will do so only on a selective basis, for good reason.

Are any of these untested chemicals potential health hazards?
"None that we know of."

CHARGE DRIVER
Chattanooga, Tenn.—UPI—Joe Ridge Jr., who was the driver of a car that veered off the road killing four passengers, has been charged with four counts of murder by drunken driving.

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said an FDA spokesman. "But that has been the whole trouble—we simply don't know enough about some of these chemicals to be sure whether they're safe or not. The new law, when it is in full operation, will take care of that situation."

(Next: What chemical poisons are doing to wildlife.)

Boy Offers To Go To Jail To Save Dad From Revenue Agent

Washington—UPI—"I'm not a delinquent. I don't steal or bust windows. Don't send my daddy and mom to jail. I will go to jail for them."

That was the slightly misspelled plea that a 9-year-old shut-in sent to President Eisenhower after the boy had caused his father to get a call from the Internal Revenue Service.

The lad, a rheumatic fever victim who can be identified only as Jim, decided to change some of the numbers in his father's account books one day when he was bored.

A revenue agent gently—but apparently quite impressively—admonished the youngster when the father's tax return did not jibe with the books.

The lad wrote to Eisenhower: "Will you help me? I'm in a lot of trouble."

He explained what he'd done and offered to go to jail for his parents.

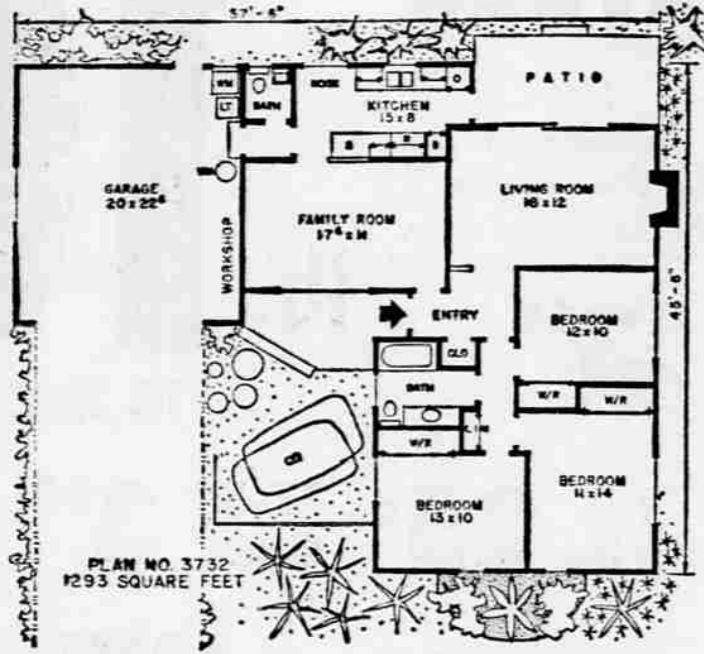
Braves Lose Flag, Man Leaves Wife

Coffeyville, Kan.—Mariene Heckenbridge blamed the National League baseball pennant race for her trouble.

She told the judge it all started on a day the Dodgers beat the Braves.

"I told him that it wasn't any great calamity," she said, "and he got up and left home."

night you will forgive me." The White House forwarded the letter to the IRS which assured Jim that neither he nor his parents would have to go to jail.



This Week's Home For Living—

By HIAWATHA ESTES
What better way is there to start planning for a new home than to consider full play of the modern trend of indoor-outdoor living?

In this design you'll find a close relationship between outside and in. Large window areas throughout the house

invite nature indoors and conversely, extend inside dimensions to outdoor living. The large sliding glass doors at the rear of the living room open to the partially covered patio. The patio is also directly accessible to the kitchen, which makes serving meals on the patio very convenient.

Washing facilities and water heater are in the garage. The furnace is located in the attic but could also be placed in the garage if desired. The door of the oversized garage—20 feet by 22 feet 6 inches inside measurements—is offset to give sufficient space for a workshop. Access is available to both the rear yard and the house from the garage.

The sheltered entry opens onto a center hall leading to the three bedrooms, living and family rooms and yet the home has less than 1,300 square feet!

A half-bath at the rear is convenient to the garage.

kitchen and family room. The main bath has an enclosed tub with shower over and pullman lavatory with storage below.

The front elevation of this house presents an interesting blend of materials. Horizontal wood siding with heavy vertical members, which add to the design interest, are used on the front bedroom wing and the garage door. The circular stone planter and veneer, together with the louvre windows provide an unusual design feature at the front of the bedroom wing. The wide eave overhang around the entire house protects it from both the rain and direct rays of the sun.

