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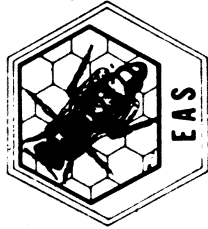
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EAS JOURNAL

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EASTERN APICULTURAL SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA, INC.

Vol. 7

No. 6

December

**CHRISTMAS GREETINGS to All and a
Wish for Better Things to Beekeepers in the
New Year 1980.**



'Conclusion'

The icy breath of old Jack Frost is in the air — soon King Winter will sweep over the countryside, enveloping the land in his snowy white blanket. We leave our friends, the honey bees, safely sheltered within their cities. ... Then, when the first flowers open their welcoming petals, the bees will awake and come forth to answer the invitation to enjoy the sweets of nature and to labor again for the good of their homes and the continuation of their race through their glorious queen who is the mother of them all. As they move quickly and busily from flower to flower or from comb to comb, their slogan may well be - "All for one, and one for all."

Ref. Philip C. Lance, "Queendom of the Honey Bees" 1938

EAS JOURNAL

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Editorial

We are now at the end of the year 1979. Perhaps we may look back and see if we have done well with our bees and what we should do in our future beekeeping.

Do you consider the weather and local environment as to how your bees live, produce, or expire?

Beware of manufactured boards for making bee equipment. It could well be poisonous to your bees from the boards ingredients.

Help restrict chemical poisons by getting "BEE ALERT" stickers from Iowa State Univ. They are free. Ask for them.

Read some new books recently published during these cold months.

P. J. Hewitt, Jr.
 Editor

EAS Journal:

Advertisements and material for publication should be received by the 15th of the month previous to publication; Feb., April, June, July, October, December.

AT LAST
A HANDBOOK ON
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 24 Pages of
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\$4.00 Postpaid



H.E. WERNER
 5 Hilton Road
 Wilmington, DE 19810

EAS Meeting August 10, 1979**Ottawa.**

Five hundred and twenty-four beekeepers, spouses and other friends gathered at Carleton University in Canada's capital for the 25th Annual Conference of the Eastern Apicultural Society. Included were beekeeping enthusiasts from Australia (4), France (1), England (2), and from as far away as Kenya (1). Participants from California (4), Florida (3), Georgia (2), Indiana (1), Kansas (1) braved the U.S. gas shortage to join those from the Society's member states and provinces. Many arrived by bus: there was one bus load from Rhode Island, one from Massachusetts and two from New Jersey.

The conference was accommodated by the weatherman, who arranged comfortably cool, sunny days for the indoor sessions and clouds and showers for the field day. Even the threatened strike of city bus drivers was postponed until the Monday following the conference, so the buses continued to stop regularly at the dormitories, allowing visitors to tour a truly beautiful city.

President Ross Hopkins opened the meeting and called on Father Ed Lunney, a farmer, to give the invocation. Her Worship Marion Dewar, Mayor of Ottawa, welcomed the Society members to her city, while Dr. H. G. Merriam welcomed them to the university. Mary Hopkins, President of the Eastern Ontario Beekeepers' Association also extended greetings.

A panel discussion, **WOMEN IN BEEKEEPING**, chaired by Roberta Glatz, opened the program. Isobel Boisclair, Jean Termeer, Susan Hopkins and Mary Cary discussed the problems confronting women in the industry. A second panel, chaired by Dr. H. Shiminuki and composed of Jacob C. Matthienus, Jr., Homer P. Powers and Jean-Louis Villeneuve, started a lively discussion on the use of ethylene oxide fumigation chambers to control bee diseases. The topic proved so interesting that the discussion continued after dinner and well into the night. Backing this topic up, the Government of Quebec sent one of its two mobile fumigation chambers (the largest in the world) to the conference for inspection.

From Nova Scotia and Quebec Lorne Crosier and Francois Beauchesne spoke on beekeeping in their respective provinces. Dr. Eilton W. Herbert advised us on bee nutrition; Dr. Patrick McTaggart-Cowan on weather changes and how they affect beekeeping; and Dr. H. Victor Morley disclosed the various means now in use to control insect pests, and the possible avenues that may be pursued by the year 2000 A.D. John Root described the anatomy of the honeybee; Phil Rossman, the production of bees and packages; Mark Hopkins, the transportation of package bees; and Roberta Glatz gave us management tips for the bee yard.

