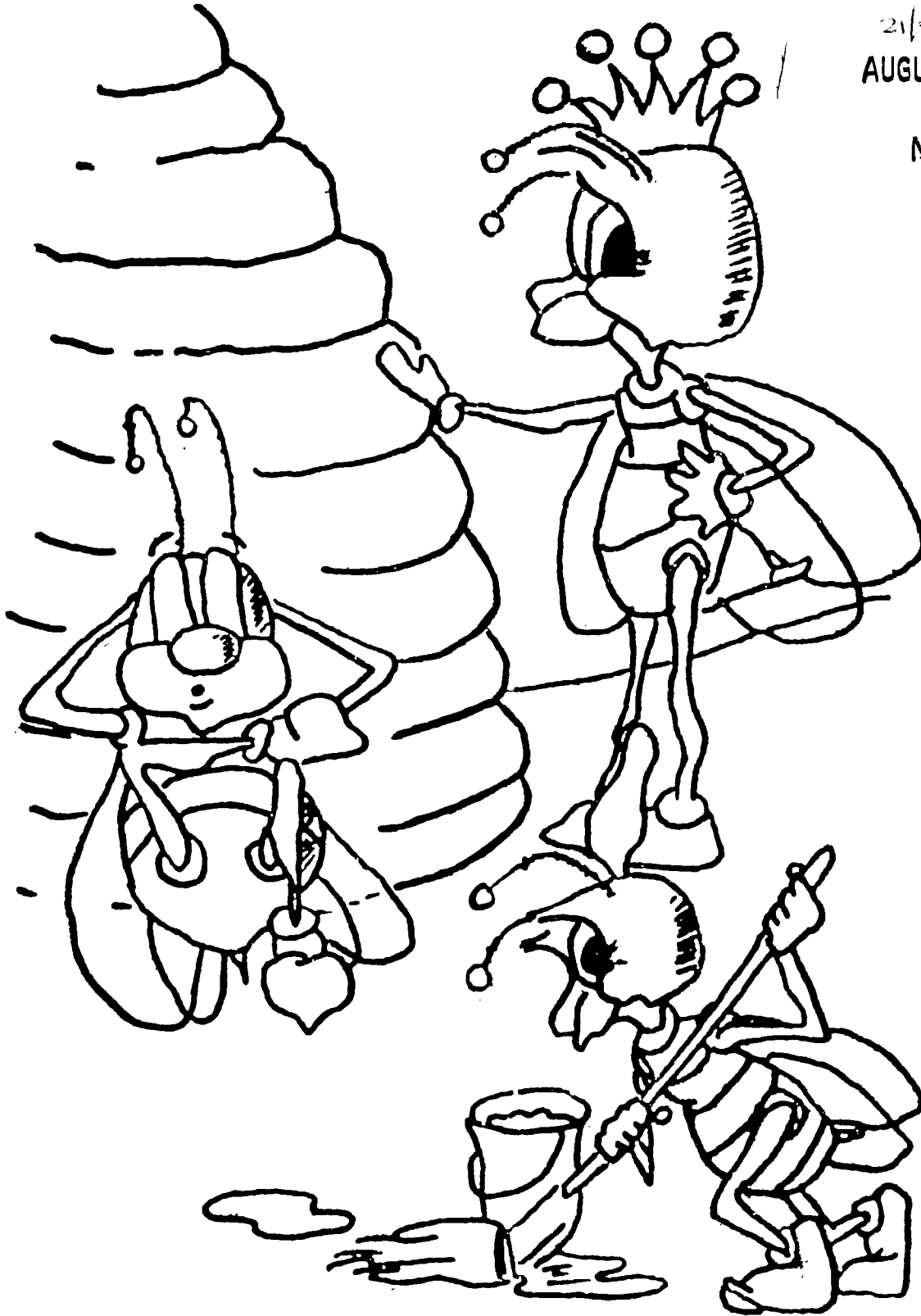


YOUR NEWSLETTER

21/2/84
AUGUST 1984

NO 32



Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries
Private Bag
Tauranga

Telephone: 82 069

T G Bryant
Apicultural Advisory Officer

Telephone: 65 962 Private

The new season is virtually upon beekeepers and thoughts/urges are turning towards field work and bees.

