

W.A.S.

Western Apicultural Society Journal

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July 1985

Corvallis — Can You Get There From Here?

Dr. Burgett ("Mike" to his friends) tells me that everything seems to be under control (Something's Wrong!) as he serves as President and Program Chairman for the next W.A.S. Conference. In response to a request for written instructions on the best ways of reaching Corvallis and the meeting site, Mike provided a map (found on page 296) and the following:

"From the east, from which most people will be coming from the freeway, I-5--you are traveling on Oregon Hwy. 34 which becomes Harrison Street once you cross the Willamette and enter Corvallis. Continue west on Harrison until you come to 2nd, 4th, 5th, or 6th Street--take a left and head south on these numbered streets until you encounter Western--turn right on Western until you come to the Conference Center at 26th Street.

From the south you will enter Corvallis on Hwy. 99W which turns into Third Street once you get into the main part of town--turn left at the intersection with Western and go to the Conference Center at 26th Street.

From the north you will come into town on 99W or Hwy. 20, both of which become numbered streets and intersect with Western, where you turn right and continue west to 26th.

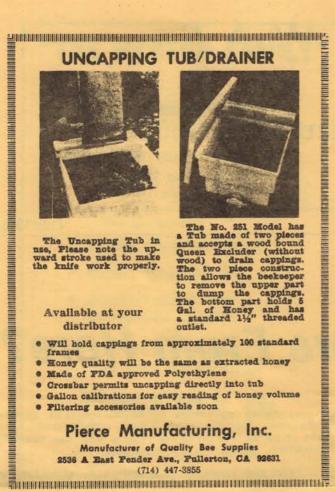
Parking will be directly across from the center in the main lot of the Parker football field stadium, and will be at no cost. Housing will be at the closest dorm directly north of the center, about 100 yards distance."

EDITOR'S CORNER

I think everyone now has all of the information to preregister for the conference and to prepare entries for the competition. The last issue contained the preregistration forms and rules for the competitive exhibits as well as a complete program. The China tour was also described at length. Dr. Cressler reports that about a dozen persons are now going and that he has room for several more. A trip like this would be a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

This pre-conference issue of your Journal is primarily meant to remind you that conference time is upon us and that we need your attendance at the conference to enhance its success. Mike has been able to keep the costs of attending to a minimum, with a very reasonable meal and lodging package and nominal registration fees. He tells us that those who wish to take an R.V. will be able to park very close to the conference center. While there are no hook-up facilities, you may live in the R.V. as long as it is self-contained.

This has been a very busy spring and summmer--for the Journal staff. Eric, Zandy and I had schedules that often didn't mesh, so the publication schedule was somewhat erratic. Each year we try to correct this and maintain a consistent time of issue, but it never seems to happen that way. We will keep trying. To those of you who have called or written asking, "What happened to the Journal?", let me assure you that it was our publication schedule, not the post office, causing the delay, and if your membership is current you are still on the mailing list. We do appreciate your concern and your calls and letters. Especially welcome are the newsletters and items from the local member associations. It helps us keep current on your interests and doings.





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NEW AWARD

According to the May 17th newsleter of the Puget Sound Beekeepers Association, the A. I. Root Company has agreed to sponsor the first annual "Roy Thurber Memorial Award for Inventiveness in Beekeeping." Although I am not sure of all the details, I would assume that the award will be given to the person who enters the best item in the Gadgets categories of the competitive exhibits.

Do you have a gadget that you have found useful to your beekeeping tasks? Gadgets from as small as a one-piece metal bracket to hold a book of matches on a smoker bellows, to as large as a trailer have been exhibited and won prizes in the past.

Who knows? Your prototype may be the forerunner of a world famous item. If not, don't worry about it. Just bring the item or items, as Roy always did, and discuss it/them with your The purpose of a W.A.S Conference is to share ideas, particularly with a group of friendly peers.

