

• Hobby Department

BY GOING continuously in a "westerly direction," Harvey Childs Bennett (1918) was able to fly from his home in California to the Far East and back in a world tour that took in 29 different plane rides, 26 different countries, 25,000 miles of air travel, 6,000 miles by land and water, and four months of 1960 (March-June).

This tour followed his retirement as technical director, Los Angeles Soap Company, and numbered 32 in the party, which naturally had more women (widows?) than men. It included the usual tourist sights in Japan, Hong Kong, Thailand, Ceylon, India, Egypt, Israel, etc., and in Europe. He took pictures all the way, being an ardent photographer, and in turn he was photographed too—in Hawaii with leis and ardent maidens, at the Taj Mahal in India, in Hong Kong in a sampan propelled by sturdy Chinese women, one with a baby on her back.

The picture which illustrates this sketch shows him in Ireland in what appears to be an attempt to kiss the famous Blarney stone.

Selected comments from his travel letters indicate the scientific, humane observation which is expected from an



oil chemist: "Little Tokyo on E. First street looks heavenly in comparison with the real Tokyo." . . . In Hong Kong, "instead of rinsing out the soap, the clothes are dried first because the soap is supposed to help whiten them in the sun. After that they are rinsed and dried. . . . In Saigon the women wore lighter clothing that was slit to waist with either pantaloons beneath or a full-length, light-weight skirt. . . ."

"One of the interesting features of this hotel (in Cambodia) is the presence in the lobby and dining rooms of small lizards, some as long as 10 in. They come out in the evening and eat insects that are attracted by the lights. . . . All the room work is done by house boys." . . . In Ceylon "we passed miles of rice paddies and saw the soil under water being plowed, using water buffaloes, and hoed by manpower."

In Madras, "it is said that about half of the people in this large city are unemployed. . . . Good Friday is observed in this Hindu country as a legal holiday. . . . The driver aims for a hole in traffic that you think he can never make, but he does because he is not driving straight at an on-coming automobile but at a slow-moving cart drawn by bullocks. . . . Beirut reminds me very much of southern California."

In Egypt, "we had been warned not to tip the camel drivers, who are expert at begging for tips. 'How you like camel ride? are you happy? well, then make me happy too.'" . . . In Jerusalem, "the old Bible story seems so simple, and all that I have seen yesterday and today so complicated. . . . Near Jericho are two huge refugee camps for displaced Arabs from Israel. . . . Outside of Jerusalem we saw the results of the re-forestation effort of the government. . . ."

"It has been interesting to note the customs, in different countries, for the conveyance of babies in public. In Japan and Hong Kong the babies were in slings across the mother's

back. In the former Indo-China areas, farther south, they were carried on one hip with mother's arm around them. In Cairo they were carried on one shoulder with baby hanging onto mother's head. [in Austria] We again see baby buggies, some in the Cadillac class."

In England he was told that "Prince Philip was given a vote of disapproval for playing polo on Sunday by the Presbyterian Assembly in Scotland."

One of Mr. Bennett's most uncommon experiences was a visit to the sarcophagus of the 24 Sacred Bulls at Sakkara in Egypt.

Mr. Bennett is well known to members of the American Oil Chemists' Society, having served on numerous committees and been on the Governing Board in 1950-51. In 1959 he was chairman of the meeting in Los Angeles in September.

• Fatty Acids

February production of fatty acids as classified under Categories No. 1 to No. 13 totalled 41.5 million pounds, down 1.1 million pounds from January and down 5.9 million pounds from February 1960, according to the Fatty Acid Producers' Council, New York. Production of saturated fatty acids was 18.3 million pounds compared with 18.4 million pounds in January and 20.7 million pounds in February last year. Unsaturated fatty acid production, including the tall oil types, was 23.2 million pounds versus 24.2 million pounds in January and 26.7 million pounds in February last year.

Disposition of all fatty acids amounted to 46.3 million pounds, up 0.9 million pounds from January, but down 0.9 million pounds from February 1960.

Finished goods inventories totalled 59.0 million pounds on February 28, down 1.9 million pounds from the January 31 figure (revised). Work-in-process stocks totalled 16.9 million pounds, down 3.4 million pounds from the end of January.

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BAILEY AWARD—Decatur B. Campbell Jr., president of the North Central Section, presents the medal to the 1961 winner, J.C. Cowan (right) of the Northern Regional Research Laboratory, Peoria, Ill.



CONGRATULATIONS—J.C. Cowan, winner of the Bailey award in 1961, receives good wishes from R.W. Bates (left), president of the American Oil Chemists' Society, and A.A. Rodeghier (center), chairman of the Bailey Award Committee.