On the side lines, Jackie Vaillancourt, in charge of the ladies' program, arranged for 100 women to tour Rideau Hall, the residence of the Governor-General of Canada, while others watched the changing of the guard on Parliament Hill. Jackie also organized a fascinating and unusual fashion show - having women of the diplomatic corps model the costumes typical of their countries, and explain dresses and customs to the audience. Young people visited Ottawa's old jail (nor a summertime hostel) and the Museum of Science and Technology.

Mrs. Helen Michaelchuk demonstrated the decoration of Ukrainian Easter eggs; Mrs. Sue MacMillan showed ways to arrange Canadian flowers; and Dr. Robert Berthold continued his course on candle-making.

Six buses went to Termeer's Apiaries at Finch, where beekeepers toured the honey plant; watched Jack Matthienus put on a bee beard; saw Johan Van der Kerkhof demonstrate a new ventilated bee hive and learned how to clip and mark queens.

At the banquet the chef at Carleton presented a straw skep birthday cake commemorating the 25th Annual Conference to the President. Following this, Richard Corrigan distributed the competition trophies and awards. Dr. Shiminuki gave the J. I. Hambleton Award to Dr. S. Cam Jay of the University of Manitoba. Then Arthur Holmes handed the Society's first Apiculture Student Award to Dr. Mark Winston of the University of Kansas, remarking that it was "\$100 for 10,000 hours of work." Next he gave a Life Membership to President Hopkins, organizer of the conference, commenting that it was "\$100 for 50,000 hours of work." Phil Hewitt, Historian, summarized the history of the Society. Finally, President-elect John Tardie, speaking in both French and English, invited everyone to the 1980 Conference in Burlington, Vermont.

R.J. Grant Ottawa, Canada

25th Annual Business Meeting Continued from page 4

Mr. Powers spoke in behalf of his candidate. Many comments were made by the members. J.D. Ditson asked for the microphone and stated that according to parliamentary procedure, the officer conducting the business meeting does not involve himself directly in discussions, but conducts the meeting only. It was moved by Robert Shaffer, duly seconded and carried that discussions for the office of the Secretary-Treasurer be closed.

It was moved by Carl Webb, duly seconded, that the election be held by ballot. After many dissenting comments, and arranging, the motion was withdrawn. Homer Powers then withdrew his candidate. A motion was made, duly seconded and carried that nominations for the office of Secretary and Treasurer. She was given a round of applause.

RESOLUTIONS - Chairman, Homer Powers was asked to read the resolutions. It was moved by Mrs. Ann Forrester, duly seconded, that an amendment in regard to the pesticide resolution be addressed to the Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, D.C. She read the amendment, but when it was put to the vote, the amendment was defeated.

All of the resolutions read by Homer Powers, Chairman of the Resolutions committee were duly seconded and adopted at this session of the 25th. annual meeting. A copy of them accompanies the minutes.

Towards the end of the meeting, a motion was made that the letter from John Iannuzzi which President Hopkins read, be stricken from the record. Because there no longer was a quorum present (5% of the membership), it was not voted upon.

There being no further business, the meeting was concluded at 12:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Rodrigues, Secretary

25th Annual Conference

Breakdown of attendance by states, provinces and foreign countries:
Totals

United States

Alabama, 2; Arkansas, 1; California, 4; Connecticut, 17; Delaware, 4; Florida, 3; Georgia, 2; Indiana, 1; Kansas, 1; Maine, 2; Maryland, 29; Massachusetts, 83; Michigan, 6; New Hampshire, 4; New Jersey, 69; New York, 57; Pennsylvania, 50; Ohio, 28; Rhode Island, 29; Vermont, 3; Virginia, 17; Washington, D.C., 1; West Virginia, 2.

U.S. Total...415

Canada

British Columbia, 2; Manitoba, 2; Nova Scotia, 1; Ontario, 69; Prince Edward Island, 1; Quebec, 27;

Candaian Total...102

Other Countries

Australia, 4; England, 2; Kenya, 1.

Foreign Total...7

GRAND TOTAL...524

Note: The grand total includes 37 children, but does not include 4 infants.

25th Annual Conference Winners of Trophies and Awards

Extracted Honey - John Romanik, Elliot City, MD; The A. I. Root Company Award for Beeswax - William Davis, Fairfax, Virginia; Gadgets: Dr. Walter C. Rothenbuhler, Worthington, Ohio; Cooking - Mrs. Molly Wilson, Danata, Ontario; Mead - the Carlton Slater Award - Mrs. Molly Wilson, Kanata, Ontario; Chunk Honey - Mr. Alfred Delicata, Newtonville, Mass.; Comb Honey - Mrs. Peggy Skameryze, Tyngsboro, Mass.; Ross Rounds Award for circular comb honey - Duane Waid, Interlaken, N.Y.; Sweepstakes Award - Honey Show - Mrs. Wm. Davis, Fairfax, VA; Sweepstakes Award - Cookins Show - Mrs. Wm. Davis, Fairfax, VA.

