



Small Worlds Around Us

By Lynn M. Watkins

Some Confusing Things About the Boll Weevil
 "How did the weevils get into the flour? I had the jar tightly sealed. Were they there all the time? If they were, how do they get out?"
 Of course the weevils are in the flour because the eggs were there all the time, waiting for the temperature to reach a point where incubation would be possible. As soon as outside warmth reaches a proper degree, the eggs hatch.

Consider the case of the lady who asked the question, "How'd they get in there?" She had kept the jar of flour in the refrigerator while she was away on vacation. When she returned, she removed the jar, the temperature arose and the weevils hatched. The weevil eggs may even have been in the wheat before it was milled, or they may have been deposited later.

Could Pass Through Screen
 Being very small, they could pass through the finest screen. After hatching, the weevils could not get out of the jar, but they wouldn't want to. The little demons would just as soon spend all their miserable little lives right there in the flour jar.

All this, of course, is relatively simple. But from here on things get a little sticky. We know what the weevil lives on—flour. But the basic law of all living things is an adequate supply of water. All life depends on it. The tissues of all bodies are predominantly water. Yet the flour beetle lives in a bone-dry material and raises other generations of weevils, and not a single one of them ever has the chance or even the desire to get a drink of water.

This process, or water neglect, has been under scientific observation for many generations of weevils, and all the weevils continue to live and thrive in a dry world without the slightest trace of moisture. Yet if we take one of the little fellows, mash him on a piece of paper or on a glass slide, we find, as in all animals great and small, its body is composed mainly of body fluids or moisture.

This puzzling fact naturally led to all kinds of investigations, and science came up with another batch of bizarre discoveries, but not the explanation. Somewhere in the complex biological makeup of the weevil, is a mechanism that prevents the loss of any water whatsoever. The moisture instilled in the first weevil is retained therein for all time apparently, and strangely enough, is implanted in each and every egg laid, to give future generations of weevils all the moisture they are going to need for the rest of their lives, and enough left over to furnish future offspring with an adequate supply.

All of which is pretty com-

plex setup to be contained within the body of an insect no larger than a fine grain of sand. This may or may not, explain a part of the life history of the little insects you may find in a sealed jar of flour if conditions are right. After all, the biggest question doesn't seem to be how the weevil got into the sealed jar, but how did the water get into the weevil?
 (Released by The Register and Tribune Syndicate, 1960)

Alaska Census Poses Problems For Head Counters

Anchorage, Alaska — Mrs. Betty Nelson, an attractive, personable mother of four children, is headed on what she describes as "one heck of a trip."

Mrs. Nelson, as one of the three supervisors for Alaska during the 1960 census, started a head count April 1 in a territory that stretches in length equal to the distance from the tip of Lake Michigan to Los Angeles. Her "trip" will take her, in a 25-day period, from the tip of Attu Island in the Aleutian chain to the Canadian border. Her territory covers roughly 200,000 square miles.

To Visit Remote Cabins
 During the period of the census, Mrs. Nelson and her crew of 113 enumerators will visit remote trappers' cabins, die-hard gold miners, nomadic Eskimos and small groups of homesteaders, including the remaining Michigan "59'ers" who left their homes in that state and moved to Alaska to carve out a rough but new life.

All arrangements for the census in the largest state have been made. Bush pilots are ready to fly to more remote homesteads. Dogsleds, kayaks, ferry boats and snowshoes are ready for the trips the head-counters will make.

The boats and kayaks will be used, according to Mrs. Nelson, when she and her staff start counting the 49th state's native population in the Aleutians. The dog sleds will be pressed into action in the interior of Alaska, and the bush pilots will spread out to areas too remote to be reached by other means of transportation.

An attempt to take the census in 1950 was not too successful because of the extremely rugged terrain, inclement weather and lack of sufficient transportation.

But preparations for this year's census have been going on at full speed for more than three months.

In all, Alaska consists of roughly 586,000 square miles with a population of some 250,000 people.

They'll Do It Every Time

By Jimmy Hatlo



TRUCK STILL MOVING

Yreka—Richard Samuelian, 27, of Grenada, was hospitalized Saturday afternoon after he attempted to step out of a pickup truck while the vehicle, driven by Charles Rose, 57, of Yreka, was still moving.

Savings of the average American household now approximate \$5,500—highest on record. More banks use newspapers for their advertising than any other medium. In fact, more than use TV, radio and magazines combined.

Sydney — Population of Australia has been estimated to be near the 10 million mark.

Lima, Peru — The highest post office in the world is at Cerro de Pasco, Peru, which has an altitude of 14,385 feet.

Gov. Hatfield Said Straddling Fence

Portland — Gov. Mark Hatfield is fence straddling on the Oregon Dunes Seashore Park, State Democratic Chairman Robert Straub charged Tuesday.

Straub said recent statements by Hatfield on the park have been so confusing and contradictory as to be meaningless. "The governor should speak out for himself on this issue and tell the people whether he will support the park or whether he will oppose it," Straub said. He adds, "even after scores of press releases on the subject, I doubt if anybody yet knows where Gov. Hatfield stands. . . This is skillful press agency but it is poor leadership," he said.

PERSONNEL MOVE

Tiller-Drew — The 26-member staff of the Cow Creek Forest Service district moved into the cook house last week. Personnel formerly were scattered among three separate buildings at the station.

Everett, Wash. — An explosion in a sulphur storage bin at the Weyerhaeuser pulp mill here Tuesday blew off the wooden top of the concrete bin and shook the western side of Everett.

Northwest Leads in Indian Timber Sales

Portland — The Pacific Northwest produced two-thirds of the nation's revenues from Indian timber sales in 1959, the Interior Department said Tuesday.

Total sales of timber in the 10 areas of the Bureau of Indian Affairs amounted to \$12,262,546.

Minimum Wage Increase Opposed

Washington — Spokesmen for five lumber associations Tuesday opposed any increase in the minimum wage in testimony before a House education and labor subcommittee. George J. Tichy, speaking for the National Lumber Manufacturers Association, said "any increase in the minimum wage at this time could pose a direct threat to the jobs of more than 3,600,000 employees presently earning less than \$1.25 per hour." The subcommittee is considering legislation to hike the minimum wage from \$1 an hour to \$1.25.

Edwards AFB, Calif. — Seasoned pilot Joe Walker, 38, flew the rocket-powered X15 for the second time Tuesday, flashing high over the desert on a 10-minute flight.

Cultural Exchange On DAR Agenda

Washington — The Daughters of the American Revolution was asked Tuesday to condemn cultural exchange programs as a tool of Soviet psychological warfare and to demand a congressional investigation of them.

Dallas, Ore. — The Dallas city council has voted to make the parking limit in downtown Dallas two hours.

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Try and Stop Me

By BENNETT CERF

HARPO MARX loves to find short cuts when he's driving a car. Bound from Los Angeles to the sun-baked desert one morning, he insisted to a friend at the wheel that he knew a little-traveled side road that would cut the time of the trip from four hours to less than three.

The friend accepted his suggestion and off they drove on the side road. Harpo hates to admit he's wrong, but after hours of steady but unproductive driving he finally conceded, "I guess we're lost."

"What makes you think so?" asked the friend sarcastically.

"For one thing," observed Harpo, "it's snowing."

Because Ingrid Bergman loves to travel, a friend presented her with a silver box bearing this inscription: "The world is a book and he who stays at home has read only one page."

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