MISC. BEE NEWS

F. A. Shah reported on the following in Vol. 66, No. 1, 1985, of Bee World:

Honeybee Fatalities from High-tension Power Lines

"In 1978 we moved one of our apiaries to a migration site at Kullan, India, to exploit the

autumn honey flow. There was a single 11 kV electric line on wooden poles, with wooden cross arms, about 75 m away from the apiary. line did not pose any problems to the bees until the onset of the honey flow, when thousands were killed as they clustered on the dark brown insulators which were situated across their flight Electrical engineers were unable to path. explain this effect. Bees left the insulators safely when the electricity supply to the lines was switched off, but returned to die when the supply was switched on again. The bees appeared to die as a result of accumulating charges from the line rather than being electrocuted by the passage of an electric current through their This unnecessary mortality was only prevented by painting the insulators white."

ILLUSTRATED CATALOG OF AUDIO-VISUAL MATERIAL

The International Bee Research Association has issued a new edition of its catalog, Audio-Visual Material. These visual aids can be purchased from IBRA and include teaching courses, with illustrated text, filmstrips and cassette commentary, wall charts, slide sets, posters, wooden hive fronts, postcards and study prints, and illustrated catalogs. All the material from the UK, the USA, Germany, Belgium, Japan and Yugoslavia is in color.

The catalog is illustrated with black and white photographs of some of the items available, and this will help beekeepers, teachers and others when choosing aids for study and exhibition.

A copy of the 8-page catalog, List 3: Audio-Visual Materia Obtainable from the International Bee Research Association (1985/86), may be obtained from IBRA, Hill House, Gerrards Cross, Bucks SL9 ONR, UK, for \$.45 (free to members of IBRA) .

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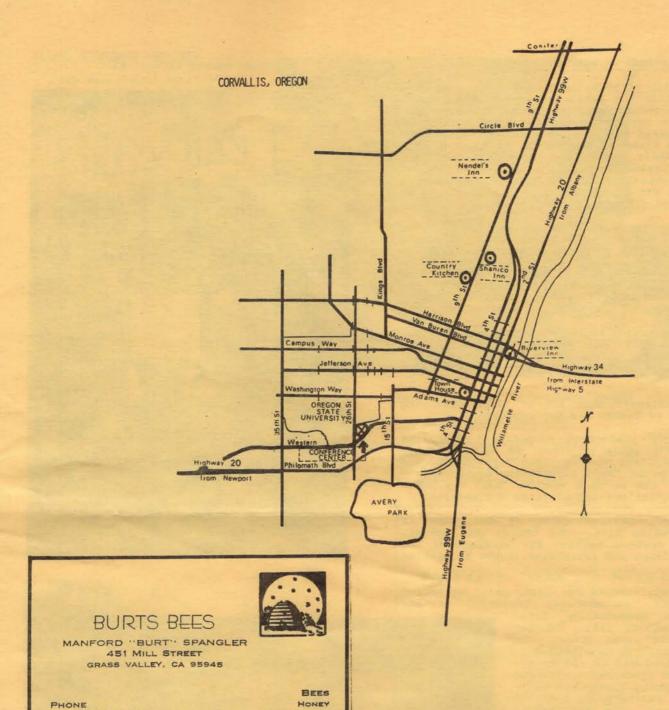
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PUBLIC RELATIONS -- A MUST

A portion of this issue of the W.A.S Journal is devoted to the public relations effort of a California beekeeping club which is working to disseminate information on bees and beekeeping to the general public. The goal of the Sonoma County Bee Club, as stated in the mast of each issue of their newsletter, "Monthly Extractor," is "To increase interest in and knowledge of bees and beekeeping for the hobby and commercial beekeeper, and to educate the general public in the value of bees."

In response to my request, the Club sent the following information and photographs concerning some of their extracurricular activities:

"Our community offers many different functions in which we actively participate. Of course, these activities are carried out solely by our membership and paid by our Club treasury.

We have rented booths at both the Sebastopol Gravenstein Apple Fair Festival on April 13 and 14, and the 4-H Chickenque in Santa Rosa on May 5. Both of these functions were "first-timers" for our Club.