25th Annual Business Meeting Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, August 10, 1979

President, Ross Hopkins called the 25th. annual business meeting of the Eastern Apicultural Society to order at 11:20 a.m. He welcomed the members and announced the meeting will be conducted by Roberts Rules of Order. He appointed Paul Comer to be Parliamentarian.

MINUTES - The minutes of the August 11, 1978 annual business meeting were read with the exclusion of the Resolutions. It was moved by Arthur Holmes, duly seconded and carried that they be accepted.

TREASURER'S REPORT - Mrs. Liz Rodrigues, Treasurer gave the financial reports covering Jan. 1 through August 8th. and a total of EAS's Assets. Copies will be attached to these minutes. It was moved by Charles Mason, duly seconded and carried that these reports be accepted.

HISTORIAN'S REPORT - P.J. Hewitt, Jr.

SITES - Dale Bray, Chairman had no report at this time.

LIFE MEMBERS - Arthur Holmes, Chairman reported there has been only 1 additional Life member added for a total of 40. Life membership dues are \$100. and can be paid in four equal payments. A motion was made, duly seconded and approved that we accept the report.

BY-LAWS - Hugh Macleod, Chariman said there was no report at this time.

APIMONDIA - K.G.A. Anderson, Chairman of an Ad Hoc committee to study Apimondia changes since January 1, 1979, reported EAS was committed to pay its 1978 share of dues (\$360.), because EAS was assessed them before they voted to withdraw membership in Aug. 1978. The Committee recommends now, that EAS pay their 1979 share of dues (\$360.), and to continue its membership in Apimondia. Also that they send Arthur Strang of Maryland to be an "observer" representative, non-voting. Mr. Anderson put this in the form of a motion, which was duly seconded and carried. One negative vote was cast.

LETTER OF COMPLAINT - President Hopkins read a letter he received from John Iannuzzi, Ellicott City, Maryland who complained he did not receive items he said he requested from the Secretary's office. The subject of the lengthy letter was the performance of the EAS Secretary. President Hopkins appointed a special committee of Hugh Macleod, Chairman, Homer Powers and Earl Cochran to study the office of the Secretary-Treasurer.

Mr. Macleod reported he and Homer Powers were working as a Committee of two on this, and the committee has looked into this directive from the President—as a presidential inquiry. He said more time was needed to examine this request. It was their request that the Committee be granted more time to make a study of this in depth. President Hopkins said this is an on-going committee and will continue on as such.

Mrs. Ann Forrester requested the Secretary be permitted to speak. Liz Rodrigues stated that because she has been completely unaware of what has transpired, she did not wish to make any comments.

Al Delicata of Mass. offered a vote of confidence to the Secretary-Treasurer, because he had requested 40 pre-registration forms and other materials for the EAS Conference, and within a week, he had received everything he had asked for. A motion was made, duly seconded and passed that the report as given by Mr. Macleod be accepted.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE - Lester Shimp, Chairman presented the following report of the Slate of Officers: For President, John Tardie (VT), Vice President, Charles Mraz (VT), 2nd Vice President, Dr. Radcliffe B. Roberts, (NJ), Sec. & Treas., Mrs. Liz Rodrigues, (NJ), Historian, Philemon J. Hewitt, Jr. (CT), **DIRECTORS** - 4 year terms: Dee Ann Houston (VA), Peter Bizzoso (NY), Walt Wilson, (NJ) and William D. Gerdson, (CT). It was moved by Jack Matthenius, duly seconded and carried that Lester Shimps report be accepted.

Homer Powers nominated Frank Fulgham for the office of the Secretary-Treasurer. He made a motion to this effect, seconded by John Iannuzzi and the motion carried. It was then moved by Jack Matthenius, duly seconded and carried that nominations be closed. A vote was taken for all nominees for office with the exception of the office of the Secretary-Treasurer. They were duly elected into office.

Continued on page 5

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Board of Directors Continued from page 6

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Report for EAS, August, 1979

This is a short report about both the Editor and Historian. The EAS Journal has been published 5 times by this Editor. It was quite hectic in getting the first 2 issues to our members.

