

Oneriest All-American Team Named; Pests Ran Wild over Entire U.S.

By FRANK CAREY
Associated Press Science Reporter
BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Dec. 20 (AP)—The grasshopper is the outstanding player on the 1949 "naughtiest" All-American team of destructive insects.

This rating was given today by Dr. F. C. Bishop of the U. S. department of agriculture's bureau of entomology and plant quarantine, here to attend an insect-control meeting sponsored by the National Cotton Council.

He also listed the other top ten members of a bug eleven that damaged the nation's crops in much the same way that Notre Dame and the professional Philadelphia Eagles gave the business to their foes.

Bishop offered the list in response to the query of a reporter who figured that virtually everyone except insects had gotten into the act on the outstanding this-and-that set for 1949.

All-Stars

Here's the lineup of the year's naughtiest bugs from the standpoint of economic damage—although they're not all necessarily in the exact order of importance because Bishop didn't have his "form" book handy:

1. The grasshopper. In a host of varieties, he hopped broken-field through range areas and rich croplands—particularly in Wyoming and Montana. The government had to launch a C-47 airplane laden with bait to slow him down.

2. The cotton boll weevil. Long a dangerous performer in deep-Dixie and far-Western competition, he ventured in destructive strength to more northerly areas of the cotton belt this year.

3. An agricultural worm that is a true triple-threat—being known variously as the corn ear worm, the cotton boll worm, and the tomato fruit worm, depending on where he strikes.

4. The European corn borer. Believed to have been imported in cane designed for kitchen brooms, he's become a terror of the nation's main corn belt. Strictly big-ten calibre.

5. The "cattle grub." Opens up holes in cows' hides, ruining them for market.

6. The Mexican bean beetle. A tramp player who somehow came East and hit hard in the Ivy league and the Southern conference.

7. The bark beetles. Literally hotter than a forest fire because they do more damage to pine and spruce than flames do.

8. The "horn fly" of cattle. No kin to the horned toad of Texas, this competitor will take on sheep and goats as well as cattle.

9. Poultry lice. They're money players from away back. They account for millions in lost egg production, stunted growth of fowl.

10. The "lygus bugs" of cotton, alfalfa and other crops. They're aerial artists as distinguished from certain pests which feature a ground game.

11. The "confused flower beetle." They're hot when attacking stored products such as wheat, corn and cereals—but are likely to run for the wrong goal line at any time. Destructive, but need better quarterbacking.

'Dishonorable Mention'

Bishop listed the Japanese beetle, cabbage worms and the red scale of citrus on his second team for "dishonorable mention."

And he said old timers like the gypsy moth of New England and the malaria mosquito—while benched now because of inability to cope with modern insecticidal T-formations—will always rank as potential threats.

He said the department of agriculture alone is spending \$12,000,000 annually to fight all these and other insect big shots—and nearly \$1,000,000 is earmarked for quarantine measures against "ringers" from foreign teams.

Bock Beer Returns To Berlin

BERLIN, Dec. 20 (AP)—Bock beer returned to Berlin yesterday after a ten-year absence.

The dark brew was placed on sale in various taprooms for the equivalent of about 20 cents a glass.

Hitler stopped the manufacture of bock beer because it required too much grain needed for his war machine.

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Decoys Made Very Inviting Targets

By BILL JENKINS

THE first day of the goose season got by, and with no better results for me than I had thought it might. I can't seem to hit 'em like I want to. But lots of other things happened that made it a hunt I'll remember for a long time. Almost froze to death for one thing. Another thing—we had just gotten out on the march when the first geese came over, just within long range. Light loads, intended for ducks weren't sufficient for the job. But Johnny couldn't even shoot. His gun was jammed up somehow and the safety insisted on staying on. So he took the car and tore back to town to get another gun while I held down the blind.

While he was gone the only birds I saw were the decoys. It was a temptation to shoot at 'em too. Anyhow, John got back with a substitute fowling piece and we spent another hour or so sitting in the snow watching the birds fly around somewhere else. He scratched out a pair out of the only blind that ventured within reasonable range. In the course of hunkering down in the blind John also managed to tear a good sized hole in a brand new pair of waders. Stepped on a nail sticking out of an old plank.

