



Small Worlds Around Us

By LYNN M. WATKINS

(Register and Tribune Syndicate 1962)

Bombardier Beetle Has Tear Gas with a Bang

The "bombing" by the bombardier beetle is as much a part of the insect as its wings or its blue-black body. This little "bug with the bomb" has perfected the tear gas technique, too, and uses it with the utmost efficiency.

To see this little boom-boom guy is to be mildly surprised; he doesn't look the part. He just looks innocent and very bug-like. He will be dark brown or black, or even bluish brown, may even have a reddish-yellow head and, of course, like all beetles, will have wings and wing covers. He's about an inch long and usually found on the ground. He has a great number of relatives. Like his kinfolk he can survive under harsh conditions.

Two Cannons

What makes this little guy so interestingly different is his ready ability to bomb his enemies. He has two tailguns, two tiny cannons located on the rear of his body and pointed backward, like machine-guns in the tail end of a man-made bomber.

This effective weapon is cocked and ready at all times to fire when attacked. If an enemy approaches, the bombardier beetle turns tail, lines up the guns and waits for just the proper time.

When the enemy comes within range, the trigger is pulled and a tiny amount of fluid is forcefully ejected. On contact with the air it turns to an evil smelling gas, as disconcerting to the enemy as is tear gas to a human or a howling mob.

Stranger still, and even more perplexing to the enemy, is the explosive bang or pop that accompanies the bomb-blast. The human ear can easily detect the sound of the bomb burst from a distance of several feet.

Scared, Then Gassed

The sudden pop scares the victim half to death, he may even fall over in his confusion. Before he recovers enough to find out what happened, the pungent gas envelops him like a fog. By the time he gets organized and stops his weeping and crying, the bombardier beetle is safely away.

Science has looked with interest at this common bug and its unusual accomplishments; has studied the order of firing and the firing power itself; has even analyzed the fluid that, in contact with air, turns to a gas; they have found that it is a chemical closely related to carbonic acid with more than a trace of hydrogen peroxide in it.

Not so easily understood, however, is the reason for the bang when the bomb is released, or its volume and carrying power, or the rapidity with which it can be released: as many as six times in a few minutes. The little bug with the bomb has a weapon and a secret; one is effective to a high degree, the other a mystery.

OF ALL PEOPLE

Cambridge, Mass. — (UPI) — City Councilman Alfred E. Vellucci introduced an order Monday to name a street intersection, only a stone's throw from Harvard university, Yale Square. Action was delayed on the objection of Councilman Gaspard Belin, a Yale man.

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Western Senators Angle for Meeting On Lumber Plight

By A. ROBERT SMITH
Mail Tribune Washington Correspondent

Washington (Special)—West-

ern senators are angling for a White House conference

with President Kennedy on the problems of the Pacific Northwest lumber industry.

Northwest lumber industry, for example, that one large order from a customer in Puerto Rico because there is no longer any American maritime cargo service to that island, and the Jones act prohibits use of foreign vessels.

The major unknown factor still is what position the Kennedy administration will take on the various bills introduced thus far. Also, there is the relation between the impact of Canadian imports, which have hurt the Northwest operators, and the forthcoming debate on Kennedy's expanded trade program. Both matters could be resolved, possibly, in the prospective conference between Magnuson's group and administration leaders.

Magnuson was speaking as the key man on Capitol Hill in the scattered efforts of many lawmakers to focus government attention on the serious slump which many Northwest lumber firms have experienced the past year. The Washington state senator is chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee, which is holding hearings on the problem, and he also heads up the newly reactivated western conference of senators which numbers about 20 members.

This latter group met recently with Agriculture Secretary Orville Freeman on Forest Service timber management policies. Next it expects to meet with Interior Secretary Stewart Udall, as well as Hodges and Rusk, according to Magnuson.

Portland Meeting Due

The next field hearing, at Portland, will be some time after the May 18 Oregon primary election, possibly the following week, when it is suitable to Sen. Wayne Morse, who wants to testify, and to the committee.

Magnuson and Morse are still opposed to changing the Jones act, either on outright repeal to open American shipping to foreign bottoms, or to Sen. Maurice Neuberger's modification which would open only intercoastal trade to cheaper foreign ships. Both are sponsors of another bill to grant subsidies to American shipping lines so they can cut their cargo rates to lumbermen.

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RON LAMB
Receives Grant

Crater Teacher Gets NSF Study Grant

Central Point — Ron Lamb, Crater High school dean of boys, and biology teacher, has been selected by the National Science Foundation as a recipient of a full academic year institute for science and mathematics teachers.

He will attend Oregon State university from September to June next school year. He was one of 45 teachers from the United States who received the fellowship which includes tuition, books, fees, travel and dependency allowance.

The program is designed to give the participants a thorough knowledge of new developments in various fields of science.

Lamb will be allowed to select an individual program to suit his needs and the credits will apply toward a doctorate degree in science. He will move to Corvallis in June and attend school this summer, then will enter the program in the fall.

taken to prevent the economic liquidation of large numbers of lumber mills in the Pacific Northwest.

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1 PINT

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OR
THE BLEND

OLD SUNNY BROOK DIST. CO., LOUISVILLE, KY. KENTUCKY STRAIGHT BOURBON WHISKY 90 PROOF, KENTUCKY BLENDED WHISKY 90 PROOF, 65% GRAIN NEUTRAL SPIRITS

July 4 Celebration Plans Get Under Way in Ashland

Ashland — An old fashioned July Fourth is in store for Ashland and the Rogue Valley.

Plans for the Independence day celebration were discussed at Friday's luncheon meeting of the general committee when representatives of civic and service clubs, fraternal and patriotic orders, and business groups met in the Mark Antony Tempest room.