

**WEEKLY HEALTH TALK**

"South of the border, La Nacha was queen."

Strange information is to be found in the annual report of the Bureau of Narcotics, U. S. Treasury Department.

This reference is from one of the many thrilling accounts of investigation, capture and conviction by narcotic agents of leaders in the illicit narcotic traffic.

It is estimated there are not more than 1 in every 3,000 of population addicted to the use of drugs.

A reduction of at least 66 per cent has occurred in the past two years.

The latent danger from international illicit traffic and drug addiction can be expected to increase since the war has spread in Europe and in the Far East.

In several countries which are potential sources of illicit traffic to the United States, the war has resulted in the relaxation of drug control.

The report states that from studies of illicit traffic and drug addiction it is more than twice as likely as the non-addict to have a criminal record.

With shipments of opium from the Orient practically non-existent, Mexico is now the principal source of supply of prepared opium for illicit traffic in the United States.

Which brings us back to "La Nacha, Queen of Dope."

Her real name is Mrs. Ignacia Jasso Ganzaes, and she not only grew her own poppies in the mountains of Guadalajara, Mexico, but maintained a "front" in Ciudad Juarez, across the border from El Paso.

Narcotic agents have seized in various places last year much raw and prepared opium, morphine, heroin, cocaine, codeine and marihuana.

So scarce were drugs available to addicts that they began using "goof balls."

"Goof balls" are concocted from barbituric acid derivatives.

An addict will do almost anything to satisfy his morbid craving for the drugs.

**POOR FRUIT CROP IS FORECAST IN PENNSYLVANIA IN PRESENT YEAR**

The first definite measure of the expected production of Pennsylvania peaches, cherries and pears is given in a report issued by the Federal-State Crop reporting service in the State Department of Agriculture.

No information is available as yet on apple production for this year, but condition of the crop is estimated to be only 49 per cent of normal, compared with 63 per cent last year.

The pear crop in the state this year as indicated on a July 1 survey will be 248,000 bushels, a drop of 243,000 bushels from last year, and compares with a ten year average production of 570,000 bushels from 1932 to 1941. The condition of the crop was reported as 34 per cent of normal.

The peach crop, with a condition of 44 per cent of normal, is estimated at 1,152,000 bushels, a drop of 619,000 bushels from last year. This compares with 1,649,000 bushels for the ten year average. For peaches the outlook is for fair crops of early varieties but Ebertas are generally light.

Production of cherries this year is estimated at 4,000 tons for a crop the condition of which was only 26 per cent of normal. Production last year was 9,300 tons, which was ahead of the ten year average production of 7,804 tons.

The condition of early apples is reported good but later varieties are not so good as for the same period last year. Rains at pollination this year were responsible for the light set, plus frost damage.

**FOOD POISONING DUE TO INADEQUATE CARE**

As a hot weather precautionary measure, consumers are warned by the State Department of Agriculture to be on constant guard against possible failure to maintain an adequate refrigeration at all times for hams, shoulders, and similar processed meats.

Uncooked hams, as well as hams that have been subjected to tenderizing treatment and those improperly cured, are particularly susceptible to bacterial growth and decomposition in the summer time when a temperature fluctuation is constant.

Custard filled pies and other cream filled goods are extremely sensitive to temperature changes and should be carefully examined to determine whether, due to lack of constant refrigeration, bacterial growth has been promoted and putrefaction permitted to set in. Consumption of products so affected often results in serious illness to the consumer. Real

danger to ptomaine poisoning lies in these harmless and tempting products, State officials say.

**HEAVY PENALTY FOR REFUSAL OF REQUEST TO FIGHT FOREST FIRE**

Seldom does the State Department of Forests and Waters have to insist upon help to fight a forest fire—but it has the power, under law, to force assistance, should need arise.

A seldom invoke law, the Act of 1923, Section 1002, is included in the Commonwealth's statutes which provides a fine not to exceed \$100 and 30 days in jail upon conviction for refusal to fight a forest fire upon request of an authorized state official.

The law has been used only about a score of times since its adoption, Department officials said, and only once in the last three years.

Chief Forest Fire Warden George H. Wirt said the law was introduced for "basis of protection should the need ever arise, but Pennsylvanians have been so helpful that a second request is not often required to secure assistance in fighting a forest fire."

**ROAD DEATHS DROP 39 PER CENT IN PENNSYLVANIA**

A thirty-nine per cent drop in Pennsylvania's traffic fatalities as a result of war time travel restrictions was reported this week by the State Revenue Department.

A survey showed 563 persons killed during the first six months of this year compared with 924 during the same period of 1942. Traffic was reduced an estimated 50 per cent.

Deaths included 306 pedestrians against 451 last year with the Safety Bureau reporting such fatalities increasing from 50 to 54 per cent of the total.