We guestimate that 99% of those observing these type of events are non-beekeepers.

We enjoy presenting elaborately decorated booths, with space provided for selling honey (if allowed), and have received First and Second Place awards for "Most Interesting Booth" several times. Two or more members "man" the booth to answer questions and dispense information.

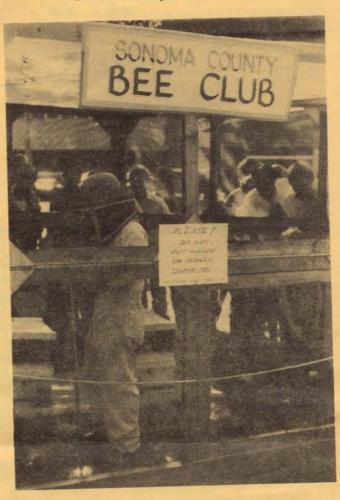
A terrific interest-getter at every event is the Observation Hive. The crowds that gather, while our members explain the workings of the Hive, are large and impressive....not to mention impressed.

Our Club-financed Bee Cage, built by member

Chuck Sharp, successfully premiered at Sebastopol Gravenstein Apple Fair in August, 1984, and has been a "hit" ever since. In fact, Chuck's Bee Cage presentation was included in the Honeybee Program sponsored by the San Francisco Hobby Beekeepers Association on February 16, 1985, in San Francisco. The participants and visitors observing this program were mostly beekeepers."

ERIC MUSSEN Extension Apiculturist

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BEARS, BLOSSOMS AND BEES

The Sebastopol Apple Blossom Festival was held in the downtown area of Sebastopol on the weekend of April 12th and 13th. After the parade came into the main festival area, by the Veteran's Memorial Building. Due to the nature of security regulations, etc., it was not possible to put up a booth and leave it over Saturday night. This necessitated making the display mobile by mounting it on a truck and driving it to Chuck's home that evening. With minor adjustments after the overnight trip, the table was ready again Sunday morning. As usual, the observation hive was the big attraction, with members on hand to explain all to the onlookers.

Mike Gnau was the only honey salesman, and George had some candles to offer. The usual give aways were available, including a Bee Coloring Book, a joint effort between the Honey Advisory Board and your club.

With several people envincing interest in the club, applications were handed out with copies of the Extractor. All in all a successful exposure for your club.



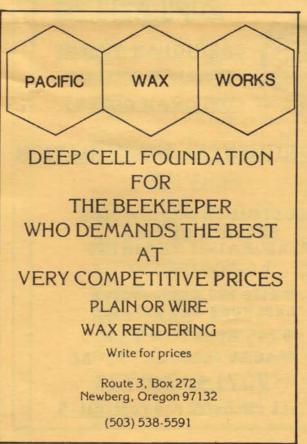
Beekeeper About to End Bear Damage

MORE INFORMATION ON CHALK BROOD FROM IBRA

The International Bee Research Association has just reprinted a 7-page article from Bee World, No. 1, 1985, by Dr. L. A. F. Heath (Dept. of Biological Sciences, Plymouth Polytechnic, Devon, UK), entitled, "The Occurrence and Distribution of Chalk Brood Disease of Honeybees."



Sebastopol Gravenstein Apple Fair



The reprint describes how the disease Ascosphaera apis first became known and summarizes the information Dr. Heath has received on its present distribution in north and south temperate regions. Reports have been received of the presence of chalk brood in many European countries and also in Tunisia, Japan, China, North America, Argentina and New Zealand, as well as in the tropical regions of southern Mexico, Belize, Honduras and the Philippines. Many reports fail to indicate whether a single colony only is involved or whether the infection is widespread, and Dr. Heath suggests that more accurate measures of chalk brood disease frequency and importance in various parts of the world are needed. Recent experiences in New Zealand, Australia and North America indicate that strains of honeybee resistant to the disease exist and could be used in selective breeding programs.

