

Small Worlds Around Us

By Lynn M. Watkins
(Register and Tribune Syndicate 1961)

Even if you never went any farther outdoors than to get in your car or pick up the evening paper from the front lawn, you undoubtedly have met, sometime or other, the so-called "measuring worm."

Possibly you know the little fellow by any of several names—looper, span, or inch-worm. They are all descriptive of the creature's regular method of getting from one place to another.

Ap! Name
"Measuring worm" is an apt name for this little crawler, for if you know his exact length, and count the number of "steps or loops" he takes, you would have the distance he had traveled. He travels by extending as far as possible in a horizontal position, gripping onto a surface with the forelegs, arching his back, which brings the rear end close to the front end, and repeating

the process in a smooth, rapid series of loops, every loop exactly the same length.

When he reaches his objective, which is a twig or a small branch of a tree or weed, he stiffens his body at an angle from the support, holds perfectly still and looks as much like a natural twig as the twig itself. The two pair of rear legs lock in position and will hold the body automatically for as long as the little guy wants. In this position he so closely resembles the other twigs on the tree that even the sharp eye of an insect-eating bird will ignore him.

He even selects his resting place so carefully that all the real twigs near him are the same size and color as himself. In his tiny "worm-mind" he seems to have the faculty to compare and select. "Inchy" himself, is only an



CAUGHT IN ACT—San Francisco photographer Bob Palmer was puzzled by the disappearance of goldfish from a pool in his yard so he set up a watch, camera in hand. He discovered the thief was his own cat, Pansy. These photos,



part of a sequence, showing Pansy with a meal, right, were more than enough evidence for conviction.

(UPI Telephoto)

Interlude in the life of the geometrid moth, of which there are many kinds. The moths are slender bodied, with

large wings, which are held flat while the moth is at rest. The measuring worm can spend but a short time "loop-

ing along" on a limb or a side-walk; some of his time must be spent in eating. Soon the time comes when he must hunt

a quiet spot; probably the junction of two small twigs or grass blades. With his appetite satisfied

Support, Disposal Programs Pinched

Washington—(UPI)—The Kennedy Administration's farm price support and surplus disposal programs are facing a financial pinch.

Unless Congress votes some extra money to pay for past losses in these operations the Agriculture Department's fund for the support and disposal programs could run dry this summer or next winter.

In addition to funds now on hand, USDA will probably need at least \$5 billion to finance support and disposal operations through June 30, 1962.

To meet these bills, the administration has asked Congress for a total of about \$8 billion in two separate installments.

he has one thing to accomplish; to build about his little self a silken cocoon, in which he will drop into a profound and absolute sleep. Then his body will be transformed into a winged moth, which will later lay eggs so that other little "inch worms" can go humping along at some future time.

Safety Poster Contest Set by Talisman Lodge

Students in five Medford and Central Point schools will take part in the highway safety poster contest sponsored by Talisman lodge, Knights of

Mothers May Need to Come Down to Earth

Berkeley, Calif. — (UPI)—Two physiologists at the University of California reported that future moon colonists may have to return to earth to bear normal children unless expectant mothers can be assured of a steady supply of oxygen.

Experiments by Bernard Baird and Sherburne F. Cook showed that the minimum oxygen needed for survival would not be sufficient for producing normal young. A significant number of inborn heart defects occur among mice born after their mothers have been exposed to an oxygen-poor atmosphere, according to the physiologists.

WORD MEANING

The word Nevada is Spanish and means "snow-clad."

Pythias, Medford, according to Charles Lasher, 2810 Elliott st., chairman.

The contest will be divided into two classes, one for freshmen and sophomores, and one for students in junior and senior classes. First, second and third places will be chosen in each class with schools doing their own judging. Taking part will be McLoughlin and Hedrick Junior High schools, Medford, St. Mary's and Crater High schools.

Winning posters picked by the schools will be displayed locally for a second judging, when other first, second and third place winners will be chosen. The finalists will be sent to state competition, where winners will then be entered for national judging at the lodge supreme headquarters.

A grand prize will be given to the winner in each division in the local contest. Entries must be in before April 20. Further information is available by calling Lasher, SPring 2-8702.

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