The condition hives have come through the winter will dictate the spring work and a management programme to see that hives are properly prepared, are in top condition to take advantage of honey flows and be ready for pollination.

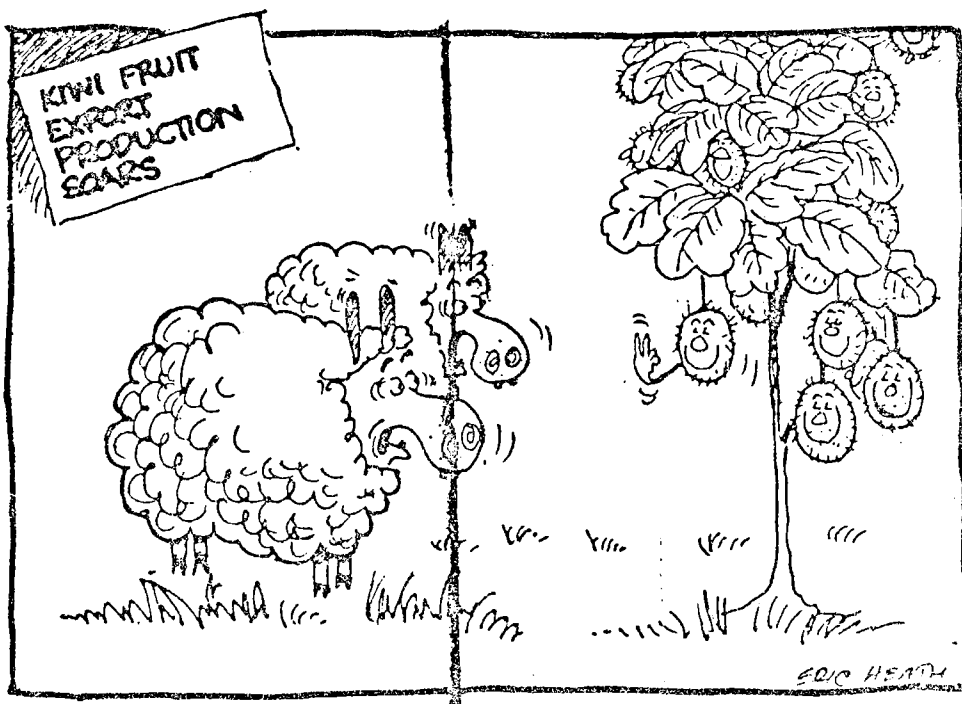
There are many beekeepers wanting to get involved in pollination and the astounding thing is these beekeepers expect to be able to drive over the hill and dump several hundred hives into orchards. They fail to comprehend that although there is considerable scope for expansion into pollination, orchards without bees are new blocks wanting just a few hives and that those already exporting have a beekeeper servicing the orchard.

To place say 500 - 1000 hives could mean servicing 50 - 100 orchards; these could be scattered from one end of the Bay to the other and when fully mature may need in excess of 2000 hives.

To save beekeepers/orchardists the hassle of canvassing or advertising for contracts more thought to assisting new chums into the business of pollination needs considering by all involved. While the two brokerage services being contemplated may help it does not overcome the problem of satisfying beekeepers who will not work through a middle man. I must say however that to adopt the latter attitude may inevitably cost the beekeeper a lot more than the fee asked - time will be wasted and in the end relations soured when clients are not serviced adequately.

Forward planning is a vital ingredient in providing a service to orchards and hives of a suitable standard. Last spring was difficult but should not be used as an excuse for placing an inferior product in the orchard.

We were lucky last year, maybe not so lucky this season, make provision for the unexpected, don't rely on 'maybe' or 'if' - neither will provide bees, honey or pollen.



STATEMENTS OF INSPECTION

The Annual Statement will be sent to you this year as a computer print out. Please note the information put into the computer is only as good as that provided, please correct all mistakes, full address of land owners, their name and initials etc.