This reprint (M115) is available direct from the International Bee Research Association, Hill House, Gerrards Cross, Bucks SL9 ONR, UK, price \$1.45, post paid.

Dr. Heath's 17-page reprint on chalk brood published in 1982 is also available from IBRA. The title is Mll0: Reviews: Development of Chalk Brood in a Honeybee Colony: Chalk Brood Pathogens. The price is \$2.45, post paid.

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POTENTIALLY FATAL RESPONSES TO HONEY BEE STINGS MAY OCCUR AT ANY TIME

The following two articles describe systemic allergic responses to bee stings encountered by two different beekeepers located 2500 miles away from each other. But notice the similarities of their reactions. Anders Jarne's report was in the July 1985 issue of the Nevada County (CA) Beekeepers Association Newsletter and William Disney's account was in the March 1984 issue of Dr. John Ambrose's "Nectar Guides."

Bee Sting by Anders Jarne

"I knew I could get stung anytime, but since I'd been stung before I didn't give it much thought. In fact, while installing packaged bees one had crawled up my pant leg and left its calling card on my calf. I did experience swelling to the point that I could not wear my usual shoes, but all was forgotten until 6 weeks later.

My wife was away in Sacramento so after work I decided to see how the new foundations were looking. It was hot, and I wore only a short sleeve shirt, my veil, gloves, and long pants tucked into my boots. I followed the methods I learned in our bee class and in books I'd read. Working smoothly, yet quickly, I lifted the eighth frame when suddenly I was attacked. One got me on the stomach through the shirt, another on the bare arm above the gloves and below the sleeve. I backed away and smoked myself. Order was quickly restored, and I continued to investigate my hive. Within 2 minutes there was a ringing in my ears, then an itching on my feet, groin area and armpits. I knew something was amiss so I quickly closed the hive and made for Then things really happened quickly. the house. I had become so itchy that clothes were uncom-fortable. I stripped and noticed my skin had raised bumps all over, like hives, and my skin color had turned a lovely shade of red. My breathing was becoming labored and painful, and I had the distinct impression that I was going to vomit. My breathing became even more difficult and a throbbing, like when a finger is smashed by a door, began all over my body. I knew I was having a serious reaction, and I attempted to get help. My first attempts were failures. I could not concentrate on dialing and made several incorrect calls. I finally and made several incorrect calls. reached Burt Spangler and Randy Oliver, and each confirmed my experience as being serious and suggested showers to relieve the itching as well as getting emergency aid. After 20 minutes had elapsed and I was beginning to feel somewhat better, I called Kaiser emergency and was glad to hear someone say that I would be alright but that I should come in soon for testing in their allergy clinic.

I am now scheduled to take a skin reaction test to see if I am one of those rare ones who can have fatal reactions to stings. If the test proves positive, I will begin a long series of "stings" via hypodermic needle that in time will build up to the intensity of two bee stings.

Dr. Watts of Kaiser's Allergy Clinic told me that it is a costly process for the hospital, \$150 per full injection, and that the venom has only a 24-hour shelf life. I will have to go

weekly at first to get venom shots, and gradually the schedule will slow down to monthly visits some 7 months later. Each visit has a mandatory waiting period of 1 hour after the shot is given.

I was also prescribed a sting kit, which I was given instructions in using. I have to keep this close by at all times.

I want to continue with the bees so I'm willing to go through the long immunization process. But I certainly hope that I never go through that reaction experience again."

An Allergic Reaction to a Bee Sting From the Victim's Perspective by William Disney

"On a Sunday afternoon following several consecutive mid-spring rainy, chilly and overcast days, the weather became ideal for the internal inspection of a hive of honeybees. I had been both encouraging and helping a friend getting started with bees, and we used this convenient and appropriate time to inspect his recently hived nucleus colony. My friend received the thrill and further encouragement in beekeeping by locating the unmarked queen. After closing the hive we joined our wives, who were enjoying the comfort of the patio, to allow my friend to talk about his just-concluded experience.

