

Locusts Soon To Appear

BY DR. DAVID L. WRAY

Within a few weeks, or from May 15 to June 10th, the morning air of North Carolina will be pierced by the shrill sound of millions of locusts announcing their freedom from underground imprisonment. Their release can be predicted with as much certainty as can the next eclipse of the moon. It was in May and June 1949 that the newly hatched grubs of their parents wormed their way into the soil in heavily wooded areas to live for the next 17 years feeding upon the roots of trees and shrubs in that area, never to move from the wooded area where they were placed by their parents. These inmates of the soil have long been given a number as well as a race, being dubbed Brood VI of the 17-year periodical Cicada or Locust.

There is no other insect in North America that causes the curiosity or wonder as does the 17-year Cicada, which makes its sensational appearance in late May and early June every 13 to 17 years, depending upon the brood to which it belongs.

On the designated morning in late May, as if by preconcerted signal, the young crawl forth from their dime-sized tunnels in the ground, and thence, to nearby trees where they begin to hastily transform into adults. Time is precious to them and within hours, the freshly hatched adults fill the morning air with their piercing sounds ringing like a thousand buzz-saws running. This continues each day for about 3 weeks during which time the adults mate, and then after their eggs are laid in nearby young tender twigs of trees and shrubs for the next generation, they die. Life is short for the adults, their show is over, they move from the stage.

The periodical Cicada is named "Magiclike" because of its "magical-like" appearance, which caused much astonishment to people in olden times. Early colonists familiar with the Biblical locust plague of Egypt believed they had come to America. Indians thought Cicadas were evil spirits coming to do harm. There is a false belief that the "W" on the fore wing foretells the coming of war!

Brood VI has been known to exist since 1779 and is recognized since then as a separate brood.

Reports, with specimens if possible, of the occurrence of the 17-year locust from any part of the State will be appreciated for our insect survey records. These should be sent to the Division of Entomology, N. C. Department of Agriculture, Raleigh, N. C.

190,777 Needy Persons Receive Food Supplies

Atlanta, Ga.—The U. S. Department of Agriculture reports that 190,777 needy persons in North Carolina received USDA-donated food commodities during February.

This was 12,052 persons more than the number of recipients during January, but 5,336 less than February, 1965.

The commodity distribution program in North Carolina is administered by the North Carolina Department of Agriculture in cooperation with USDA's Consumer and Marketing Service. The foods were distributed to needy families in 68 counties.

Two counties—Hartford and Henderson—inaugurated the direct distribution program during February.

Included among the 68 counties is Watauga.

The USDA foods distributed to the North Carolina families during February included corn meal, flour, rice, grits, dry milk, canned beef in natural juices or chopped meat, peanut butter, lard or shortening, split peas, margarine, radishes, rolled wheat, dried beans and butter.

Living Costs Up
The government reports that February had the steepest rise in living costs since the Korean War. Topping the list was the soaring food prices with meat, especially pork, showing the greatest increase.

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GERBER'S JUNIOR BABY
Food - 2 JARS FOR **31c**

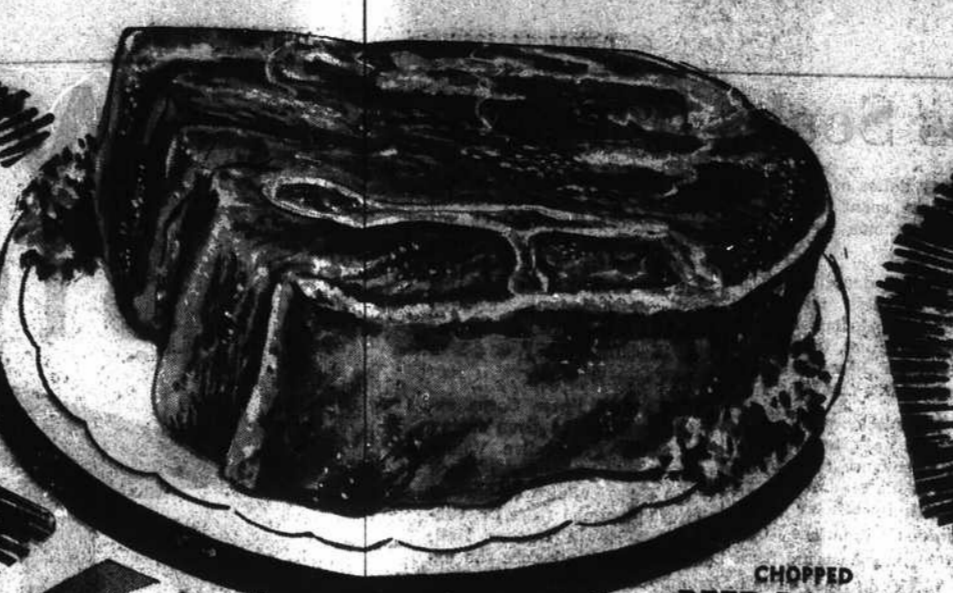
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CAKE MIX EA. PKG. **10c**

