

# COUNTY AGENTS' COLUMN

Every orchard should examine his apple trees for signs of mouse injury. Girdled areas of the base of the trunk of the trees with the bark peeled from the large roots indicate the ravages of this pest. Shallow tunnels and small holes in the ground area surrounding the tree is also a good sign that field mice have been present some time or other in the orchard.

In late fall or early winter the field mice migrate from the open fields and forest areas to nearby orchards where food supply is more abundant. They are more commonly found in orchards where clean cultivation is not practiced or where grass and weeds are left to grow near the trees. Poisoned wheat has been used in

previous years by a number of Western North Carolina orchardists with marked success. The poisoned wheat is placed in bait stations which can be made by bending a 7x10 inch piece of galvanized tin over and nailed to a 2x6 inch block of wood. One and one-half inch tile drains may be used. Old tin cans having the lid still attached which is bent in then outward in order to drain off the rain and open it enough for the mouse to enter have been used by some growers. The bait stations are placed close to the tree. Place stations in such a manner that a tree not having a poison station near it is surrounded by trees on each side having one.

Put a teaspoonful of the poison

## Air Challenge Issued As Warplane Flies At 354 MPH

A six-mile-a-minute warplane is the Army's immediate answer to European rivalry for speed supremacy in the air.

A 360-mile flight in 61 minutes from Dayton, Ohio, to Buffalo, N. Y., Oct. 27, by Lieut. Benjamin S. Kelsey lifted the wraps from a pursuit ship

wheat in each station. This should be done in the fall or early winter and repeated in mid-winter and again in early spring. Stations should be examined occasionally and refilled as required. Place poisoned bait also in mouse tunnel or mole runways through the natural openings or three openings made with a stick.

Sweet potato bait may be used by cutting the potatoes into one-half inch cubes over which is sifted by means of a pepper box a mixture consisting of one-eighth ounce of powdered strychnine and one-half ounce of baking soda. Freshly cut pieces of sweet potatoes should be used and placed in the mice tunnels.

How to Prepare Poisoned Wheat

A. Mix one tablespoonful gloss starch in one-half cup cold water.

B. Stir A into three-fourths pint of boiling water.

C. Mix one ounce of strychnine and one tablespoonful of baking soda (stir until all lumps disappear.)

D. Stir C into starch paste B.

E. Stir into mixture D one-fourth pint of Karo corn syrup and one tablespoonful of glycerine. You have not completed the mixing of the ingredients. Apply this mixture to 12 quarts of wheat until each grain is thoroughly coated. This mixing can be done on a cement floor or on a wagon or truck bed.

Twelve quarts of wheat will protect 300 trees. Use good wheat free from chaff as it is more attractive to field mice.

about which the Air Corps previously had little to say.

The plane, the Curtiss P-37, already has passed the experimental stage. An initial squadron of 13 soon will be delivered, officials said.

Without halting to gloat over the P-37, the Army intends to announce in a few days another and presumably even faster plane. Designated the P-40, it is an experimental job, and most details will not be disclosed for the present.

Both Germany and Great Britain have combat planes for which they have boasted even greater speed than that attained by the P-37. But the Air Corps has a ready answer.

Lieutenant Kelsey's flight and earlier trials, which were kept secret, were made with full military equipment. Germany claimed some 380 miles an hour for its Messerschmitt, but reports here are that it was stripped for racing. Although Britain's Spitfire exceeded 400 miles an hour, it was aided by a 75-mile tailwind, American officials contended.

Officials took particular satisfaction in the performance of the American plane because high-powered bombers, both here and abroad, have been threatening to outspeed pursuit ships, whose primary function is to intercept bombers.

The Navy's new \$1,000,000 experimental bomber has completed a 14-hour, non-stop flight from San Diego, Calif., to the naval air station here. Carrying a crew of 15, the huge craft is said to be capable of flying 4,000 miles without refueling.

The Army's new pursuit plane is an all-metal, low wing monoplane, with single engine and single seat. It is similar to the Curtiss P-36 pursuit, 210 of which are being delivered to the Army. Officials credit the new plane with a high rate of climb and great maneuverability.

The Army also has ordered a squadron of fighting planes of another type, the Bell "Airacuda," which has two motors, propellers in the rear, six guns, including two aircraft cannon and a crew of five.

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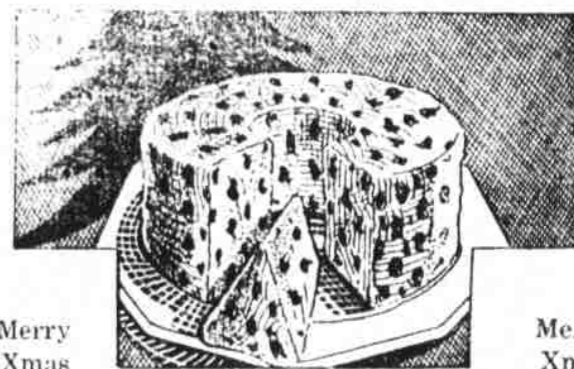
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Merry Xmas

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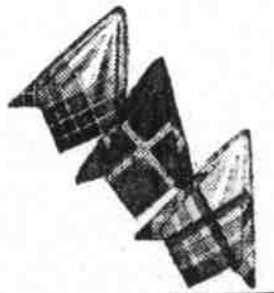
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