If your registered number has only one digit it will look like D0001 and not D1. This is the way the computer prints the number and is not a mistake. D10 is D0010, D200 is D0200 and so on.

While on the subject of registered numbers, please ensure all apiaries have your registered number visible.

If supplying hives for pollination please send a complete list to this office prior to the bees going into the orchards.

**** **** **** ****

MITE SURVEY (*Melittiphis alveorius*)

Considerable numbers of mites have been found on attendant bees exported from New Zealand and as a result of concern expressed by authorities, more information is required about this mite.

The adult is brown or dark brown, almost circular in shape and about 0.7 mm in diameter. They can be seen running over top bars, or on the thorax of bees. We need to know:

1. Whether mites are present in your area.
2. Percentage of hives infested.
3. Parts of hives observed in.
4. Approximate number of mites per hive.
5. Do the number of mites fluctuate during the year, periodic observations are required.
6. Miscellaneous observations on their habits or any other relevant data.

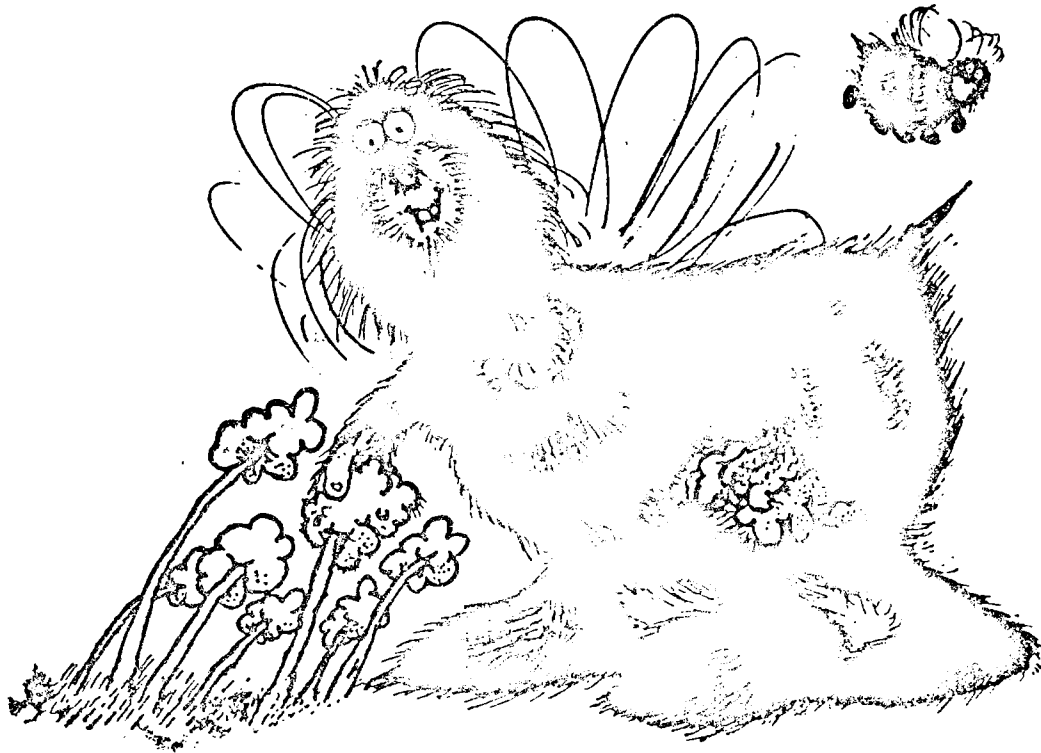
In every case a sample should be taken for identification and if possible live material is required. Either place bees and adhering mites into ethyl alcohol or in plastic containers with comb scraps or hive debris.

*Post to: Officer In Charge
Plant Health Diagnostic Station
Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries
Private Bag
Levin,*

Marked: MITES FOR IDENTIFICATION.

From: "ANIMALS FOR THE ASKING"

BY: Peter Hawes



BEES

Most creatures have a bottom
 But honey bees ain't got 'em
 They've got a sting just where their bott should be,
 And with that sort of botty
 You might go and sting your potty
 And who would let you sit down on their knee?

