



# **The University of Wisconsin press bulletin.**

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To Editor:—The news in this bulletin is prepared especially for the press, and is released for publication on the date below. Please address exchange copies to Editor, 711 Langdon Street.

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# THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN PRESS BULLETIN

The purpose of this Bulletin is to bring to the newspapers of Wisconsin and their readers—the people of the state—pertinent news and information concerning their State University. The University Press Bureau will gladly furnish any special news or feature stories to editors. Address letters to R. H. Foss, editor, Press Bureau, University of Wisconsin.

MADISON, WISCONSIN

Vol. 32, No. 27

## State-Wide Clay Search May Lead To New Industry

Search throughout the state for a clay which may eventually lead to the development of a new industry for Wisconsin in manufacturing tableware and artistic pottery from local clays is now well in progress under the supervision of Prof. Della F. Wilson of the art education department at the University of Wisconsin.

At the present time, the state imports several thousand pounds of clay from Illinois annually. This clay is put to various uses including elementary modeling and pottery work in the elementary schools. Another use to which this clay is put is in the making of art pottery, some of which is made in art education classes at the State University. In addition, utilitarian objects are made of the clay, including such forms of tableware as the brightly colored Fiesta dinnerware.

With the help of John Menn, state W. P. A. administrator and aid furnished through the federal agency, and E. F. Bean, state geologist, Prof. Wilson has received samples of several Wisconsin clays from areas near Waupaca, Wisconsin Rapids, Fond du Lac, and Vesper. Search for clays in other parts of the state is now being carried on and as soon as they are obtained, tests will be made to determine their possibilities and uses.

Illinois clays, as a general rule, have a definite grey color. When fired in the kiln, however, the clay takes on the buff color which lends itself so easily to the proper finish, handling, and coloring for pottery and modelling. Most of the Wisconsin clays already tested, on the other hand, fire red. This red clay melts at a lower temperature than does the grey type and therefore cannot be used where a high temperature glaze is desired, without additional processing to the clay itself. However, commercial glazes available everywhere can be applied to the local clay without any such "doctoring."

Already the state-wide search for new clays has helped to overcome one objection to Wisconsin clays used in the past. This objection was that known clays were not workable enough in hand work on art pottery. With the location of new clays, this objection is now largely overcome.

Prof. Wilson enthusiastically believes that sooner or later, new and now unknown Wisconsin clays will be found that will serve the needs of the state and its schools, and which may be the foundation for a new pottery industry.

## Reference Aid In Buyer's Problems Is New U. Service

What the consumer should know about problems of commodity purchasing is made the subject of a reference publication, "Consumers in the Modern Market," issued by the University of Wisconsin Extension division as the first of a series of study aids on "Educating the Consumer." The material is shaped to meet the study purposes of women's clubs, teachers, home economics classes, and other organized groups and of individuals.

Eight phases of the subject are treated. The discussions are followed by references to authoritative literature, obtainable through the extension department of debating and public discussion.

One section discusses quality, quantity, price, and selection of the store; another, the role of the consumer and the producer. Other sections deal with the market itself—advertising claims, brands and trademarks, the sales person, labels, grades, standards, consumer credit, and price policies and regulation. Consumer organizations and professional and commercial agencies are discussed. Topics relate also to the government and the consumer buyer, and to ways to improve the consumer's position in the modern market.

This publication was compiled by Mrs. Ruth Black Fowell under the direction of Prof. May L. Cowles, of the Home Economics department, as a joint WPA-Extension study aid project.

## U. Students Chosen For Agricultural Glee Club

Following competitive tryouts, 31 students in the University of Wisconsin college of agriculture were selected for membership in the Agricultural Men's Glee club during the coming year.

Allan Bone, **Madison**, senior in the school of music and president of the University band, is the director of the club which has been completely reorganized.

Members of the Glee club are:

**First tenor:** Melvin Gassen, **Baraboo**; Harland Austin, **Oregon**; Tom Green, **Oshkosh**; Spencer Hanson, **Blair**; Orin Swingle, **Highland**;

**Second tenor:** Henry Fortmann, **Frederic**; Dale Gillette, **Madison**; Paul Goede, **Edgerton**; Raymond Heinzen, **Marshfield**; Edward Mraz, **Milwaukee**; Roslyn Rohrer, **Alma**; William Schmidt, **Arlington**;

**First Basses:** Wilson Clark, **Chippewa Falls**; Philip Darse, **Milwaukee**; Robert Davenport, **Stoughton**; Merlin

## U. W. Scientists Seek Information to Prevent Lead Poisoning in Humans

"The insidious feature of lead poisoning is that so many people are chronic sufferers from the condition and aren't aware of what's troubling them. Painters, linotype operators, and filling station attendants, as well as people living in old homes still supplied with lead plumbing in the drinking water system are constantly exposed to lead poisoning—lead intoxication."

