

# Behind The Future

BY ELIZABETH M. GARBER  
(Research Assistant to Senator James J. Davis)

By telephone the news came to the Senator this week that Philadelphia had been designated as an area to which the Food Stamp Plan was to be extended. This news came after months of effort on the part of individuals, groups and public officials. Mapublic officials. Mayor Robert Lambertson of Philadelphia in December 1939 and January 1940 communicated with the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation here in Washington expressing the desire of the City of Philadelphia to receive funds for distribution of food to families and individuals on relief. The Corporation declined the request on the grounds that their funds were limited, that the Philadelphia area was too large and the number of persons receiving relief too great. In March the Food Distributors Association of the Philadelphia trade area pressed the question further, knowing that additional appropriations had been voted by Congress. The Association pointed out that the City had met all preliminary requirements stipulated by the Corporation, 6,500 retail food stores had endorsed the plan and sought the Senator's cooperation and support in having the food stamp plan for Philadelphia. In April the Corporation's answer was still a dubious one. It was admitted that additional funds had been authorized for the extension of the plan to 100 to 125 areas. On the other hand officials here pointed out the fact that 800 areas had filed requests with the Corporation. Again it was felt

that the number of relief cases to be reached presented a major problem. Correspondence and personal contacts continued during May, June and July and finally this week's early morning phone call reported success. Philadelphia is the 139th area in the United States and the 5th city in Pennsylvania to be designated as an area to receive free stamps with which to buy surplus food. The plan has been in operation in the twin cities of Allentown and Bethlehem since November 6, 1939, in Pittsburgh and Allegheny County since March 19, 1940 and in Scranton, Pennsylvania since June 1940. Distribution of the stamps to buy surplus food will begin in about a month from now and at that time Philadelphia will join Chicago, Los Angeles, Pittsburgh and the Borough of Brooklyn as the largest areas in which the plan is in operation. There are 171,000 individuals certified by relief agencies in the state as eligible to receive free stamps for food. With 100 per cent participation in the plan, \$85,000 additional buying power per week will be created with which to purchase eggs, butter, pork products, fruits, vegetables, flour, cornmeal, rice, dried beans and raisins. The Corporation believes this plan of distribution serves a three fold purpose in that it increases the home market for the products of American farms, provides more adequate and better-balanced diets for the underfed and stimulates business by additional buying.

## Automatic Radio Signals To Flash Flood Warning

Radio flashes soon will be the ultimate in warnings of flash floods along the far-flung watershed of the lower Colorado river.

The Public Works administration had announced that a system of automatic radio signaling devices would be installed to warn headquarters of the Lower Colorado River authority in Austin, Texas, of sudden changes in the river's stages.

The radio signals will supplement a system of 13 gauges continuously recording fluctuations in the foot-second flow of the treacherous Colorado. The warning system has been worked out to protect the interests of landholders in the river's watershed and the facilities of the giant flood reduction and power production project following completion of the \$22,350,000 PWA job next year. The gauges already are in operation.

Five automatic radio broadcasters will be installed. They and the gauges already in use will be complemented by reports from 84 other rainfall gauges being established in the river drainage area. Some of the rainfall gauges are as far as 300 miles from the nearest of the four dams on the lower Colorado.

Because the lower Colorado is a "flash stream," a slight rise in the dam to obtain adequate flow for consistent power production, and at the same time provide proper storage space for flood waters.

Much of the experience now being utilized in perfecting the flood warning system was obtained by the river authority and PWA engineers during the disastrous Colorado river floods of late in the summer of 1938, when the torrent first went out of control in far western Texas, and several weeks later spent itself by pouring into the Gulf of Mexico.

## Polarized Light Used In Engineering Tests

Scientists are using shadows and rainbows to prevent train wrecks, floods and other disasters—by the use of polarized light to analyze strains on bridges, dams and other structures, according to Prof. M. S. Ketchum of the Case School of Scientific Studies, Cleveland, Ohio.