Bees carry honey all their lives
 In little pocketfuls to hives
 And I'm glad cos honey's such a lovely thing,
 I scrape it out and dump it
 In the middle of my crumpet
 Though I keep a careful watch for bits of sting.

Bees don't generally wear trousers
 So their pocket's not where ours is
 (They wear no clothes as far as I can tell)
 But their legs don't pockets lack
 Cos they grow them at the back
 So their legs are sort of legs and pants as well.

But the thing that I find funny
 Is that if the bees make honey
 Who makes the peanut butter and the jam?
 Is the source of our supply
 From the peanut butterfly
 Or are there marmalady birds inside the can?

READY RECKONER

AN APOLOGY - the ready reckoner was an excellent idea, taken up by several beekeepers but a number of mistakes have been drawn to my attention. I trust as a result no one has ordered too much or too little as a consequence.

PARAFFIN DIPPING - 6 boxes per kg wax for used boxes;
new boxes use 20-30% more wax.

PAINT - 3 coats, 42 supers per 4 litres.

FRAME NAILS - 40 x 1.6mm; 250 frames/kg.

SUPER NAILS:

SIZE	NAILS/KG	NUMBER NAILS PER SUPER		
		36	32	28
50 x 2.5mm galv	450	12.5	14.0	16.0
60 x 2.8mm galv	270	7.5	8.4	9.6

**** **** ****

A statistics professor used to describe himself and others in his profession this way:

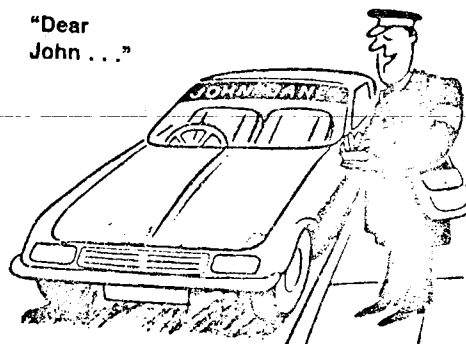
"A statistician is someone who, if he puts his head in a hot oven and his feet in a bucket of ice water, would remark - on the average I feel fine."

**** **** ****

While on apologies, the Mobilisation and Mechanisation Field Day was extremely well attended. Many people travelled long distances and had hoped to see more lifting devices.

I was promised forklifts by three companies, none turned up and Alan Murray unfortunately got caught by bad weather and was unable to bring his loader. I did my best but the elements and people let us down, sorry.

"Dear
John..."



NBA LIBRARY

The industry has an excellent beekeeping technical library with books available to all NBA members. The library contains over 350 books as well as magazines, pamphlets, notes from MAF courses etc.

The librarian, J Heineman, has recently compiled a complete catalogue available for \$2.40 which once obtained can be kept up to date from the 'Library Notes' in each issue of the NZ Beekeeper.

I suspect most beekeepers fail to make use of this excellent facility or perhaps don't even know of its existence.

By the way, the library is kept in new books by way of donations, don't throw out old books, or if you are retiring send books to:

Mr J Heineman
NBA Librarian
PO Box 112
Milton
OTAGO

o00o0 *** o00o0

PUBLICATIONS

AGLINK FPP 124 : BROOD DISEASES OF HONEY BEES

This AgLink has been revised, is a first for the AgLink system as colour illustrations are used and will be sent to all beekeepers with their Statements of Inspections.

AGLINK FPP : TOXIC HONEY

This new AgLink is currently with the printers and will be available later in the year. I shall keep you informed.

PRACTICAL BEEKEEPING IN NEW ZEALAND

This new publication written by Andrew Matheson replaces the old 'Beekeeping in NZ' Bulletin 267, and will be available in September (late) - price approx \$17.95.

o00o0 *** o00o0

HONEY PRICES

A note from Australia stated that white honey 0 - 30 Pfund is trading bulk at 0.95¢/kg to the beekeeper.

