

Rats Eat Big

The State Department of Agriculture reports Pennsylvania farmers are paying a big boarding bill annually for rats that come to dinner on farms.

Dr. Thomas L. Guyton, director of the Bureau of Plant Industry, said each rat eats and contaminates approximately \$22 in food per year. Since there are an estimated 170 million rats in the nation more than 3.7 billion dollars in food is destroyed by the pests, he pointed out.

There are no accurate figures available on the rat destruction of grains in Pennsylvania, but Dr. Guyton estimates that it costs Pennsylvania farmers at least one-half million dollars in losses annually.

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Sugar Cane is Cash Crop, Goat Staple of Jamaican Farmer

(Continued from page 12)

breeze. One day the banana boat was in Kingston, a couple days later on the north coast, loaded from trucks or two-wheeled carts pulled by one donkey in a double shaft, sometimes with two donkeys—one outside the shafts on the ditch-side of the road. Tractor-pulled wagons were also noted, with bunches carefully packed to avoid bruising by use of banana leaves.

There's a story that natives feel as embarrassed without something on their heads as the U.S. lady does without an Easter bonnet. If it rains—and there is a deathly fair in some of the islands

of colds (in the knee, in the toe, in the head)—ou may find one with newspaper about her neck. Perhaps she'll rush to the nearby field for a banana leaf to use as a rain hat. Whatever it is on his or her head, from an object the size of a jewel box to a wash tub, it's in perfect balance—afoot, on donkey or bicycle.

Goats, buccles, burros — these share the road with ou, and despite your interest in the traffic and scenery — KEEP LEFT, MAHN!

Since Kingston lacks true sandy beaches, the map disclosed a nice highway leading north across the island to Buff Bay, through Newcastle, Hardware Gap, 4,350 feet up—spelled both Hardware and Hardwar — crossing the Blue Mountains, famous for coffee. Checking out of the Courtleigh Manor, we were looked upon with askance by the clerk, but another customer—an army man stationed at Newcastle—assured us anyone could drive the first 12 miles that boasted but 300 turns.

Bamboo and banana grew more prolific the higher we drove—some 40 miles in six hours, due in part to innumerable stops for picture taking, to view the magnificent vistas of Kingston and its bay, to spot a long-tailed humming bird or a mile-long stretch of tiny white orchids growing from the earth. The more showy tree orchids (air plants) bloom primarily in June, residents advised. Vultures soared overhead, gallinules inhabited the swamps, grassquits and bananaquits filled from bush to bush, while doves of all varieties scurried off the highway.

On the other side of the mountain, vistas of the north shore appeared. Tiny huts cling to precipitous mountainsides. Quite often each home had a separate cook house, an dseidom were these equipped with chimneys. Smoke rolled out from under the eaves, adding to the conglomeration of odors you encounter in the tropics.

Along the shore a group of workmen gathered about an open fire. Here was unmistakabl proof of a crustacean—probably lobster—cooking for the noon meal. And one of the later gastronomic delights of the trip proved to be lunch featuring fried lobster—excellent.

By the time we arrived at Port Antonio, around 4 p.m., on the northeast coast there was hunger. No place between Kingston and Port Antonio for food, no diner, no Howard Johnsons. The manager of the Titchfield Hotel—once owned by Errol Flynn—took pity upon us, and announced she would serve us high tea at 4. A shower to shake the dust of the day, then tea in the huge ball room converted to the hotel lobby, a husky quantity of sandwiches—turkey and ham—tea and cookies.

To one side was the bay of Port Antonio. To the other a lawn flanked by twin swimming pools, connected by a concrete slide.

What quiet this was, compared to the calypso of the night before when the Delgados hosted us to an evening at one of the Kingston night clubs. At the big band's intermission, Mr. Delgado brought around a three-piece native band, guitar, a saxophone handmade of tin and bamboo, a marimba (or mambo) box—a packing crate, hole in one side, wire strung across with five steel strap springs of varying length. Each spring gave a different tone. The sax was most melodic.

Fortunately, some of the calypso words could be distinguished. Some could not—fortunately. But the evening of nightclubbing, with hired band and all, came to less than \$1.50 per person.

Next week — floating down the Rio Grande by raft — a bamboo raft.

Farm Women County Board Holds Meeting

Mrs. Elam K. Buckwalter, new president of the Lancaster County Society of Farm Women presided over her first meeting of the organization. Dec. 3 at the SPABC Bldg, Harrisburg Pike, Lancaster.

All past presidents and new presidents of all societies were present.

Mrs. Ruth Kimble Krebick, home economist, gave a report on what is to be expected from the county agricultural extension service.

Mrs. Buckwalter appointed Mrs. Robert Good, Rohrerstown, to represent the Farm Women on Communit Chest Board.

Secret Sisters For Year Drawn By Society 19

Farm Women 19 held their Christmas Party with husbands Saturday at Hostetters Banquet Hall, Mt. Joy.

The Rev. J. C. Wine of the East Petersburg Church of the Brethern was the speaker.

A gift was presented to the President, Mrs. David Yoder. Secret sisters were revealed and names drawn for coming year.

Mrs. Earl Stauffer, Mrs. Leroy Hottenstine and Mrs. Henry Lehman sang accompanied by Mrs. Scott Nissley.

The following were selected as delegates to the state convention: Mrs. Charles Musser and Mrs. Charles Long, alternate, Mrs. Lester Groff.

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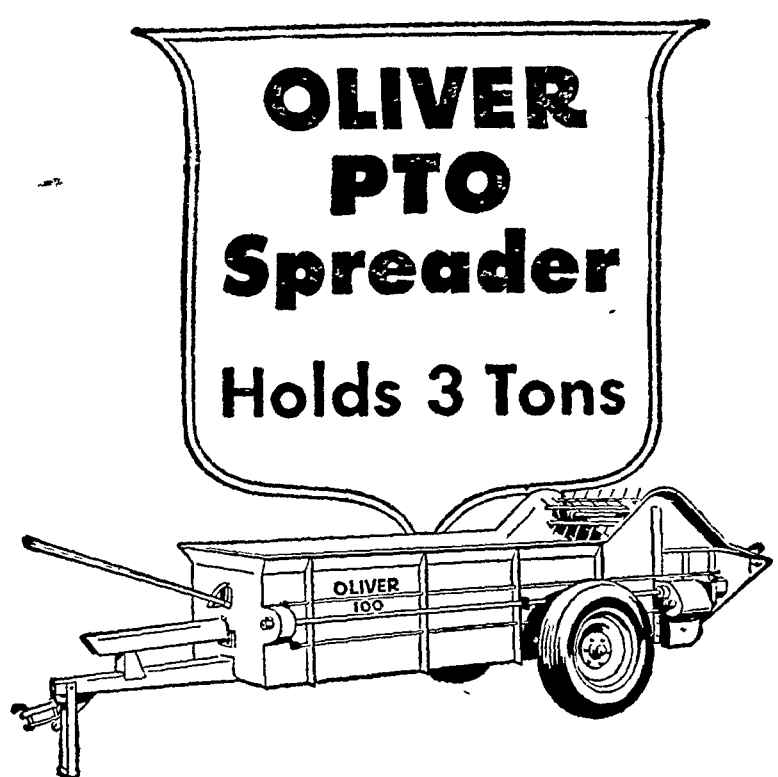
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