"Until rainbow tests were applied in testing bridges," said Ketchum, assistant professor of civil engineering, "many engineers grossly overestimated the strength of materials needed in certain parts of the structures. They then were at a loss to explain why their work gave way occasionally with disastrous results."

Ketchum explained that engineers now make models of bridges of celluloid or other plastics, place weights on them, shine polarized light through the semi-transparent model and observe the distortions manifested in the form of "rainbow shadows."

"The principle involved," he said, "is that polarized light, which is caused by the passage of ordinary light through polaroid crystals vibrates in one plane only."

"If this polarized light now is passed through glass, gelatin or plastics, it will cast a shadow similar to a rainbow. But when a strain is put on the material, the shadow is distorted and the greatest distortion occurs when the strain is greatest. Thus it is very easy to see where a break would occur and where more strength is required."

Ketchum tests models of machinery, dams and other structures. The models of dams are made of gelatin—sometimes as much as 25 pounds of the material being melted to make one model dam.

## Watch Kitchen Efficiency

Home builders are cautioned by Federal Housing administration officials not to condense the kitchen so as to make it too small for use. A kitchen can be efficient even though it may not be as small as a Pullman-car kitchen. Despite the fervor for "step-savings," a happy medium should be maintained between the Pullman kitchen and the old-fashioned kitchen. The kitchen does double duty. It serves as a cooking center, and at the same time it is a storage place for dishes, utensils, cleaning materials, and other household gadgets and equipment. Sufficient space for storage is of vital importance in the planning of a kitchen for a small modern home.

## Medieval Castles

In medieval times a feudal lord's home literally was his castle. But more than a home in most cases was this castle. It was a fortress into the protection of which the feudal lord and his retainers could withdraw to stand a sustained siege when beset by enemies. The term castle (from the old French and Anglo-Saxon castle) itself originally meant a circular mound of earth, flattened on top and surrounded by a ditch. Around the crest of its summit was a palisade.

## Red Ink Coloring

Red ink is sometimes colored with the powdered bodies of minute red insects called cochineal, which are taken from the cactus in Mexico, Central America and Peru. Other red inks are made from brazilwood, imported from Central and South America.

# FARM TOPICS

## FARM ACCIDENTS CAN BE STOPPED

Machinery Rated as Chief Hazard to Safety.

By J. B. RICHARDSON

Safety on the farm is largely home-made. One of the reasons there are so many accidents on the farm is that farm families operate largely on their own responsibility. For city people at work or at home, there are numerous safety precautions, and someone to enforce them.

Machinery should be listed as a major hazard in farm work, despite the many improvements made on machinery in recent years. The older hazards, such as unruly bulls and kicking horses, is next.

Surveys show, however, that most accidents are caused by carelessness such as haste, the use of makeshift repairs, by taking chances, by using machinery without guards, or with guards removed.

Among the reasons why the farm is a fertile field for accidents are these: Much farm work is done by individuals at some distance from others so that an accident may be serious because help is not at hand. On the farm there are frequent changes in work and machinery used, which may mean unfamiliarity with equipment and less accuracy of movement. Under the pressure of summer work, there are often long hours in the field, and chores done in a hurry after dark—both conducive to accidents.

The suffering, the loss of time, and the actual cash cost of these accidents shows the need for avoiding them. It has been shown time and time again that the well-ordered farm, with well-ordered activities, is good insurance against accidents.

But still, to a great extent the farmer must be his own safety engineer and almost entirely his own disciplinarian.

## Insect Traps on Plane Detect Spread of Pests

By trapping insects high in the air entomologists are able to gather valuable new information on the habits, and particularly on the spread, of some of the destructive pests of farm crops. Inspection of the mixed catch of insects taken at a certain altitude is useful, for example, in indicating whether a certain type of insect makes most of its advance by flight under its own power or goes a long distance at a time by soaring high and letting the prevailing wind carry it.

