



MR. AND MRS. OBENCHAIN are the only family Bambi has ever known. His mother was a hunting season victim the year Bambi was born. The fawn was nearly dead when found, but was gradually nursed back to health.

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By **ANDY LANG**
AP Newsfeatures

Question: We have been having trouble lately with the gutters around our house at the point where they are connected to the downspouts. The water overflows at those points. Our neighbor says the downspouts probably are clogged. They end about 8 inches from the ground. Can you advise how to unclog them?

Answer: If the downspouts are clogged, it would appear that they are not protected from extraneous matter by leaf strainers or similar equipment. Sometimes a downspout can be cleared by placing a hose into the top of it and turning on the water. This usually will flush out leaves, mud and other material that may have congealed. If this does not work and it appears that something solid is lodged in the downspout, then you will have to drop a weight, tied to a rope, into the opening at the top. We recently saw this work very effectively with a six-ounce fishing sinker. You might also try a plumber's "snake" or some other long, similar-type wire. Should all of this fail, you have little alternative except to remove the downspout and then unclog it. It is not too difficult a job. Once the downspout is clear of all obstructions and water is able to flow through it freely, be sure to install leaf strainers. If your house is close to a considerable number of trees—and this is a condition that may prove troublesome periodically—you might consider the installation of wire screening along the entire length of gutter.

(Questions of general interest will be answered in this column. However, Mr. Lang can not undertake individual correspondence.)

MAIL POURS IN

WASHINGTON (AP)—Santa Claus has received more than 10,000 letters from children so far this Christmas season, and a good many of them have been answered. In this case, the recipient is the Santa Claus Post Office in Indiana. The Post Office Department reported Thursday the 10,000 letter count from Postmaster Elbert S. Reinke of the Santa Claus Post Office. Every child who writes in, providing he includes his return address, gets a letter back from Santa Claus. The American Legion at Santa Claus handles this job.

New Insecticides Aid In War Against Forest Pests

OREGON STATE COLLEGE — Entomologists waging the war against forest insects are adding a new and highly promising weapon—that of systemic insecticides.

The insecticides get that name because they are absorbed into and circulated throughout the tree's entire system, an Oregon State College scientist explains. This means that gnawing or sucking pests that eat into the bark or leaves will get a lethal dose of the insecticide as part of their meal.

Much research still needs to be done on systemics for forestry use, Dr. Julius A. Rudinsky emphasizes, but they show great potential for selective and extended control of some insects that have largely defied control before.

They may be especially useful, for example, against such insects as bark beetles, mites, and aphids that have been able to "hide" from other chemicals, he believes.

Rudinsky, who heads up forest insect research at OSC, was chosen to present a paper on systemics and other new forest pest controls at the Fifth World Forestry Congress earlier this fall. Insects are the forest's worst enemy, killing five or six times as much timber each year as lost to forest fires.

Systemics will not replace other conventional insecticides, Rudinsky noted, but do have some special important advantages.

These include seed treatment and soil applications for the protection of seedlings during their first season; trunk and root applications for younger and mature trees; complete treatment of trees with limited spray coverage; and "selective control" possibly of particular pests without killing off other beneficial insects as well.

Protection from systemics may be achieved at surprisingly low rates of application, research shows, and lasts for an extended period. Application may be made either by painting the insecticide in a band around the trunk, by needle injection, foliage spray, or soil application.

Small plot studies in this country and Europe are encouraging, Rudinsky said, but additional studies are needed before practical methods of large-scale systemic application under forest conditions can be developed.

Future research will include work on time of application, mode of absorption by the tree, detoxification or "wear out" of the tree protection, and development of compounds less toxic to warm-blooded animals and to fish.

Few people realize the tremendous forest losses inflicted each year by insects, Rudinsky re-

ported. Last year in the United States, forest insects killed enough timber to build 600,000 five-room houses and killed one-fourth as much pulpwood as consumed in the manufacture of the nation's newsprint.

Added losses were caused by forest infestations which did not kill trees outright, but slowed growth and deformed trees. Oregon, the nation's number one forestry state, is among the hardest hit. The recent bark beetle epidemic saw some six million acres of Douglas fir forests infested. And from 1931 to 1942, the western pine beetle riddled ponderosa pine stands to the extent of six billion board feet.

Control of forest insects is complicated by several things, Rudinsky explained. One is that the Northwest's great, continuous stands of the same kind of trees are highly susceptible to spread of an insect over a huge area.

Chemical control programs that have worked wonders on farm crops—including the use of systemics—are vastly more complex on forests because of the tree size and the great areas involved.

Predators, or insects that prey on the damaging pests, are being tried with some success. Careful and proper management of forest stands also can help check losses, Rudinsky stated.

The systemics represent a powerful new control approach that will be increasingly important in coming years, he concluded.

Navy Claims Altitude Mark

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Navy claimed Thursday a world altitude record of about 17 miles for a jet attack plane carrying a payload of slightly over one ton.

The height reached was 91,459.3 feet, which would exceed the officially recognized record of 67,096 feet set last year by a Soviet pilot.

The flight was made Tuesday at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., by Cmdr. Leroy A. Heath and his navigator, Lt. Henry L. Monroe, both from the Patuxent River, Md., test center.

The plane was a North American A3J Vigilante, a type now being given final evaluation before being turned over for fleet use. The Navy calls the Vigilante the most important aircraft in the Navy.

Heath and Monroe were decorated today for their achievement, with Navy Secretary William B. Franke making the awards in behalf of the President.

Pet Deer Loves To Munch

(Continued from Page 2)

that takes his cousins to the ridges and woods around the ranch.

A visitor at the ranch may find Bambi nibbling around the yard at discarded cigarette butts and other odds and ends or may spot him out by the baled hay getting a snack. He's always around somewhere to perk up his big ears when Obenchain calls out his name.

In the deer world, Bambi is getting to be an old man. Obenchain observed that Bambi is showing the effects—his backbone stands out, and he's not quite as hefty

as in the past.

But there's more than curiosity about Bambi's longevity that earns him a place on the ranch—he's a part of it and of the lives of the Obenchains and the community.

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