The first scramble was getting material together and then having the printer get the issue back to me to mail out to our membership list. With the help of our Secretary Mrs. Rodrigues the mailing list was straightened out by the third issue. At each mailing all names are checked in the list and new members get copies at the same time. By doing this everyone is sent a copy of the issue.

Material for publication has been sufficient to date although more is welcome any time. Membership is going up each issue and advertising is increasing. The issues at present are 12 pages or more depending on the copy sent to the printer. If copy is for printing it must be available on the 15th of the month previous to the date of issue. Copy sent early can be used and included when desired or requested. The July issue was 829 plus 13 sent by Mrs. Rodrigues making a total of 842 copies mailed.

HISTORIANS REPORT:

The material acquired from Mrs. Marie Morre's custody has been sorted out and much material has been saved and put in order. There are now 5 ring binders of EAS proceedings beginning with the invitation letter of the first Conference in 1955 at Maryland. There are papers of incorporation in Connecticut and again in Washington, D.C. Copies of several dated By-laws are among the papers of EAS. The Incorporation of the 21st Congress of Apimondia By-laws are in one of the binders. There is a Presidents list, a list of the original Charter members, and the \$100.00 members are up-date till new ones come in at this Conference. Most of the papers of EAS proceedings have been arranged in chronological order. All papers are in sheet protectors in the ring binders. Three items known to be missing are: Minutes of Business Meeting 1974, Minutes of April 3, 1976, and no typed copy of Historians report for 1977. This report was brief as printed in the EAS Journal.

There are two collections of letters and correspondence by Prorter Evans and Earl Sutwan about work they did to keep EAS running well. There are other miscellaneous papers and letters which are sorted according to the year date.

Editor and Historian

Annual Delegates Meeting Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, August 8, 1979

President Ross Hopkins called the meeting to order at 8:10 p.m. and welcomed the delegates to the 25th. Annual EAS Conference.

ROLL OF DELEGATES - Secretary, Liz Rodrigues called the roll: DAUPHIN CO. BEEKEEPERS ASSN. (PA), Milton Murray; EASTERN ONTARIO BEEKEEPERS ASSN., Mark Hopkins; EMPIRE STATE HONEY PRODUCERS (NY) Norman Sharp; ESSEX CO. BEEKEEPERS ASSN. (MA) Ann Forrester; HAGERSTOWN APIAN SOCIETY (MD) Ernest Miner, Jr.; HOWARD CO. BEEKEEPERS ASSN. (MD) John Iannuzzi; LONG ISLAND BEEKEEPERS CLUB (NY) Peter Bizzoso; MAINE STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSN. Matthew Scott; MARYLAND STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSN. Arthur Strang; MASSACHUSETTS STATE BEEKEEPING FEDERATION, Al Delicate; MIDDLESEX CO. BEEKEEPERS ASSN. (MA) Paul Comer; N.Y. BEEKEEPERS ASSN., Edward Littig; NORFOLK CO. BEEKEEPERS ASSN. (MA) John T. Heemskerk; OHIO STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOC. Victor Thompson; PENNA. STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSN. Dennis Keeney; RHODE ISLAND BEEKEEPERS ASSN. John P. Sullivan, RICHMOND BEEKEEPERS ASSN. (VA) Robert Falconer; VERMONT STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSN., John Tardie and VIRGINIA STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSN., Homer Powers. Not present, but paid were: CONNECTICUT BEEKEEPERS ASSN., MIDDLESEX CO. BEEKEEPERS ASSN. (CT), MONTGOMERY CO. BEEKEEPERS ASSN. (PA), NORTH CAROLINA STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSN., SOUTHERN TIER BEEKEEPERS ASSN. (NY), TIDEWATER APICULTURAL FOUNDATION, INC. (VA) and the WEST VIRGINIA STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSN. For the total of 20 present, 7 not present and 3 Associations did not renew their membership.

President Hopkins explained to the delegates what their duties were and that each member association in good standing that pays annual dues in the amount of \$25. will be entitled to send one official delegate and one councillor to each meeting held during the Conference. MINUTES - Secretary Liz Rodrigues read the minutes of the Delegates meeting of August 9, 1978. It was moved by Edward Littig, duly seconded and carried that the minutes be accepted as read. It was suggested that next year copies of the minutes be distributed to those who are attending for the first time.