THE NINE AGES OF MAN

(A poem in one line to be read aloud)

NOT OLD ENOUGH TO KNOW BETTER

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PESTICIDE ANALYSIS

Samples of bees for pesticide analysis are sent to MAF's research centre at Wallaceville and while there last autumn, we were given a tour through the facility, which incidently also tests honey for tutin from the MAF test hive programme.

The process was of considerable interest but of more interest was the cost - a sample takes virtually all day to do although the person carrying out the work can do other chores as well.

A local scientific lab has a charge out rate of \$35.00/hour. If you assume the pesticide analysis at Wallaceville takes part of 8 hours, the cost per sample exceeds \$150.00. A private laboratory commented that it would cost \$1000 to set up the technique and probably at least \$200 per sample thereafter.

**** **** ****

A dealer in poultry who has sold baby chickens, geese and turkeys to poultry farmers from the same location for the past 15 years, says his telephone has been busier since massage parlours started blossoming. Seems strangers visit town, thumb through the phone book and get the wrong idea about his company. It is called 'Elite Chicks'.

**** **** ****

WAIKATO/BAY OF PLENTY GOLF CHALLENGE

A small field took part in the golf match at Okoroire. The day was warm and most enjoyable and the Waikato won the event, congratulations. Hopefully next year will see a larger turnout, you don't need to be a golfer to enjoy a round in congenial company, in pleasant surroundings and we look forward to welcoming more participation in the future.

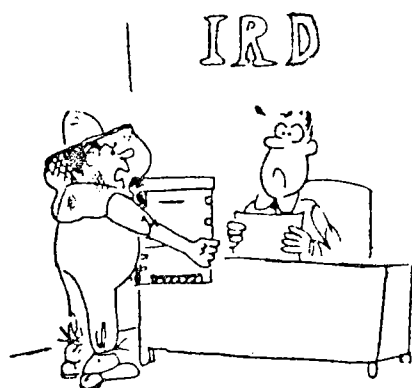
WHAT'S ON?

QUEEN BEE PRODUCTION COURSE at Tairawhiti College, PO Box 640, Gisborne
on SEPTEMBER 25 & 26.

Applications to the above. All welcome.

POLLINATION WORKSHOP at the Bay of Plenty Community College
on SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22.

For information contact the College, Private Bag, RD 3, Tauranga; Phone: 440 920.



"You wanted to know about my deductions for veils?"

WEED & BRUSH CONTROL

Grass, or weeds, impeding access to the hive entrance can/does decrease honey production. A hive entrance free of impediments means more bee trips per day, increases the life of floor boards and bottom boxes, creates more pleasant working conditions and drier hives which must reduce nosema levels. Farmers are also more appreciative if apiary sites are maintained in a tidy and weed free condition.

A slasher can be used to keep gorse, blackberry and thistles down but this is only temporary at best. Chemicals give more lasting control but be sure to check with the land owner before using any long term herbicides around the apiary, some people do not like totally denuded sites.

The best method is to use paraquat, Preeglone or Roundup to kill grass/weeds. Once bare ground is visible apply a long term residual spray such as Phytazol, Weedex, Hyvar X, Prefix, Casoron, Permazol or Zylen. Some of these commercial brands contain more than a herbicide and if done properly one to two years control can be achieved.

Blackberry and gorse are easily killed with chemicals containing 245T; eg Tordon Brush Killer.

A WORD OF WARNING - if applying long term herbicides in granular form; ie Prefix, Casoron, Hyvar X, ensure that no run-off will occur. I well remember seeing 50 metres of shelter belt killed as water run-off after heavy rain carried recently applied granules down a water channel.

