

His duties will include, among others, the collection and dissemination of information pertaining to the use of herbicides for all purposes. Consideration will be given to control of weeds in grains, cotton, fruits, and other crops, as well as weed and brush control in pastures, utility rights-of-way, and industrial sites.

Lea S. Hitchner, NAC executive secretary, states that the program provides for an economic study of the importance of herbicides to growers and the dissemination of that information directly to county agents and other agricultural specialists.

### American Can Opens Multi Million Dollar Plant

American Can Co. has opened a new container manufacturing plant at Lemoyne, Pa. The company's 58th container manufacturing plant, it will have a rated capacity of 4 million cans per year and eventually employ about 4000 people. The plant is intended to serve canners in the Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia areas.

### Government

#### Malathion Approved for Use in Dairy Barns

The U. S. Department of Agriculture and the Food and Drug Administration have approved malathion as safe for use in dairy barns. Previously the USDA had approved the use of this organic phosphate as a fly control insecticide in cattle barns housing livestock other than dairy cattle.

#### On The Cover

#### The Search for Basic Knowledge Guides Progress

The research scientist, unseen by the farmer, is a fundamental part of the foundation of modern agriculture. The fight against pests, which is getting increasing attention, is limited by our knowledge of pests and the agents we use to combat them. To strengthen our fight we must probe deeper. The ideas become more complex, and cooperation of scientists in various fields becomes increasingly necessary.

Pictured on the cover is P. J. Linder, Bureau of Plant Industry, USDA, at work in studies of the action of herbicides on plants, with the use of radioactive materials. The knowledge gained is of use to the plant physiologist, the herbicide specialist, the processor of agricultural products, and many others who cooperate in producing food.

Various state experiment stations and the USDA have recommended malathion as a residual surface active insecticide. One recommendation calls for 10 pounds of malathion in a 10% sugar solution to be applied to the walls of dairy barns.

The Interdepartmental Committee on Pest Control has approved the name malathion as a coined name for the *o,o'*-dimethyldithiophosphate of diethyl mercaptosuccinate.

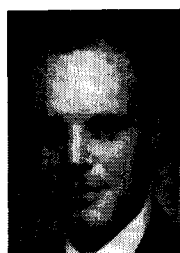
### People

#### NFA Announces Staff Changes

**Delbert F. Rucker** has been appointed director of information for the National Fertilizer Association, replacing William E. Chace, who resigned from NFA to become Washington representative for Group Attitudes Corp. Mr. Rucker, who has been in information, public



D. F. Rucker



J. F. Gale

relations, and administrative work with USDA for the past 12 years, will edit NFA's biweekly publication, *Fertilizer News*, and handle press and radio contacts. **John F. Gale**, NFA staff writer and economist, has been named editor of NFA's official publication, *National Fertilizer Review*. He will also edit and assist in preparing NFA's educational pamphlets, brochures, motion picture scripts, and the like.

**George F. Leonard**, retired executive vice president of Tobacco By-Products & Chemical Co., was honored with an honorary life membership in the National Agricultural Chemicals Association at the recent 20th anniversary meeting. He received the first individual membership of its type in the group. Mr. Leonard served as president of the association from 1946 to 1949 and as a director from 1934 to 1953.



**Louie E. Doxsie** has been appointed materials and methods superintendent for A. E. Staley Mfg. Co. Replacing Doxsie as production superintendent is **James G. Dustin**, former senior chemical engineer. **Oliver R. Etheridge**, methods superintendent since 1944, has been

appointed to the newly created position of technical consultant.

**William J. Haude** has been made vice president in charge of marketing for Grace Chemical Co. He has been president of Pittsburgh Agricultural Chemical Co. since 1948, having been vice president in charge of sales for John Powell & Co. before that. His headquarters will be in New York.

**Trevor A. Steele** has been appointed agronomist with the sales staff of American Potash & Chemical, with responsibility for technical sales requirements of potash, agricultural borax, and related products in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, and British Columbia. He has been an agronomist for the Civil Aeronautics Authority.

**Francis P. LaBelle** and **Clyde B. Orr** have been appointed assistant chief engineer and chief chemical engineer, respectively, of the phosphate division of Monsanto Chemical. LaBelle has been chief chemical engineer for the division in Anniston and Orr has been serving as assistant manager of the process section of the general engineering department.

#### Letters to the Editor

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be an incentive to continued over-production does not appear warranted. There is the possibility that some distillers would welcome the proposed 2-year program involving \$200 million of government funds. Good management and vision, however, suggest that it would be best to build up markets on the basis of sound domestic economics.

3. Grain alcohol derived from 50-cent corn cannot compete with methanol, ethanol, or propanol from petroleum refineries as a gasoline additive. Furthermore, distillers are not equipped to take care of denaturing, mixing, blending, and transporting problems involved in the production and distribution of motor fuels.

4. We would not be reluctant to take exception to the Administration's policy of making shipments of wheat and other foodstuffs to impoverished nations if we found fault with it. As a matter of fact we like it. So does the Congress of the United States. We believe, along with the advisors to the President, that the delivery of surplus wheat and foodstuffs to needy nations to build up international good will is a good investment. On the other hand, we do not believe that Rosten's proposals will lead to any permanently fruitful results.

P. H. GROGGINS  
Consulting Editor