REQUEST THAT EAS SPONSOR A PETITION - Al Delicata stated that in Massachusetts they have been successful in delaying spraying by airplane for mosquito control until further research is done. He then read a petition addressed to the Environmental Protection Agency and the Federal Aviation Administration, Washington, D. C.

It was moved by Al Delicata, duly seconded and carried that EAS sponsor this petition. A copy will be turned over to the Board of Directors, the resolutions committee, for consideration by the membership.

CLEANLINESS OF HONEY - Arthur Strang asked what can be done about the cleanliness in the preparation of honey and in the honey house. Pat Powers said hobby beekeepers are not required to have a food processing permit, but should not get any stringent exemptions that do not apply to commercial beekeepers. Health departments in each state govern this. **COLOR POSTERS FOR STINGING INSECTS** - George Starkey requested information as to where color posters, wall charts or slides are available for educational purposes, giving a breakdown on wasps, hornets, yellow jackets, etc. Beekeepers prefer colored ones so they can properly educate the public by distinguishing the difference among the stinging insects. It was suggested some are available through the University of Maryland, Ohio State University and the International Bee Research Association in England.

MICROENCAPSULATED PESTICIDES - John P. Sullivan wanted to know what if anything is being done about microencapsulated pesticides. He was advised that not many of them are used in the East, but there is an excellent speaker on the Program who will discuss pesticides.

APIMONDIA - John Iannuzzi stated that he doesn't know why the two largest countries in the world aren't members of Apimondia (United States and Canada). K. G. A. Anderson will present a report on this at the annual business meeting for possible reconsideration.

Continued on page 9

Annual Delegates Meeting Continued from page 8

BUMPER STICKERS - It was suggested that at the next EAS Conference perhaps bumper stickers can be used to help promote honey and honey bees.

CONSISTENT HONEY TROPHY WINNERS - John Iannuzzi stated that perhaps consistent winners in the honey show could be persuaded to drop out for a year or so to let others try to win. Jack Mattheus said that the name of the game is to beat the man at the top of the heap, and as long as a contestant can produce a superior product, he deserves to show it. It was moved by Edward Littig, duly seconded and carried that we leave the Honey Show rules and contest as it is.

BEEKEEPING ORDINANCES - Pat Powers reported on some of the situations he encounters during the past year in regard to beekeeping ordinances. He said he saw a hazard coming up of a new way of officials handling bee complaints by making them come within a zoning code. At this time, he could not develop a recommendation to EAS to take a particular kind of a stand in defense of beekeepers because: (1) you don't know what kind of an authority you are dealing with, (2) What ordinances are involved, and (3) Each case is going to have to be studied on an individual basis.

LEGISLATIVE - Pat Powers stated that the Legislative Committee is an office created by an appointment and we don't have clear-cut duties for that job. He said the way other organizations deal with it—it pertains to changes in the By-Laws and the duties of other offices.

He said EAS should probably devise a definition of, or at least outline, the duties for the Legislative Committee. And spell out whether the legislative committee has got some authority concerning itself with the By-Laws.

RECOGNITION OF FOUNDING FATHERS - Hugh Macleod said this evening we should recognize 3 of the four founding fathers of EAS. Art Dean, Philemon Hewitt, Charles Mraz and Carl Webb. They were given a round of applause.

EDUCATION - Ann Forrester said she knew nothing of EAS prior to the Conference and said she thinks EAS could do more to promote country-wide involvement of beekeepers in any issue by more publicity of itself.

Jack Mattheus advised her that (1) the delegates and directors from each State and Province should be selling EAS by publicizing EAS to others. We have a publicity chairman and a lot of promotional brochures were distributed this year.

There being no further business, the Delegates meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,
Liz Rodrigues, Secretary

Looking for Beekeepers

Mr. John Tardie
79 Centre Road
Essex Junction,
Vermont

Dear Mr. Tardie:

Peace Corps is looking for Bee Keepers.
Prospective applicants may call or write
Margaret Chamberlin
Area Representative
26 Federal Plaza
New York, N.Y. 10007

212 264 7123

September 20, 1979

Sincerely,
Margaret Chamberlin
Area Representative

Apiculture & Science Research

by D.M. Cain

EAS established a major new award in the Apiculture field at its 25th Annual Convention. The first recipient of the Apiculture Student Award, Mark Winston, received a nice plaque and gave a talk about his research at the Ottawa convention. Mark is a recent Ph.D. from the University of Kansas where he worked on the Africanized bee project managed by his study advisor, Dr. Orley Taylor.