Then to top it all off, after we have picked up the gear and headed for home we tear the muffler off the old buckets of bolts trying to ford the railroad tracks. To say that it was a noisy trip home would be putting it mildly. But we got here. And it's trips like that you always remember long after the memory of the successful hunt has slipped out of your mind.

A BAND of some 13 swans came over the blind yesterday. There isn't a much prettier bird than

J. L. DEAN
Public Accountant
and Auditor
Office at
306 North 7th St.
Phone 5246

those swans. They have a certain regal dignity about them as they fly that makes an old honker look ludicrous in comparison. The only thing that spoils the effect is their curiosity. As they fly they are continually craning those long necks around and peering in a near sighted manner at everything that passes beneath them. They have been protected so long they don't have much fear of men and so will often fly right over a blind without veering. Worth a trip out just to see them.

WHAT the duck hunters in this area need is a collapsible boat of some kind that could be rolled up and stuck in your pocket when you weren't using it. Either that or magic boots that allow one to walk on water. Always there has to be the sight of good bird country just across a ditch, lake, stream or river. And there you are with no way to get to the other side. Irritating!

Girl Takes Fling With Dad's Money

NEW YORK, Dec. 19 (AP)—Milkman Charles McKenna is out his \$7749 life savings, and a 26-year-old daughter he and his wife adopted when she was two months old is accused of taking the money and blowing most of it on horse races.

The daughter, Marion, said in court Saturday she would make restitution, vowing she would "get two jobs to pay the money back all the faster."

The girl, who had worked as a clerk, was arraigned on a forgery charge. Accused of withdrawing the money from her foster father's bank account, she was held in \$1000 bail. Police, who brought the daughter back from Fort Pierce, Fla., said she admitted taking the money for

"a whirl at the ponies" in Florida. She had only \$3 when arrested.

The California giant redwoods are believed to be remnants of great forests which once covered many sections of the earth.

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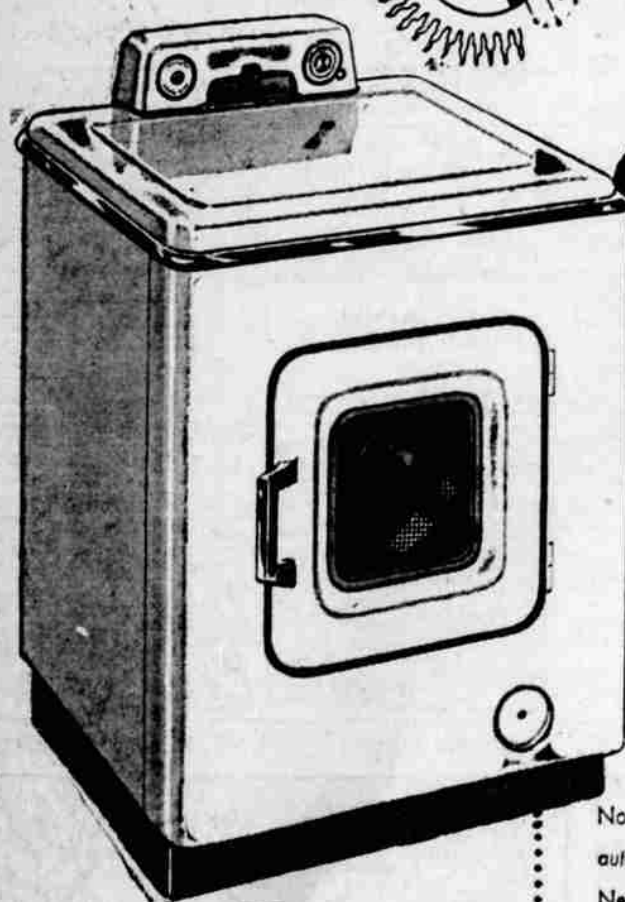
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