

Japanese Science Club To Start Firefly Farm

Tokyo—(Science Service)—A firefly breeding farm is the next project of a Japanese high school science club which already has successfully raised 100,000 fireflies.

This unique program of artificial hatching and culture of fireflies has grown out of full-scale research projects carried on by the Biology Club of Toganue Commercial High School, Chiba Prefecture.

Each year thousands of fireflies are collected and sold in gauze-covered cages for use as garden lanterns. The firefly is also important agricul-

turally since the larvae devour field and garden pests.

As the first step in its investigation, the club collected data on the firefly population and the reasons for its depletion by sending questionnaires to 2,600 students in other high schools.

In the course of its study, the group learned that fireflies generate light even in the larval stage, that there are observable differences in the light emitted by male and female fireflies, and that in-

termittent light from a flashlight attracts a congregation of the insects.

The young scientists' discovery that fireflies would nest in an inverted flowerpot, and that pond snails and mollusks made a very suitable diet, resulted in the extensive breeding program.

The biology club was given the Prime Minister's Award when the project was exhibited at the Fourth Japan Student Science Awards program held recently in Tokyo.

Other science club projects

that won top awards include research on the sea turtle, a project conducted for 10 years by succeeding classes of Hiwasa Junior High School; a study of topographical features affecting weather; the development of quantitative test apparatus for proving conservation of mechanical energy, and lacunological studies of a pond in a sand dune.

Two outstanding students who carried out individual projects will be chosen as finalists to the National Science Fair - International which will be conducted by Science Service in Kansas City, Mo., May 10-13.

Mayor Seeks To Fire Independence Chief of Police

Independence—(UPI)—Mayor Ray Dunckel told Police Chief George Utley Wednesday night that he is being fired as of January.

In a letter presented at an Independence city council meeting the mayor charged Chief Utley with "failure to maintain accord within your own department, failure to give the city your full time and effort while on duty, and, above all, complete refusal to cooperate with the city officials."

Utley denied the charges, demanded a hearing and said he plans to seek legal counsel.

Dunckel moved to put Utley on vacation immediately but it was found that two of the council members were not qualified and there was no quorum. Utley's vacation requires council approval.

Challenged for qualifications were councilmen Dr. Robert Hjort and Clarence Thomas. Another councilman, Kenneth Cooper, said Dr. Hjort has not been a city resident for one year and Thomas is not registered to vote.

Dr. Hjort said his one year's residency will be up today and Thomas said he would register today.

Dunckel said with this done, he intends to call a special council meeting today or Friday for the purpose of putting Utley on vacation.

Utley joined the city police department in 1954 and has been chief since 1955. Before that he was a state policeman for eight years.

Oregon Sailors Killed in Crash

San Diego, Calif.—(UPI)—Two sailors found dead in an overturned car near Tijuana, Mexico, were identified today as Oregon youths based on the Destroyer Tender USS Piedmont in San Diego.

Killed were Orville Dow, 20, Silverton, and Robert D. West, 17, Rockaway. The bodies were taken to San Jose Mortuary in Tijuana.

The police speculated the sailors were accidentally forced off the road as they raced another car. Their car

plunged over a 50-foot embankment 15 miles south of Tijuana.

Another overturned car without occupants was found near the scene of the accident.

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