His Ph.D. studies on Africanized bees concentrated on next architecture, colony demography, swarming, absconding and queen rearing. He also has an interest in pollen manipulation by bees and evolution of bees. He has published several papers and has a number of papers on the Africanized bee in press and in preparation. He recently obtained a National Needs Fellowship from the National Science Foundation to continue Africanized bee studies in Central and South America. He hopes to continue his honey bee studies and teach apiculture in an academic position.

In his address at the Ottawa meetings, Mark gave an interesting and informative account of the Africanized honey bee and the results of his studies plus others connected with the Africanized bee project at the University of Kansas. Mark found he and others could work with small wild colonies and with individual bees. Swarms also were usually gentle. However, large colonies and apiaries with several colonies too close together can be a problem.

Africanized bees are slightly smaller and darker in color than European honey bees. The bees tend to run on comb a great deal, have a more "nervous" appearance at their entrance and in flight and are easily disturbed. When disturbed, they tend to pursue further than European bees and take longer to settle down. Africanized bees tend to swarm every couple of months and they average 2 afterswarms in addition to the prime swarm. They also readily abscond.

Of interest to U.S. beekeepers is the movement of the Africanized bee northward. Dr. Winston spent a total of 5 months last fall examining beekeeping in Mexico and Central America. He used his extensive knowledge of the Africanized honey bee and information from his trip to evaluate the potential impact the northern invasion of this bee might have on beekeeping in those regions and in the U.S. A more extensive review was recently published as a 2-part article in the American Bee Journal.

Mexico is one of the top 5 major producers of honey worldwide and with low per capita consumption, a major exporter of honey. In the central mountains, Miel Carlotta runs some 24,000 colonies in an efficient and impressive operation. They raise over 30,000 queens for their own use and for sale to others. They also produce and sell large amounts of royal jelly and pollen. In a long dry season (up to 8 months) they feed a 1:1 sugar-honey mixture to colonies and have extensive colony movement to secure surplus flows. There are other large bee businesses in this area too, as well as a large number of primitive fixed comb beekeepers.

The Yucatan peninsula is the most productive honey producing area of Mexico where yields of 175 to 200 pounds per colony are possible. On the Yucatan, the beekeeping expertise is less evident and colony holdings are smaller. Royal jelly is a major product for many beekeepers in this area.

Most of the remainder of Central America is less developed bee-wise and the governments have spent few funds to assist beekeepers. There is great potential, however, to increase both colony numbers and average yields. Within the last 5 years, bee centers in most countries have been started to teach beekeeping and assist beekeepers.

Dr. Winston sees no real barriers to stop the spread of the Africanized honey bee from Colombia (where it is now) into Central America and Mexico. He estimates 8 to 9 years for this spread, based on the bees' expansion in similar areas of Brazil and South America. If the bee does advance northward, 80 to 90 percent of the amateur beekeepers and 30 to 40% of the commercial beekeepers will give up beekeeping in his view as has happened in South America.

He identifies 3 major reasons for this abandonment of beekeeping. Lack of apiary sites is a major factor since the Africanized honey bee must be isolated from people and livestock. There are too few apiary sites now available to Central American beekeepers due to human vandalism and inadequate highways for access to the countryside.

Continued on page 11.

Letter to the Editor

Letter from Mr. S.E. McGregor to the Editor with permission to publish P.J.H.Jr.

My dear friend Hewitt:

I want to call your attention to a slight error that occurred in the April issue of an otherwise interesting issue of EAS Journal (7 (2): 10, 1979).

In paragraph 1 you state: "...honeybees do not collect alfalfa pollen. It is too large and lumpy to stick to the bee."

I have just returned from a consulting trip to the J. G. Boswell ranch at Corcoran, Calif, where they rent 50,000 colonies of honey bees for the sole purpose of pollinating 17,000 acres (roughly 27 square miles) of alfalfa! I believe it is the world's largest private farm usage of honey bees for this purpose.

About 70-75 colonies are placed in about 3 locations (in the field) for each 80 acres. A huge truck trailer (generally used later in the season for hauling cotton from the field to the cotton gin) is placed as a location marker for the bees at every other location, and fresh water is provided every other day to water barrels with landing floats on them between each two locations. Furthermore, for each acre of alfalfa this year they have planted an acre of two flower nearby as an alternate source of nectar and pollen for the bees to help maintain colony strength. We have usually considered safflower as a competitor but they feel that its ability to build up the colonies outweighs its tendency to lure the bees away from alfalfa. I saw bees with golden safflower pollen on their legs collecting alfalfa nectar.