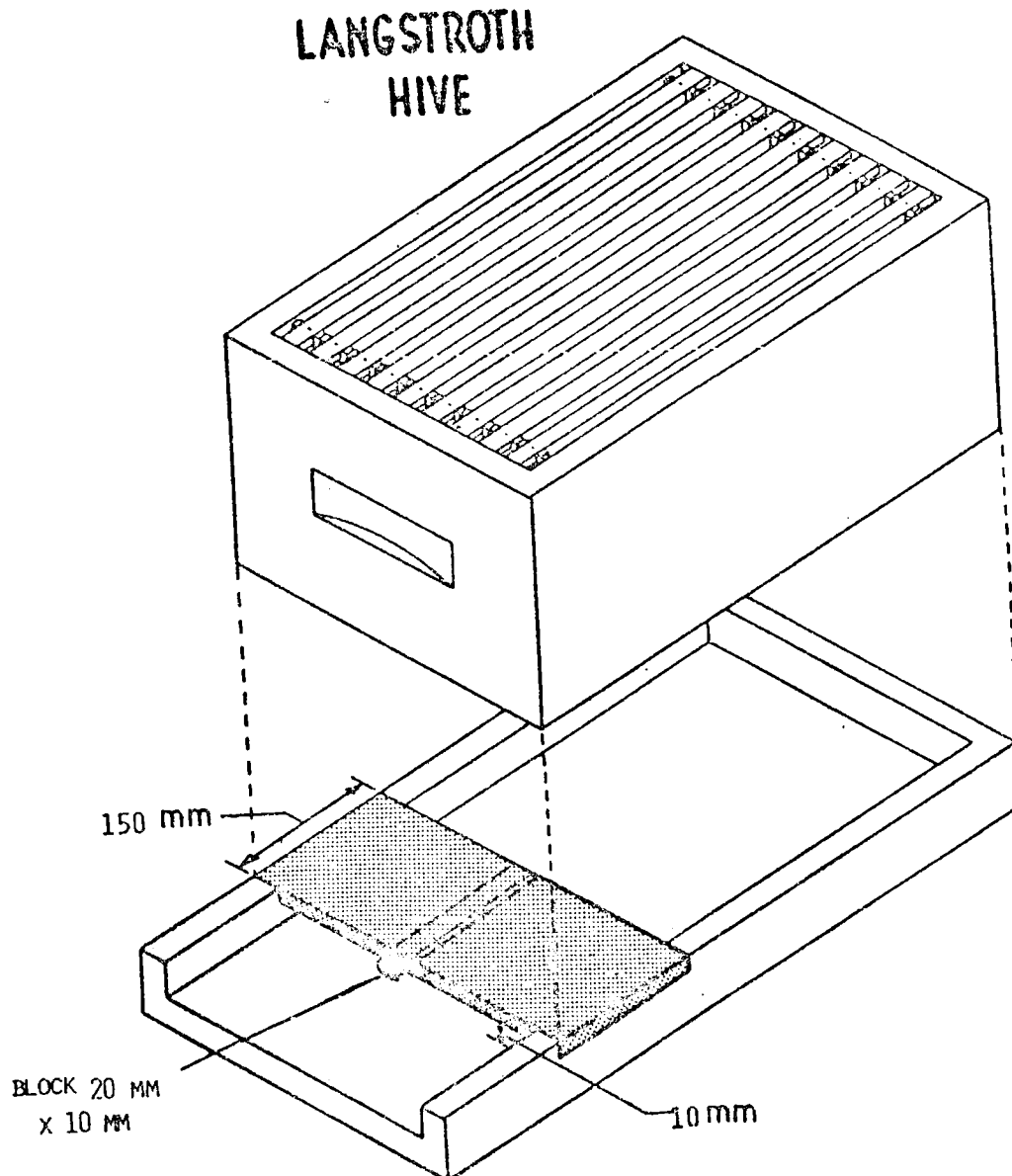
SALES TABLE

S/S Vat, double skin, 180 gal, in good condition.
Enquiries to: I S Stewart, PO Box 104, Tolaga Bay.