Some 10 minutes later into our continued beekeeping discussion, I changed my position in the chair and immediately received the sensation





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623 West Liberty Street P.O. Box 706 Dept. WAS Medina, OH 44258-0706 PH: (216) 725-6677 of a single sting on my right leg just above the knee. From a standing position, I coaxed the insect from the cuff end of my trousers, and identified it as a honey bee. Undoubtedly, this honey bee crawled up my leg during our colony inspection, and I did not remove the stinger until I returned to my home about 30 minutes later.

At a time I estimate to be 45 minutes from having received the honey bee sting, I began to feel a slight dizziness which very rapidly intensified and was coupled with a vision change-spots before my eyes, if you will-as well as some tightness in my throat and slight difficulty in breathing. With these abnormal physical changes continuing, I deemed it prudent to relocate from my present position outside to inside my home. As I entered our home, my wife observed me and before I could speak, she matter of factly stated in an alarmed tone that my facial color was blood red and without hesitation inquired what had happened. Enroute to a nearby room, where I assumed a prone position on my bed, I enlightened my wife about the unusual physical sensations I was experiencing. At this point other changes added to those previously mentioned occurred. Alternately, I began chilling and sweating and on two separate occasions I became extremely nauseous with relief coming only after vomiting. Intermixed with all the unusual and frightening experiences, I started violent and uncontrollable shaking and with the most excrutiating pain I have ever had as a result of muscular cramps in both legs and feet. By now, some 30 minutes later from the first noticeable abnormal feelings, our neighbors, she a registered nurse and he with First Aid and CPR training, were assisting my wife and daughter in the decision process of what to do for my benefit.

It is indeed most interesting that even though I have on many occasions received singular or multiple honey bee stings without any resulting problem, there was never a question, with either my wife or me that I was having a reaction to an insect sting rather than some other physical problem, the symptoms of which would have been similar or identical to those being experienced. Members of the medical profession who later attended me did confirm, in fact, my problems started from the single honey bee sting.

With the continuing breathing difficulty, violent shaking of my entire body, including teeth chattering so rapidly I could hardly speak, and the muscular cramps still at an unbearable pain level, I quite suddenly realized I needed professional medical help--fast! What I did not know, and for whatever reason, my four adult attendants could not make me understand for some time, was the fact my doctor had been notified of my condition by telephone and an emergency rescue vehicle to take me to the hospital had been summoned. The arrival of the rescue vehicle seemed an eternity and in fact was prolonged because the one based nearby was in use and a substitute vehicle based at a further distance from my home was dispatched.

Following the arrival of the rescue vehicle and a check of my vital signs by the trained attendants I was helped to the garage, placed on the waiting stretcher and rolled down the driveway to the awaiting vehicle. During the 30

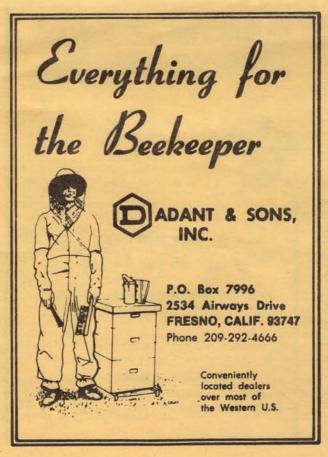


second stretcher ride from home to the emergency vehicle and for the first time in my life, I realized I was losing consciousness and absolutely knew death was imminent. I vividly recall my neighbor demanding I remain coherent and, of all things, not wanting my death to occur in a manner that would increase the number of the few annual insect sting fatalities. Oxygen administered by my attendants and turning my thoughts to the continuing leg pains circumvented my thoughts of dying. My emotional state did not improve by learning during the radio transmission of my vital signs from the emergency vehicle to the hospital, my blood pressure was at a fatal low level. My feelings further deteriorated on two additional occasions when the emergency vehicle motor stopped. I suppose I will forever continue to vividly recall the grinding sound produced by the motor during the re-starting process and the intermixed conversation among the attendants regarding the advisability of requesting an alternate vehicle. Except being apprehensive, our trip continued without incident following the second re-start of the motor.