Now, I ask you, would this company spend in excess of \$3/4 million if they weren't convinced that honey bees pollinate alfalfa?!

Actually, at times here in the warmer Southwest I have seen 25% of the bees in alfalfa collecting alfalfa pollen. At other times none could be found other than nectar collectors. At one time, just after a warm afternoon shower I saw near 50% of the bees collecting this pollen.

I am sure that you correctly interpreted what you saw in the alfalfa field - that is the bees were collecting the pollen from alfalfa, just as I saw them doing it, but under, for you, rather abnormal conditions. My good friend, Jamieson, probably assumed that bees do not collect alfalfa pollen (in the East and since alfalfa and sweet clover pollen are quite similar in appearance deduced that the pollen was sweet clover. You just couldn't believe your own eyes, as has happened to me a few times."

Sincerely
S.E. McGregor

Toxic Bee Hives

A beekeeper in New Zealand made some small hives, or nuc boxes, from a compressed fiberboard material called "Customwood." He dipped the 100 hives in hot paraffin and painted them on the outside. When he installed bees in them, he soon found an abnormal rate of supersedure (queen replacement by the bees) and an excessive mortality among the workers. The hives had a slight "chemical" smell.

The company that produced the fiberboard told the beekeeper that the product is bonded together with a urea/formaldehyde resin. Although most of the formaldehyde is consumed in a chemical reaction, an appreciable amount remains and is slowly released from the material. Apparently, this formaldehyde caused problems with the colonies, in spite of the wax dip. If painting the inside of the hives does not seal in the formaldehyde, the beekeeper can use his 100 nuc boxes for firewood.

Other types of bonded wood, such as particle board, may also cause the same problem. Such materials are generally recommended only for interior use and should not be used for making bee hives.

Science Research Continued from page 11

A second factor is the excessive swarming and absconding behavior of the Africanized honey bee. Management must be more intensive to keep colonies intact for storage of nectar. The beekeepers now do a poor job of managing swarming and with 5 to 7 swarms an average for the Africanized bee, the effects in yields will be disastrous.

Finally, a ready source of queens and queening management skills are needed to cope with the Africanized bee according to Dr. Winston. This is now lacking in the area except in Mexico. The beekeepers lack funds to buy and import queens from other areas.

Dr. Winston offers several suggestions for improving the pessimistic future he forecasts. A queen rearing center in Mexico and Central America is needed along with an improvement and increase in bee management instruction. There is a need now for such programs and waiting for the Africanized bee to appear is too late. There is some evidence of more funds for beekeeping programs and better communication to beekeepers. Mark encourages support from U.S. beekeepers.

MAKE YOUR OWN HIVE SCALE?

Good-quality hive scales are expensive, and such a purchase is difficult to justify when a person has only a few colonies of bees. There are less expensive scales that register changes in weight rather than the actual weight of the hive and the bees. One of these, available in Germany, may be worth copying if you would like to follow the changes in weight of one or more of your colonies. Making one may also challenge your ingenuity in finding the necessary parts.

As seen in the illustration, the scale consists of a flat plastic pouch that fits beneath the hive stand or bottom board and attaches to a vertical plastic tube filled with a colored liquid. A movable scale attached to the tube allows you to record the daily changes in the weight of the colony by noting the variations in the fluid level.

The German description of the scale does not mention what fluid is used in the scale, but the drawing suggests that it is water. Other fluids, such as antifreeze (ethylene glycol) or mineral oil, would be better because they would not evaporate from the top of the open tube. The tube opening should be protected from the rain.

The plastic pouch that bears the weight of the hive must be quite firm so that it will bend but not flatten as the weight increases. The internal diameter of the clear plastic tubing must relate to the flexibility of the pouch. The diameter should be narrow for a firm pouch, wider for a softer one. You can calibrate the scale by adding 1- to 5-pound weights to the hive.

This project, like many others in beekeeping, will not make you any money but could be a pleasant challenge.

POLLEN TRAPS: PROBLEMS AND YIELDS

If you are interested in buying or making a pollen trap, you should be aware of the differences in the designs available and of how each will affect the colony. The relative efficiency of the trap in removing pollen from the incoming foragers is important, but not nearly as much as its detrimental effects, if any, on the activities of the colony, especially in relation to your climate.

It is difficult to learn about the effects of the different pollen traps on colonies because research workers often fail to describe or illustrate the traps they use. In a special study of such effects, A. R. McLellan said the traps he used in Scotland were similar to those used earlier by John Free in England. Free reported only that he used a trap that removed about 10 percent of the pollen loads of returning foragers. He gave no other description.