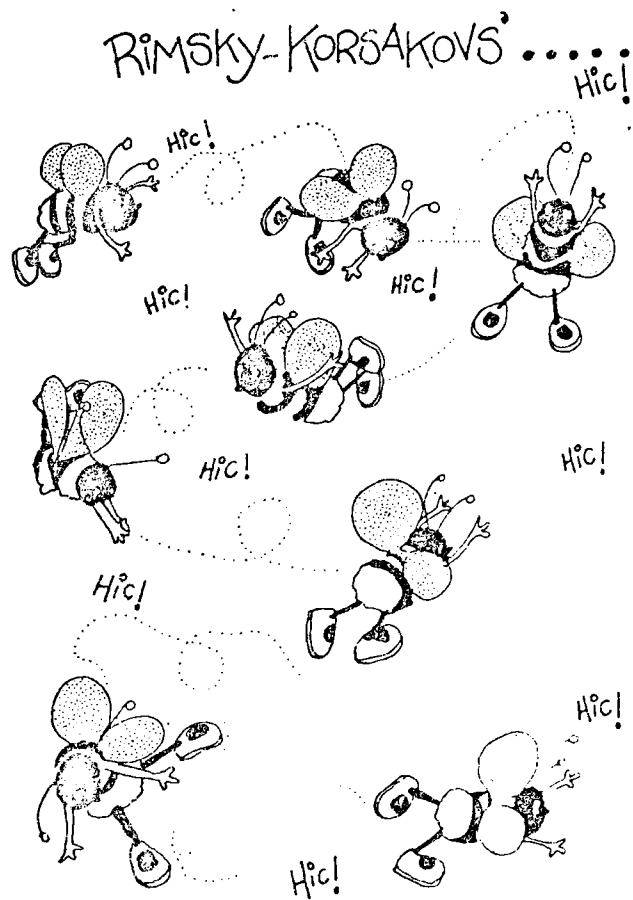
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ALL-SEASON BEEHIVE ENTRANCE

ADVANTAGES: no entrance reducers required, less labour/time, less robbing bees/wasps, total control of ventilation by bees, improved utilisation of bottom brood chamber by bees and queen; viz queen will lay out combs to the floor.



ORIGIN OF NEW ZEALAND BLACK BEES



During the recent visit of Dr Shimanuki a sample of black bees was collected by Barry Hosking from the East Cape. The resulting computer analysis showed the stock is of European origin, probably Apis mellifera mellifera L. Of interest is the description in the book "The Hive and the Honey Bee", - generally nervous, run from comb readily, frequently but not always aggressive, brood production is not great and spring time development is tardy. With the advancement of modern agriculture, the honey production of the Dark bee became inferior to other races.

Bro Adam (1957) described it as superior to any other race in the heather flow in England and Norway - there being always enough honey in its brood combs and the danger of starvation very small. In poor territories, other races often consume all their honey but the thrifty Dark bee with economic work, always produces some surplus honey.

The chapter concludes - if crossed with other races its hybrid offspring show unusual vitality and performance but at the same time its strong tendency to sting remains a significantly bad habit.

---oo00oo---

AN INDUSTRY CODE OF ETHICS

The industry meeting to discuss the question of apiary sites and the pressure on some areas from hives being moved into territory 'held' by other beekeepers resolved that: *An industry Code of Ethics be drawn up, be published in all beekeeper journals, newsletters etc, and all beekeepers be urged to abide by the Code.*

Secondly: That the apiary location maps maintained in MAF offices be regularly up-dated by all beekeepers and beekeepers check proposals and negotiate/communicate with beekeepers already established in areas they wish to expand into.

Over 70 beekeepers from Bay of Plenty, Waikato, Auckland, Taupo and King Country attended the meeting which was cordial, frank and positive. I congratulate all who attended for the positive, constructive mood which prevailed; it's to be hoped that the industry will develop further the start made and endeavour to make the Code work.

Main Points Developed Are:

We, as members of the aforementioned branches of the NBA, do agree that:

1. We, as beekeepers, should respect the prior territorial rights of existing apiaries unless the said apiary site has been left vacant for a period of two seasons or more.
2. Any grouping of ten (10) or more hives shall be deemed an apiary for the purpose of this Code.
3. The territorial right of any apiary shall be a distance in radius of 1.6 km in every direction from that apiary and no new apiary shall be located closer than that.
4. We should make every endeavour to have all our existing apiary sites plotted accurately on the MAF apiary map.
5. We will ensure that every apiary is clearly marked with our official identification mark as issued by the MAF.
6. In the event of any territorial or other dispute where agreement cannot be reached, we will call on advice from a mutually acceptable mediator from within the industry.