P. A. Glick of the United States department of agriculture in systematic airplane flights over Louisiana and Old Mexico, and covering all seasons of several years, collected many of the important and destructive crop pests. He reports captures of boll weevils at 2,000 feet, spotted cucumber beetles at 3,000 feet, and leaf-hoppers at altitudes up to 13,000 feet. Mosquitoes, common in lower layers, also were found as high as 5,000 feet. The pink bollworm moth collected, sometimes more than half a mile above the surface, showed that it can spread to our country by natural means. Some small wingless insects were frequent at very high altitudes; for example, springtails and silver fish at from 8,000 to 11,000 feet.

The insects were collected in traps specially designed for use on airplanes and controlled from the cockpit or cabin. In practice it was the rule to keep a trap section open for a certain number of minutes with the plane flying level at that altitude, then close the section and mount 500 or 1,000 feet and bag another sample while holding that altitude.

## Agricultural News

During the past 35 years, "cow testing associations" have advanced from agencies for testing the butter fat of milk to full-fledged dairy herd improvement associations, keeping track of milk weights, feed records, and breeding for members, and providing a system of proving sires automatically through the United States bureau of dairy industry.

Top dressing grain fields with manure is a great help in securing seedlings. Rates of application may vary from five to eight tons per acre. Poot land should get first treatment, and straw spread thinly can be used when manure is not available.

Removing cream from milk takes out most of the vitamin A content. If cream is removed from milk fortified with vitamin D, both A and D are taken out. In homogenized milk the fat particles and vitamin A are distributed throughout the fluid.

About 700,000,000 acres in the United States do not receive enough rainfall for profitable agriculture, it is said. About 12,000,000 people live in this area. Of this area, 20,000,000 acres are irrigated.

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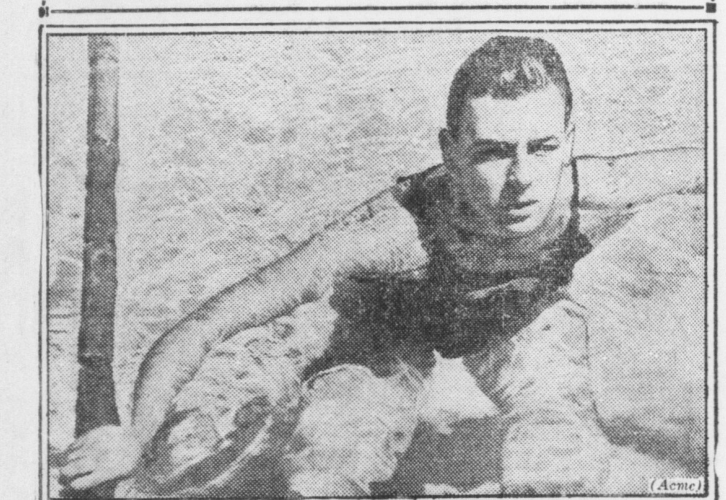
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## State Marking Many Miles Of Road; Lines Explained

HARRISBURG, Aug. 1 — Six thousand miles of Pennsylvania's 40,000-mile State Highway system are getting a facial this year. Maintenance crews are repainting the white center traffic guide lines in what the Department says is the most extensive overhauling in its history. The number of miles being painted is 45 per cent more than last year. On many routes the lines last a year or more, while on main highways, they are repainted as needed. H. R. Moffitt, chief maintenance engineer, pointed out that Pennsylv-

## People, Spots In The News



**SPEED SWIMMER** . . . Otto Jaretz, 18-year-old Chicago high schooler, flashed to fame in National A.A.U. swim championships at Santa Barbara, Cal., by breaking Johnny Weissmuller's 13-year-old record for 220-yard freestyle. He went the eighth of a mile in 2:13.1.



**GLAMOR TRAM** . . . Latest model in comeback drive of street cars, which has seen more than 1,000 deluxe "P. C. C." trolleys go into service in 13 big cities in recent months, is this St. Louis speeder. Riding on rubber "sandwich" wheels and rubber springs developed by Goodrich engineers, the modern trams are swift, smooth and silent as a fine auto. The "almost human" profile is due to antiglare slanting windshield.

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