Pollen traps differ in many ways, the: size of the entrance, number and type of the screens or holes that remove the pollen, protection from the rain, access to and size of the pollen drawer or tray, ease with which the trap and its screens can be attached and removed, amount of trash in the pollen, and yield of usable pollen.

Any trap used in hot areas should have a large entrance or other openings to provide ventilation. Even with such features, pollen traps often cause many workers to hang outside the trap in hot weather. High humidity accentuates the problem, as does the number and type of pollen-removing screens through which the bees must crawl in order to enter the hive. Single screens or single perforated metal sheets are better accepted by the bees than double ones, but remove fewer pollen pellets. One trap has two double screens to trap trash separately from the pollen. That trap must totally discourage any colony on which it is placed

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Pollen Traps Continued from page 12

It is difficult to protect the collected pollen in the trap from the rain. Not only does water get in through the entrance, but it also runs through cracks and onto the tray or into the drawer. A space between the tray or drawer and the rest of the trap helps prevent or slow down the movement of water into the pollen.

The trap should be easy to install and take off, with as few changes in the hive as possible. The screens should be removable without taking off the trap. If the design calls for sliding the screens out of the trap, forget it! A little propolis on them makes the screens immovable. I once had a student who was stung badly while trying to remove the "sliding" screens from an OAC pollen trap.

The yield from pollen traps is related to the strain of bees and the size and activity of the colony, as well as to the location, time of year, and the design of the trap. Ernie Fuhr, who traps pollen commercially in British Columbia, uses 2,600 OAC-style pollen traps. He installs them from early May to early June. The traps are removed after July 15. The average production per colony during the trapping period is 14 to 15 pounds of clean pollen. Fuhr's yield is less than that anticipated by Dr. Floyd Moeller, who figured that 6 colonies would produce 100 pounds of pollen in 3 weeks. A yield of 55 pounds of pollen per colony has been reported in Australia.

The effect of pollen-trapping on colonies may be as varied as the yields — no one seems to agree. Part of the disagreement, no doubt, relates to the different trap designs used and the various degrees of stress they place on the colony. Pollen traps may decrease honey production, increase the swarming impulse, reduce flight, and increase winter losses. In Scotland, 30 percent of colonies used with traps died over the winter, compared with 13 percent for similar colonies without traps. Winter losses among colonies used for pollen-trapping at the University of Illinois also seem higher than normal, but we have no comparative data.

We need improved designs for pollen traps that will give good yields while putting as little stress as possible on the colony. Also, comparisons of various types of traps in the same apiaries in different climates would be of great value to the beekeeping industry.

Apiculture and Science Research

Dewey M. Caron

FOR: EAS JOURNAL

The 7th Recipient of the J. I. Hambleton Memorial Award was Dr. S. Cameron Jay, Professor of Entomology of the University of Manitoba. The Hambleton Award conceived and first presented by EAS in 1973 (to Rolf Boch) consists of a plaque and up to \$400 toward expenses to attend the EAS meeting. It is presented to recognize and encourage outstanding research in Apiculture.

Dr. Jay joined the University of Manitoba staff in 1961 after completing his Ph.D. under Dr. Colin Butler in England. He has supervised the research of over 15 students and shared his information on numerous occasions with beekeeper and entomological groups. He spent 7 months in Jamaica studying coconut pollination and over a year in Kenya with the Canadian International Honey Bee Development program.

Dr. Jay has over 50 publications. He has studied crop pollination using both honey bees and leafcutter bees. With honey bees he has conducted extensive studies of overwintering of bee colonies and drifting of bees from colony to colony. As a result of his studies, management schemes and apiary colony patterns are available to help commercial and hobby beekeepers increase colony productivity.

Dr. Jay has also worked on growth and productivity of package bee colonies. Such studies have greatly expanded our knowledge on formative colony development. Dr. Jay has also examined the factors that affect ovary development in worker bees. His studies have demonstrated the importance of worker brood on worker ovary development and the role a volatile substance or substances play in ovary development.

For his EAS presentation Dr. Jay adapted a talk he gives to students in his beekeeping short course (he teaches 5 short courses as well as 4 University courses each year). The talk was extremely easy to listen to and highly informative. Dr. Jay stressed management of colonies to produce peak populations coincident with nectar flows. He also suggested that apiaries be managed as units, rather than individual colonies.

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