Such is the statement made by Dr. Frank L. Kozelka, assistant professor of Toxicology at the University of Wisconsin, in explaining his research on chronic lead poisoning, at the State University. Well known throughout the state for his experiments and results in urinalysis and blood testings for determination of alcoholic intoxication, he is now carrying on similar experiments in the field of lead poisoning.

### Lead in System

"Another great difficulty in this research," he continued, "is the natural presence of a certain amount of lead in a healthy person. So many varied reports have been given on the normal lead level in the human system, that when a toxicologist is called before the State Industrial Commission to state whether a worker is suffering from lead poisoning and merits payment of compensation, he doesn't quite know where he's at. All he can do is venture an opinion, an approximation."

The normal appearance of lead in the system is in a tri-lead phosphate form which is deposited in the bones and has about the same chemical properties as calcium, the bone-building therefore, is that of determining the element. The primary problem, normal level of lead, and the levels which produce symptoms of lead poisoning. These symptoms are stippling,

or spotting of the red blood cells, chronic constipation, the appearance of the blue lead line on the gums, and a general feeling of ill-being.

Towards this end, the department has modified the quantitative technique for lead published three years ago in Germany by Helmut Fisher, and is now on the job of testing several hundred people who show no indications of having been exposed to lead poisoning. Once this is accomplished, the next step will be to make correlations with a large series of individuals exposed to small daily quantities of lead such as painters, plumbers, etc. Already, they are able to check lead concentration within two gamma, or two millionths of one gram.

### Can "De-Lead" Person

Direct results of the lead poisoning disease may be optic atrophy or blindness, slight anemia, and in the more severe and acute chronic cases a condition of encephalopathy may set in. This condition which brings first a state of delirium and then one of coma is usually the terminal stage. In earlier stages, the cure is relatively simple, according to Dr. Kozelka. It consists merely of "de-leading" the individual. This may be done in several ways. The individual is put on a carefully controlled diet and is given dilute solutions of hydrochloric or phosphoric acid. Ammonium chloride may also be administered.

"Our ultimate aim, of course," concluded Dr. Kozelka, "is to be able to set up accurate normals and accurate tests so that not only will cases like those of the State Industrial Commission be easily, surely settled, but also it will be possible for people who are exposed daily to lead to receive systematic regular examinations to determine whether or not they are getting too high a concentration of the metal in their system."

## 375 Students Attend Barron Speech Meet

Nearly 375 students from high schools in northwestern Wisconsin attended the speech institute at **Barron** high school last week. Participating schools voted to hold the next sectional institute at **Ladysmith** in October, 1939.

This was the first of three institutes sponsored this year by the Wisconsin High School Forensic Association and the University of Wisconsin Extension division. The second will be held in **Madison** on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 18 and 19. The third is scheduled for **Sparta**, Friday, Dec. 9.

Speech institutes, which are instructional and non-competitive, are designed to give high school students in Wisconsin an opportunity to become better acquainted with all phases of forensics.

## Road Oil Research at U. W. Brings Better, Cheaper Black Top Roads

Two years of research at the University of Wisconsin into the problem of road oils for black top roads in the state have revealed definite findings which may result in substantial savings in Wisconsin's annual road expenditure of 18 million dollars, it was revealed today by Prof. O. A. Hougen of the chemical engineering department at the State University.

A cooperative project, the road oil research has been under the direction of Prof. Hougen, Prof. J. W. Williams of the physical chemistry department, Joseph Zapata of the State Highway Commission, and as consulting highway engineer, Prof. H. F. Zanda of the University's college of engineering. Funds were provided by the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation, the Highway Commission, and the W. P. A. Dr. A. J. Hoiberg directly supervised the technical work on the properties of road oils and John Swanson developed methods for increasing adhesion of road oils to Wisconsin material aggregates, assisted by the staff of the Highway Testing Laboratories.

### 20,000,000 Gallons Oil

The importance of Wisconsin's 2,500 miles of low-cost black top roads is clearly demonstrated by the fact that it costs approximately as much to build 25 miles of black top road as it does to build one mile of concrete road.

For use on these black top roads, the state buys annually about 20 million gallons of road oil for repair and construction work at a cost of approximately one and a half million dollars.

While the highway commission has

always set up rigid specifications for the purchase of road oils, and has always tested them to make sure that it purchased only those oils fulfilling these standards, it always worked under a distinct handicap because science had not yet been able to ascertain adequate specifications to assure road oil durability.