Cowan Receives Bailey Medal

CULMAXING the 1960-61 season, the Bailey award was given to J.C. Cowan of the Northern Regional Research Laboratory, Peoria, Ill., for his work in helping to make an edible oil out of soybean oil, at the March 29, 1961, meeting of the North Central Section of the Builders' club, Chicago, Ill.

Decatur B. Campbell Jr., president of the Section, presided and introduced the out-of-town guests, R.L. Edwards of Distillation Products Industries, Rochester, N.Y., and Ira A. McDonald of the Atlas Powder Company, Wilmington, Del. He then called for a moment of silence in memory of the late R.S. Stovall Jr., district chemist, for Wesson Division, Hunt Foods and Industries Inc., Chicago, who was murdered recently.

A.A. Rodeghier, chairman of the nominating and election committee, which included R.W. Bates and W.C. Pritchett, announced the slate as follows: Mr. Campbell for president, A.V. Graci Jr. for vice president, Stanley C. Miksta for secretary, and Lawton Gentry as treasurer.

Mr. Bates was asked by the presiding officer to introduce Dr. Cowan, and his comments are summarized below.

Had the good Lord made soybean oil a bit more saturated or a bit less saturated, it would have been a clear-cut paint oil or a clear-cut stable edible oil. Had he made soybeans harder to grow and harvest, we would not have had the problem. However had it not been for the soybean, many of us would probably not have been oil chemists.

I am one who feels very strongly that the flavor stability of soybean oil still exists as a technical problem; however I

doubt if it is any longer an economic one. Most of our vegetable shortening and margarine today contains soybean oil as the major component. Our honored guest of the evening and his group at the Northern Regional Research Laboratory, beginning in 1946, made many major contributions to the production of an acceptable edible soya oil.

They studied flavor evaluation scientifically, and most or, at least, many of the oil flavor panels in use in industry today are patterned after their approach. They recognized that any soya oil will deteriorate in flavor but made intensive studies of the contributing factors and the means of inhibiting flavor deterioration.

I first met our guest in 1946 in Peoria. Warren Goss, then with NRRL, had just returned from a technical inspection trip to Germany. While there, he had found that the Germans were producing a superior oil, and one of the apparent reasons was the chelating of trace materials with citric acid. Extensive test work eventually demonstrated that the addition of citric acid did help to produce an oil of better initial flavor and better flavor stability. Citric acid is used widely in the industry today for this purpose. Other chelating agents were investigated, as were methods and conditions of refining and deodorization.

I am sure that many of us who associated with our guest and his group during the late 1940's profited greatly in observing their scientific approach to the problem. In all, 140 scientific papers have been published by our guest and co-workers. His fields of scientific interest have been primarily the flavor stability of soya oil and the polymerization of fatty materials.

The recipient of the A.E. Bailey award is a native of Illinois. He attended primary and secondary schools in Danville, Ill., and Denver, Colo. He was graduated from the University of Illinois in 1934 and received his doctorate from that institution in 1938. He taught chemistry at Illinois and De Pauw before joining NRRL in 1940. In 1948 he received the Superior Service award from the U.S. Department of Agriculture for research that led to the development of synthetic rubber from soybean oil.

Our guest is a member of the American Chemical Society, Soybean Research Council, and the National Soybean Processors Association. He has been a member of the American Oil Chemists' Society since 1941 and is currently chairman of the Education Committee. His hobbies are bird watching and square dance calling, which get him up early and keep him up late.

I am sure that if Ed Bailey were with us tonight, he would be most happy to see the 1961 award bearing his name given to John Cowan for his work on helping to make the soybean oil an economic success.

The Bailey Award was given for the first time in 1959, with V.C. Mehlenbacher of Swift and Company as the recipient. Last year the bronze medal was given to R.H. Potts of Armour and Company. The late Mr. Bailey was president of the Society in 1951, a contributor of numerous articles to the Journal, and the author of several books: "Melting and Solidification of Fats," "Cottonseed and Cottonseed Products," and "Industrial Oil and Fat Products." His widow and two young sons live in Memphis, Tenn.

The next meeting of the North Central Section will be May 24 at the Builders' club as the traditional Ladies' Night.



OFFICERS—Together at the March 29 meeting of the North Central Section of the American Oil Chemists' Society are these: (seated) Cecelia Gilmore, outgoing secretary; Decatur B. Campbell Jr., re-elected president; A.V. Graci Jr., re-elected vice president; (standing) Lawton Gentry (left) and Stanley C. Miksta.