---oo00oo---

SUSPECTED SPRAY POISONING OF HONEY BEES

If you suspect your bees have been hit by spray, and if any action is to be taken, we (MAF) need to have the following details:

- Date of suspected spraying;
- Location of apiary;
- Name of grower/farmer suspected of causing bee deaths;
- Crop bees killed on;
- Pesticide target crop;
- Name of suspect pesticide(s) and formulation;
- Was the pesticide being used contrary to label requirements?

In endeavouring to obtain the above information it is important that MAF be notified as soon as possible after damage is detected.

Contact your nearest MAF office; the person to deal with is the Field Officer for the area in which the hives are located.

Samples should be taken as fresh as possible. It is also a good idea to collect foliage samples from the crop where the pesticide was applied.

Collecting Samples:

1. Collect 50 bees that are as fresh as possible.
NB: If the bees are decomposing it is probably too late.
2. Pack in tissue paper or partially dry before sealing in a strong cardboard or styrofoam container. Do not refrigerate or freeze.

- 3. Do not seal in plastic or glass jars as the bees deteriorate.
- 4. Send specimens to Meat Monitoring Section, Wallaceville Animal Research Centre, Upper Hutt, by Jet-X or first class mail. Mark package 'URGENT BEE SPECIMENS FOR ANALYSIS'. Do not send by registered mail.

All the very best for the 1984/85 season.

Treas.

T G Bryant
Apicultural Advisory Officer

The Endless Chain



This is the Motor that Jack bought.



This is the House that was mortgaged to pay for the Motor that Jack bought.



This is the Mortgage upon the House that paid for the Motor that Jack bought.



This is the Lawyer who arranged the Mortgage upon the House that paid for the Motor that Jack bought.



This is the Motor of the Lawyer who arranged the Mortgage upon the House that paid for the Motor that Jack bought.



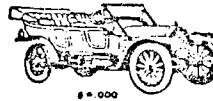
This is the House that paid for the Motor of the Lawyer who arranged the Mortgage upon the House that paid for the Motor that Jack bought.



This is the Mortgage upon the House that paid for the Motor of the Lawyer who arranged the Mortgage upon the House that paid for the Motor that Jack bought.



This is the Real Estate Man who arranged the Mortgage upon the House of the Lawyer who arranged the Mortgage upon the House that paid for the Motor that Jack bought.



This is the Motor of the Real Estate Man who arranged the Mortgage upon the House of the Lawyer who arranged the Mortgage upon the House that paid for the Motor that Jack bought.



This is the— But why continue? We all own Motors, and we all get them in the same way.

PRACTICAL BEE KEEPING IN NEW ZEALAND



Practical Beekeeping in New Zealand, by Andrew Matheson, is a guide not only for commercial beekeepers, but for others involved in the horticultural and agricultural fields such as orchardists, seed growers, students and interested amateurs.

This completely new book on practical beekeeping details bee management throughout the year, advice on handling hive products, and information about many other beekeeping subjects including:

- The New Zealand beekeeping industry and its history
- Bee biology
- Nectar and pollen sources in New Zealand
- Beehive design and construction
- How to get started with bees
- Bee colony and management
- Hive products
- Honey bee pests and diseases
- Using honey bee for pollination

Available October

MAIL ORDER

GOVERNMENT BOOKSHOP
P.O. BOX 857, HAMILTON

Please forward.....copy(ies) of Practical Beekeeping in New Zealand @ \$17.95 each plus \$1.50 p & p.

Name:

Address:

Total enclosed \$

Please debit my American Express Visa
 Bankcard (please tick one only)

Card No.

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Expiry date Signed:

Government  Publishing

GOVERNMENT BOOKSHOPS

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HAMILTON: Ward St (PO Box 857)
WELLINGTON: Mulgrave St and Cubacade (Private Bag)
CHRISTCHURCH: 159 Hereford St (Private Bag)
DUNEDIN: Princes St (PO Box 1104)