Certain oils stood up remarkably

well on the road. On the other hand certain others of the purchased oils while fulfilling the same specifications, proved to be highly unsatisfactory in that they washed off after a rainfall or ravelled badly under traffic. In either case, holes developed in the road surface and costly repairs were necessitated.

### Sought Economy, Durability

Determined to develop scientific specifications for the purchase of road oils for the state and thus increase the durability and economies of low cost roads, the investigators proceeded to

## U. W. Students Attend Country Life Meeting

Students in the University of Wisconsin college of agriculture took an active part in the youth session of the American Country Life Conference held at Lexington, Kentucky, recently.

A group of 14 students from the University 4H club and the Blue Shield Country Life club represented Wisconsin at the national convention. There they met with representatives of similar organizations from colleges and universities throughout the United States.

Wisconsin students who led in various activities at the Kentucky meetings were Jane Maher, **Wisconsin Rapids**, who conducted a panel discussion on farm tenancy; Carolyn Hubatch, **Antigo**, who demonstrated soap carving in the learn-by-doing session; Darrell Metcalfe, **Arkansaw**, who demonstrated game equipment; and Milton Gutknecht, **Lone Rock**; and Corliss Rasmussen, **Madison**, who led in group discussion.

Other students who attended the conference include Edna Baumann, **Edgar**; Elda Jandt, **Peshtigo**; Donald Jensen, **Amery**; Stasia Lonergan, **Saukville**; Marjorie Stephenson, **Hillsdale**; John Braun, **Racine**; and George Briggs, **Warren Schmidt** and Glen Vergeront, **Madison**.

## Gives \$5,000 to U. W. for Scholarships for Outstanding Students

A gift of \$5,000 to provide two annual scholarships of \$100 each which will go to two outstanding **Dane** county high school graduates each year was accepted by the University of Wisconsin Board of Regents recently.

The gift was given to the State University by Victor Albright, president of the Randall State bank of Madison. Under the terms of the gift, the principal of each **Dane** county high school is to send the name of the student who ranks highest scholastically each year in his school to the Committee on Loans and Undergraduate scholarships of the University. When all the names are in from all of the high schools in the county, the committee will then select by lot the two winners of the two scholarships.

In a communication to the regents, Mr. Albright explained that he was establishing the scholarship fund for three reasons: to urge boys and girls to do their best work in high school; to encourage and assist boys and girls to secure a University education; and to impel students to do good work in their University courses.

## U. W. Man To Judge At Guatemala Stock Show

George Werner of the animal husbandry department at the University of Wisconsin college of agriculture has been invited to serve as judge of the National Livestock Exposition in Guatemala City, Republic of Guatemala, Nov. 20 to 27.

Werner will leave for Guatemala by Nov. 15 and will reach there Nov. 18, going by way of Mexico City. Judging will begin Nov. 20 and will continue for five or six days. Werner expects to remain in Guatemala for a few days following the show in order to inspect some of the local dairy herds. He will return by boat from Puerto Barrios to New Orleans.

The show, which is sponsored by the municipality of Guatemala, consists largely of exhibits of dairy animals, mainly imported and native Holsteins, with a few Jerseys, Brown Swiss and native cattle. Dairying in the mountainous regions of the republic where the high altitude and occasional frosts protect the animals from ticks and other pests is an important industry in Guatemala.

A. J. Cramer, animal husbandman at the college of agriculture, has twice served as judge at previous shows. Donald Brance, Holstein breeder of **Lone Rock**, served as judge at the 1937 show.

Gabriel Moulton Asturias, former farm short course student at the University of Wisconsin in 1932-1934 and winner of the champion cup for fitting and showing dairy animal at the 1933 Little International show in Madison, is taking an active part in the show.

## Training Course In Heating, Ventilating Offered By University

Dealing with all the important technical phases, the University of Wisconsin home-study course in Heating and Ventilating has recently been revised by the department of mechanical engineering, and now covers the recent advances in engineering knowledge in this field. The purpose is to enable engineers, architects, draftsmen, estimators, contractors, plumbers, and others to secure a better technical preparation for the work of planning, estimating, and installing heating and ventilating systems.

The recent development of the unit heater, the increasing use of humidifying systems and thermostatic control, the air-conditioning requirements of modern heating and ventilating systems, the closer search for heat losses at every point, and the all-around refinement of practice are examples of the present trend. Wisconsin's correspondence course aims to give help in all phases of the subject.

Other correspondence courses in the same field include Heat, Heat Power Engineering, Steam Boilers, Steam Engines, Refrigeration, and Elementary Plumbing.

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