Potatoes - 2 #2 1/4 CANS **49c**

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Dinners - 11-OZ. DINNER **41c**

BANQUET CREAM
Pies - 3 14-OZ. PIES **99c**

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Peas - 2 #903 CANS **31c**

SUPERFINE
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DRINK
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Molasses - 12-OZ. JAR **31c** 24-OZ. JAR **59c**

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Beef Stew - 25-OZ. CAN **57c**

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MAXWELL HOUSE
COFFEE
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58c

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Washington Comments

Washington, D. C.—The tide in foreign affairs is now running in favor of the United States and this directly affects the political fortunes of President Lyndon Johnson. In Africa and Indonesia, Communists have suffered major setbacks. The war in Vietnam is less critical, militarily, than six months ago.

The pressure on the Administration in the foreign policy field, which reached a Vietnam climax during the television debate in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, seems to be easing as a result. There may be reversals in the future, but the President seems to have more than survived the latest rounds.

There are major problems ahead, involving France, Red China and other countries, and the President has not indicated how he holds, if any, for improving relations with such countries. He is faced with the temptation to change the traditional U. S. posture on the question of Red China's admission to the United Nations.

The change proposed is that instead of fighting against Red China's admission, the United States should fight for retention of Nationalist China in the world body. This would accomplish the same end, advocates say, because Red China will not enter the body as long as the Taiwan regime remains. But it would make the U. S. position more appealing to other nations, it is said.

The President is also faced with proposals that he meet with President Charles De Gaulle of France in the foreseeable future—not to resolve all differences but to begin a dialogue. He is being urged by some to encourage a European integration without the United States, which would be an equal partner with this country—a proposal which might be acceptable to the French President, in some form or another.

It seems little concrete can be done on either question before the congressional elections, though some gesture in these directions might be made by Washington. In the meantime, Administration strategists feel the tide in foreign affairs has turned in a favorable direction in the last few months and that the President's foreign policy record will not be as vulnerable as it might have been in this year's election campaign.

The decision of top G. O. P. leaders in Congress to oppose the President on any proposal for a major tax increase, unless a major cutback in domestic spending is first ordered, means the G. O. P. will seek to make political hay of any new Democratic tax increase this November. At the time of the Republican announcement, the President had not fully decided on a tax increase and the fact that such a move would mean giving the Republicans a political opportunity had to be considered.

It is unlikely the President will bow to demands for more domestic cuts, which he feels he has already made to a considerable degree, and thus the stage is set for higher taxes as a political issue this fall, if an increase is enacted by Congress.

Attend Debating Tourney In Miami

Michael Lips, Ken Landford and Debate Coach Charles A. Parker of Appalachian State Teachers College participated in the annual Forensic Tournament and Student Congress of the Southern Speech Association, held in Miami Fla., April 3-8.

A highlight of the convention was the naming of the "Southern Speech Teacher of the Year". The speech association of each state submitted the name of the most outstanding young teacher in its membership as a candidate for the honor.

Dr. Carroll B. Ellis of David Lipscomb College presented the award at the third general session of the convention on April 8.

New Machine Gun
The Marine Corps is testing, in Vietnam, a machine gun light enough to be fired from any position and can be fitted with a bracket for hand-to-hand fighting. The gun is a member of the M16 family.