Business Newsletter . . .

Across the Borders

Mexico and Canada are getting the nod from U. S. fertilizer materials producers. In northwestern Mexico, **Fabricated Metals** is building four aqua ammonia conversion plants for **Petroquimica de Mexico, S. A.,** of which **Commercial Solvents** owns a third. Plants (one in Sonora, three in Sinaola) will convert **300 tons of anhydrous a day.** . . .In Saskatchewan, **International Minerals** will soon sink a shaft for **potash mining.** Potash there is 3000 feet below the surface, and is said to be of higher grade than New Mexico deposits. Mine will produce at **over twice the rate of IM&C's mine.**

Thompson Chemicals Withdraws—Partially

Thompson Chemicals Corp. says it is dropping production and distribution of presently known **broad-spectrum agricultural insecticides.** Reasons given: development of insect resistance, pointed out as a danger in their wide-scale use; danger from ingestion of residues by humans; upsetting of the natural balance of animal life; and industrial hazards connected with their manufacture. Company says it will continue to make and sell weed killers, crop desiccants, plant hormones and growth regulators, livestock insecticides, and small package items. President William T. Thompson says the company's approach to research will be through study of **mechanisms that are selective** between insect pest and insect friend.

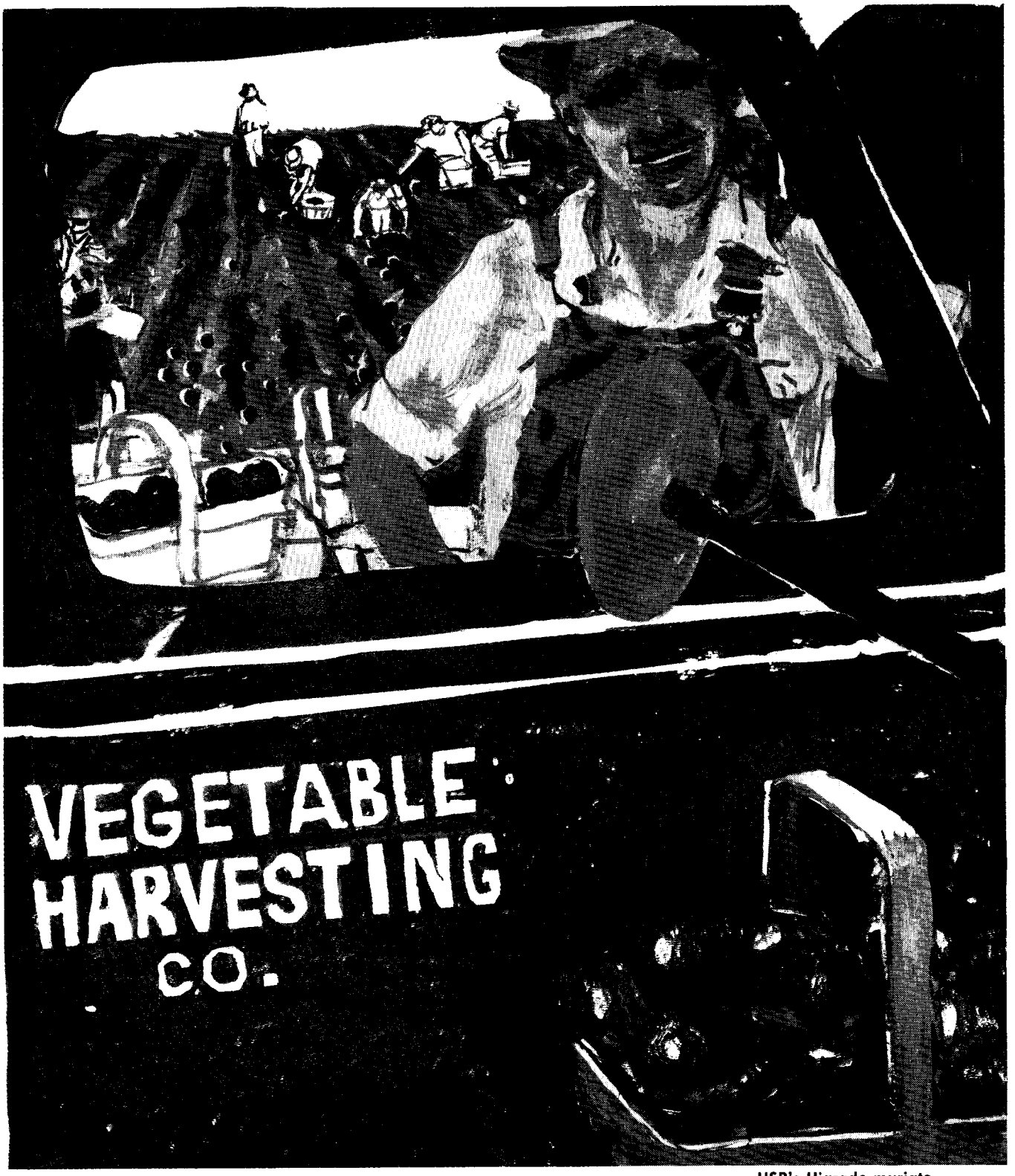
Parathion by Monsanto at Anniston

Monsanto is back in production of ethyl parathion at Nitro, W. Va., five weeks after explosion there killed eight people, knocked out ethyl parathion facilities, and destroyed methyl parathion unit. **Methyl parathion production** is to be moved to Anniston, Ala., plant, where building of the new unit has already started. At Anniston, methyl parathion production will be closer to markets and to chlorine and caustic raw materials. **Plant is to be fully instrumented for safety,** and each step in the process will be isolated as a precaution. Ethyl parathion also is to be made at Anniston.