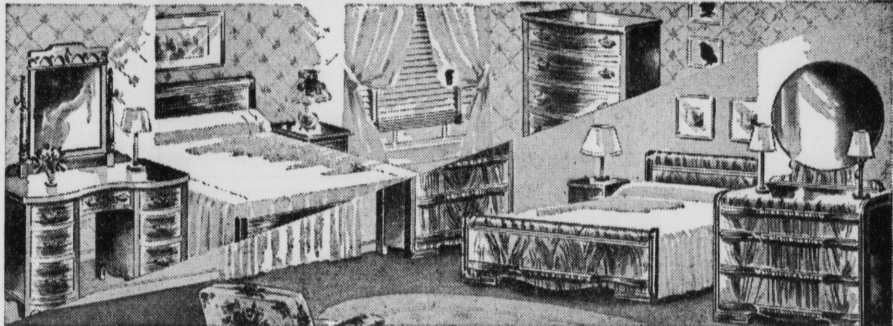
"There are a great many more pedestrians on the street which accounts for the fatality rate in that category despite restricted use of vehicles," said the bureau.

Bicycle fatalities dropped from 21 to 13 but the bureau declared such vehicles continue "a very serious problem with the rate of fatalities increasing despite less use of bikes." One change pointed out in the fa-

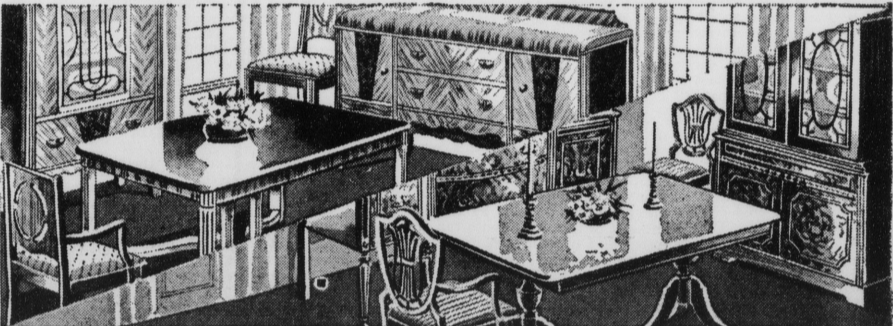
tality survey was that all fatal accidents are occurring primarily in the day time instead of at night as previously.

**GRAPES.**

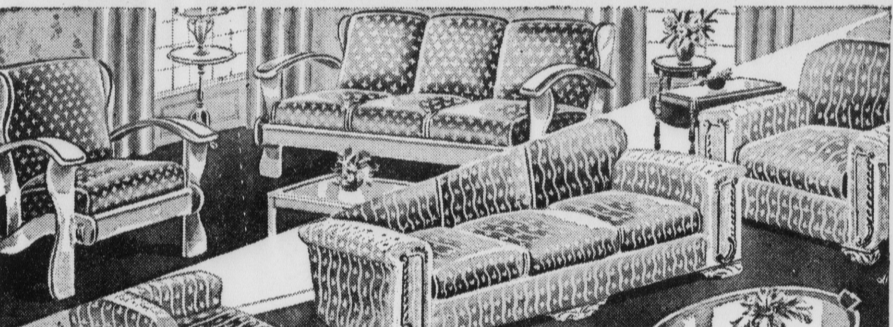
A few growers in the Erie grape producing belt of Pennsylvania expect their crop to be nearly a total loss this year, according to reports received by the State Department of Agriculture. Vines in some vineyards were killed back to the roots by the severe winter weather and the rose bug has been "quite destructive" the Department crop reporters say. Largely because of these adverse conditions, the Pennsylvania grape crop for this year is indicated to be 16,300 tons, or 5,200 tons less than the 21,500 tons produced in 1942.



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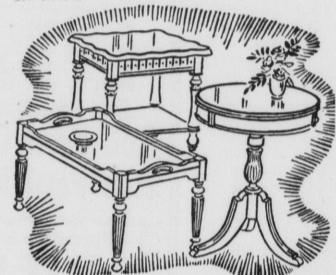
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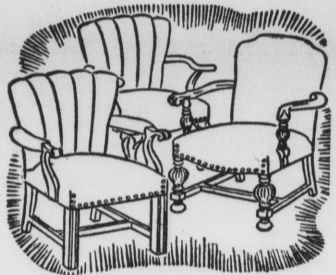
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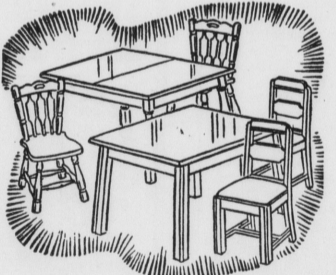
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