Safety seminars slated

The South Central Pennsylvania Chamber of Commerce Association and OSHA, said the seminar has the regional Occupational been designed to acquaint Safety and Health Ad- both large and small ministration of the U.S. busniess people with the Department of Labor will co- basic elements of im-



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David H. Rhone, who heads the regional office of sponsor an all-day deminar plementing a voluntary in Hershey, PA on October and dition," Rhone said, "we will cover the compliance policies, procdures and the rules and regulations of the OSHA program."

The conference which will be held at the Hershey Motor Lodge and Convention Center, is being cosponsored by the following chambers of commerce in the South Central Pennsylvania Chamber of Commerce Association:

Altoona Area Chamber of Commerce, Greater Carlisle

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Area Chamber of Commerce, Greater Chambersburg Chamber of Commerce, Gettysburg Area Chamber of Commerce, Hanover Area Chamber of Commerce, Greater Harrisburg Area Chamber of Commerce, Lancaster Area Manufacturers' Association and Lancaster Chamber of Commerce, Lebanon Valley Chamber of Commerce, Chamber of Commerce of Reading and Berks County, State College Area Chamber of Commerce, Williamsport-Lycoming Chamber of Commerce and the York Chamber of Commerce.

The seminar will be conducted by Rhone and members of the OSHA staff which includes compliance officers, industrial hygienist,

Von Humboldt award winners

WASHINGTON, - Oct. 17 -One of sicence's most prestigious honors, the Alexander von Humboldt Award, was conferred here last week on Dr. Theodor O. Diener, of USDA's Agricultural Research Service, and Dr. Joseph S. Semancik, plant pathologist with the University of California, Riverside.

This award is conferred on

safety experts and area directors.

The seminar begins at 10 a.m. and is scheduled to end at 3 p.m. Rhone said those wishing to attend should contact their respective chamber of commerce for reservations.

scientists whose research is deemed to represent the most outstanding conduring the past three to five years. In ceremonies at the Cosmos Club here, the two scientists each received a medallion, certificate and a check for \$5,000.

Dr. Diener and Dr. Semancik were honored for their research on viroids. microscopic disease agents. Their research marks the second discovery in this century of a previously unknown type of diseaseproducing agent. This discovery could be the key to unlocking the mysteries that surround some of the most serious diseases of plants, animals and man.

The isolation and identification of the viroid can be compared to the discoveries tribution to agriculture of bacteria in the late 1800's and viruses in the first half of this century. The viroid is only one-fiftieth the size of the smallest known virus and consists solely of a short strand of ribonucleic acid. Despite its small size, the viroid is capable of multiplying in susceptible hosts and causing disease.

Dr. Diener discovered the viroid in research with potatoes. Dr. Semancik's work was with the agent causing the exocortis disease of citrus trees. Similar agents may be implicated in other crop and livestock diseases that now result in losses of millions of dollars annually. Research is being conducted to determine whether some hauman disease, including cnacer, may be associated with viroids.

Discovery of the viroid suggests a new approach to the study of diseases thought to be caused by viruses, but for which no virus-like particles have been heretofore identified. This research also alerts scientists to the possibility that additional types of diseasecausing agents may exist. Thus, much time should be saved in avoiding research seeking a viral agent.

Dr. Diener is a plant pathologist at the Plant Virology Laboratory of USDA's Agricultural Research Center, Beltsville, Md. He is the author of coauthor of more than 90 scientific publications.

The award conferred on Dr. Diener and Dr. Semancik is named for Alexander von Humboldt, who achieved international fame in the study of earth sciences and ecology. He was born in 1769 in Berlin, German, and died there in 1859. He explored more than 6,000 miles of Central and South America, collecting plant samples and conducting other research. Dr. Diener and Dr. Semancik are the first sicentists from the United States to receive the award.

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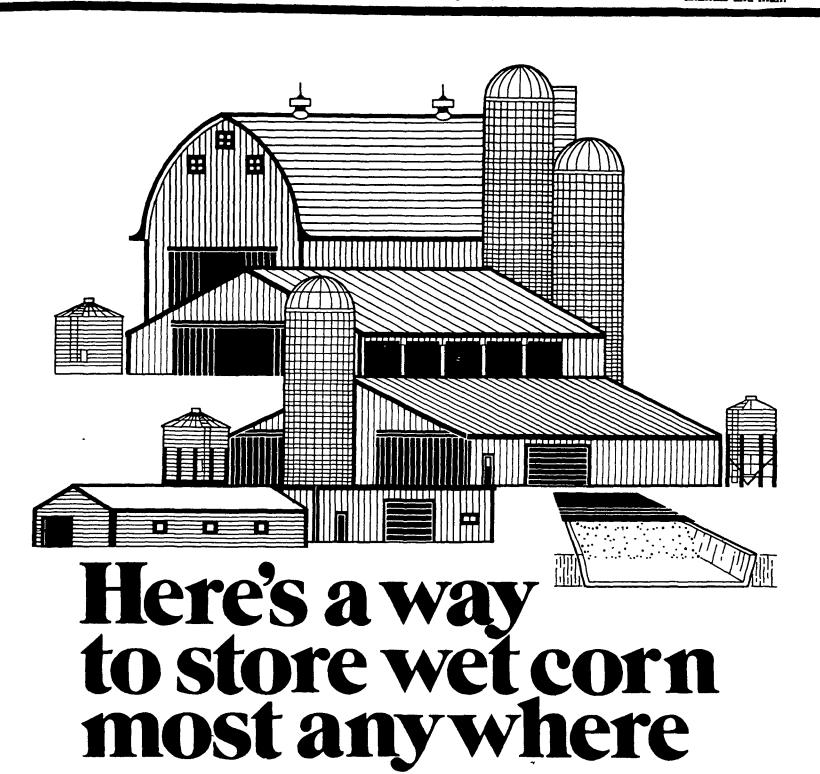
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