Complete working drawing of the above plan can be obtained at a cost of \$7.50 for the first set, and \$5 for each additional set, when ordered at the same time. This plan will be available for a period of four months from this date. Please allow two weeks for delivery. If the above home does not entirely meet with your satisfaction, a new home plan book, Homes for Living, may be purchased for \$1. Send all orders for either plans or books to Hiawatha Estes, P.O. Box 404-T, Northridge, Calif.

Progress Made In New Studies On Starlings

Salem—Oregon is making satisfactory progress in its starling control program.

Frank McKennon, director of agriculture, made this statement Jan. 15 following a meeting of the overall committee on predator control. Also represented on the committee are the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the State Game Commission and the Extension Service.

Concentrations of this nuisance bird have been found in various places in eastern, southern and western Oregon.

Holly-growers, the committee reported, were able to harvest their crops without damage. Whether the starling control program had anything to do with this may remain a tongue-in-cheek question until someone proves that these birds can read. In any event, the birds didn't move onto the holly orchards until after harvest this past season!

McKennon says the state department of agriculture at Salem is receiving quite a few inquiries about the starling program.

"Actually, in this program we are utilizing the talent and experience of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service under a cooperative agreement," McKennon explained. For that reason, and for the most direct information, queries should be sent directly to Melvin D. Smith, district agent, predator and rodent control, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Old U. S. Courthouse, Portland.

The 1959 legislature, which set up the appropriation for starling controls, classified starlings as predators.

Mustache Auctioned For Tab of \$67

Chambersburg, Pa.—Mary Lee Nye bid \$1 for her daddy's mustache at an auction for charity.

"Preposterous," said her father, Herbert. He'd owned that mustache for 24 years and wouldn't part with it for a cent less than \$50. But he didn't price it out of the market.

A group of his fellow members of a service club chipped in a total of \$67 and Nye was shorn with a snib-by-snip description given over the public address system.

BLACK SHEEP
Tupper Lake, N. Y.—UPI—A local deer hunter bagged a spikehorn buck whose woolly long-haired hide caused speculation that the animal may have had a sheep somewhere in its ancestral line.



Small Worlds Around Us

By Lynn M. Watkins

Let's Find Out Which Predators are on Our Team

In nature's scheme of things there is a rather complex system of checks and balances that preserve some species of animals and threaten to eliminate others. Man himself enters the picture frequently and disrupts the program.

Too often in our ceaseless war on the predators we don't stop to figure out just which ones are playing on our team or which ones are against us.

There are a great many animals and birds in nearly every section of our land, that are named "killers"; these are supposed to be "killed on sight." Any creature that has an appetite for anything that man hunts, eats or uses is classed as a pest.

Many species protected in one locality are considered harmful in others. Some states protect the American eagle, our so-called national bird. In other areas the bird is killed on sight. The bird's preference for fresh fish is reason enough to kill off the eagles, say those people who use the fish for sport or food. Of course, no creature, except man, has any right to exploit any kind of animal.

Different Opinions
In the list of predators the common house cat is as bad as any wild animal, but here we argue the cat kills mice which are destructive to man and his belongings. Regardless of the many people who defend the cat, this animal is one of the few predators that kill for the sheer joy of killing. Much of the blame can of course be laid right at the door of the cat's owner. Too many people liberate or abandon cats. The animal, placed on its own, desires to eat and becomes a menace to all small animal and bird life.

Another member of the cat family, the bobcat, is also listed as one of the worst of the wild predators. The fox, raccoon, opossum and weasel kill to eat, too, but most of the prey that falls to these animals is that which would seldom live or beget healthy young. This is where the original system established by Nature herself comes into play.

High on the List
The common crow is high on the list of predators. Their great numbers and evasive natures assure their continued existence. These black marauders are fearless, but actually need no friends, for they usually are smarter than most of the gunners who attempt to kill them.

Among the lists of "objectionable" animals of course are many who should not be in the list at all. The hawks and owls have always been killed on sight for no good reason except that farmers and uninformed hunters have considered them as enemies of game birds.

(Released by The Register and Tribune Syndicate, 1960)

Company Puts End To Flops on Ice

Pittsburgh—Cold feet and flops on icy pavements are a thing of the past for patrons of a shopping center here.

The builders of the center are installing heating wires just below the sidewalk to protect patrons against the hazards of ice and snow.

The wire is insulated with Geon vinyl, developed by B. F. Goodrich Chemical company engineers. The insulation protects the wire against abrasion and corrosion—among the "bugs" in previous attempts at sidewalk heating.

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