My feeling upon entering the hospital emergency room was of astounding mental comfort. The several people who surrounded me, all dressed in green and wearing funny shower cap-looking head covers, emphatically radiated competence. With sharp scissors and quick movements, all of my clothing was removed with my anatomy completely exposed to allow needles, tubes and monitoring device sensors to be inserted or placed without restriction. Following a simple question to

determine if I was allergic to or currently taking any medication, there was virtually no conversation between or among my attendants except an occasional announcement of my blood pressure reading or pulse rate. The waste from my becoming nauseous was quickly analyzed and pronounced negative. Negative from blood, I learned later. Gradually, over a time span of what I believe to be approximately an hour, my abnormal physical changes subsided and my blood pressure was increasing. My leg cramps continued, however, with almost unbearable pain. For the first time I was verbally addressed by my doctor who stated I was being relocated to the Intensive Care Unit for overnight observation and that soon my blood pressure level would allow the introduction of medication to relieve my leg cramps, the latter accomplished a snort time thereafter. Undoubtedly, part of the ICU observation procedure is to not allow sleep. Most of the night the nurse kept me awake by asking questions about honey bees and beekeeping and I answered with long verbal dissertations on the wide spectrum of this subject. I would predict there is a nurse in the area who, after a full night's conversation on one subject, either is now interested in becoming a beekeeper or doesn't have any taste whatsoever for honey! By midnight, I had completely stablized and felt normal, yet I was not permitted to sleep.

The following morning during a pre-discharge consultation with my doctor, he confirmed I did have a near fatal reaction from the honey bee sting and recommended I stop my beekeeping hobby and retain on my person a prescription issued "Insect Sting Emergency Kit" for immediate use in the event of an insect sting. In addition,



he suggested I consult a cardiovascular specialist because of the extreme leg cramps were the result of a circulatory problem. I have stopped the active beekeeping portion of my interest in honey bees, carry the emergency kit and have had major surgery to eliminate the circulatory blockages found in my aorta and iliac arteries.

I am of the opinion my reaction from the single sting was the result of poor blood circulating prohibiting the injected venom from being dissipated by normal neutralization of my blood chemistry as had occurred with past stings. I also feel it would not be prudent to test my opinion for the simple reason it could be wrong and fatal. As an alternate, I am investigating a desensitizing program. In the meantime, I am enjoying working with another fascinating product of the hive—beeswax.

NEW ITEM ON THE MARKET

Insul-hive-- Echoing the claims of former manufacturers, another company has entered the bee box business with rot-proof, termite-proof, vermin-resistant plastic hives. In this case, the hive bodies are primed for painting (which is necessary) and plastic bottom boards and "migratory" covers are included with one deep hive box for \$39.95 each, with discounts for larger quantities.

Their advertisement that "propolis does not stick as well as with wood" is likely to be true, but we found that to be disadvantageous, since the top super would slide off the bottom one when it was tipped up to examine for swarm cells.

For more information on supers, migratory tops and bases, etc. please contact J. L. Cox Enterprises, P.O. Box 468, Rockdale, TX 76567.

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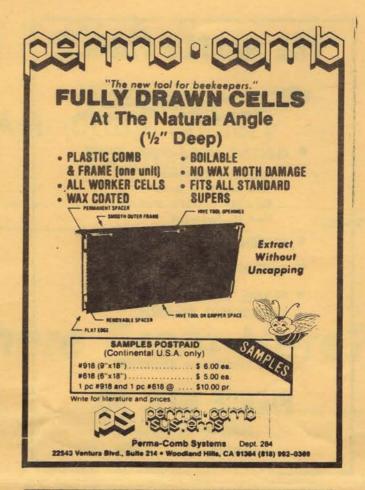
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