Name Troubles

Two pesticides announced recently (see May AG AND FOOD, page 317) have run into the **nomenclature snag. Chipman** was all set with "Tetram" for its new miticide and scalicide but will now call it Chipman 6199. **Hercules** encountered similar problem with its new pesticide—now restored to its research name, Hercules 528, but for a brief period named Navadel. Both commercial names had to be dropped because of similarity to other trade names. System set up by American Standards Association (see page 407) can help prevent such headaches in selecting **common names for pesticides.**

- How the newer fertilizer materials such as DAP, nitric phosphates, and solutions go over will determine the competitive situation between wet process and furnace phosphoric acids. They could also shake up the sulfuric acid market a little (**page 399**)
- Some 400,000 tons of fertilizer may be needed in the federal highway program. Pesticide requirements could be large also (**page 401**)
- Forest pest control could represent a big new market; why so little research on forest pests by the agricultural chemicals industry? (**page 402**)
- Breakthrough in control of virus diseases of plants may happen anytime soon (**page 404**)



POTASH RAISES FARM INCOME. The successful American vegetable farmer. His job is no easy one. But it's a lot simpler and surer than it used to be because he knows the value of balanced fertilizers. It's the potash in these balanced fertilizers that keeps his crops healthy and his yields big—year after year, every year. He's no better than anyone else. His crops *are*.

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Research Newsletter . . .

Pilot Fertilizer Plants for Research and Demonstration

Spencer, Monsanto, and Escambia Chemical are getting **pilot fertilizer mixing plants** ready for research and demonstration. Spencer's was the first to open—on May 15. Located at the Jayhawk Works, near Pittsburg, Kans., it will show fertilizer mixers how to make higher analysis mixed goods with economical raw materials, improve physical properties and mechanical condition of mixed fertilizers, and **improve generally the economics of fertilizer manufacture.** Pilot plant is equipped with ammoniator-granulator, dryer, cooler, screens, crushers, metering devices, and temperature-recording equipment.

Gypsy Moth Program Hits "Safety" Snag

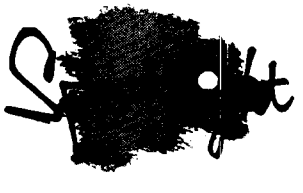
In U. S. District Court in Brooklyn, Long Island residents are **protesting gypsy moth eradication program** sponsored by USDA. Their objection: danger to humans, wildlife, and beneficial insects; they assert that no government agency has right to spread "poison" over private property without permission of owners. Early in May, the Public Health Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, and USDA, in an attempt to head off such objections, issued a four-page statement assuring the public that their operating plans and precautions made the project safe. Meanwhile, Assistant Secretary of Interior Ross L. Leffler has endorsed a bill (H.R. 783) directing the Department of Interior to make a comprehensive study of the **effects of pesticides on fish and wildlife.**

Biological Control Research

USDA is setting up, in Florida, a pilot-type field test of its **screw-worm fly control** method, which involves release of **radioactively sterilized male flies.** Method was completely successful on 174-square-mile island of Curacao in 1954. Area selected for research and training of personnel in the method is near Orlando.... Iowa State College scientists report success with a **corn-borer killing fungus,** applied by means of granular carriers. **Up to 98%** of first brood borers were killed, but second brood borers were more resistant.

New Jobs for Oxytetracycline

Oxytetracycline effectively reduces decay of vegetables dipped in it, and **extends the freshness of beef, lamb, and pork** from animals injected with it before slaughter, say Pfizer scientists. A salad mix dipped in the antibiotic solution was still in a marketable condition after 7 days of storage at 50 ° F. Steaks from animals injected with antibiotics before slaughter were judged to be **more tender and tasty** after three days at 60 ° to 65 ° F. than those from carcasses chilled immediately after slaughter.



- Small scale equipment designed to get data on optimum granulating conditions for fertilizers and quality of finished products (**page 426**)
- Minor change in vacuum crystallizer used for ammonium nitrate production makes it possible to produce DAP from ammonia and furnace acid (**page 433**); storage properties of DAP tested (**page 436**).
- Faster method for determining magnesium in mixed fertilizer (**page 442**)
- A colorimetric method for determining as little as 0.5 mg. of toxaphene (**page 446**)