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"THE BESTO" BEE

VOL. 2

DENVER, COLORADO, JUNE, 1924

NO. 3

JUST BETWEEN OURSELVES

This is Field Meet number. * * * The date is Saturday, June 7, commencing at ten o'clock. Place, Rocky Mountain Lake Park, North Denver, easy of access by two car lines, good auto road. Good shelter in case of shower. A place well-chosen, we think. * * * We are hoping that members will, where necessary, make some little sacrifice to attend. A successful co-operative organization should afford opportunity for meetings of its membership where they can discuss their mutual interests informally. This is given so far as is practical by the C. H. P. A. in its annual and mid-summer meetings. The greater the attendance, the more valuable such gatherings become. *

* * * There are many matters of vital interest to Colorado beekeepers that may be discussed at this field meeting with profit. Never was the need of live co-operation among bee men greater than today. Not all our members are aware of a seemingly serious effort being made by interested parties to hammer down honey prices and make the work of co-operative associations difficult, or break them entirely. It is only by the most loyal, continuous support of their members that co-operative marketing organizations can succeed or continue to exist. * * * Once more, as matter of co-operation, if for no other reason, we urge every member of the C. H. P. A. within reasonable distance to drop his work, bring his family and lunch, and come to the summer Field Meet.

JOINT FIELD MEET

The Denver-Jefferson County Beekeepers Association have joined in with the C. H. P. A. for a day, and will have their June meeting at the same time and place with ours, at Rocky Mountain Lake, North Denver, Saturday, June 7. They have agreed to furnish the coffee and lemonade, and a lot of the pep for the gathering. Other beekeepers organizations are invited to join with us on that day.

REPORTS THAT ARE DIFFERENT

Association members will receive with Thebesto Bee this month a bee and honey report blank materially out of the usual rut. There are lots of questions to answer, and if those who receive these blanks will sit down and faithfully fill every space, and promptly return to the Association manager it may be possible to form some valuable conclusions from the replies. No question about it, the winter loss is far too heavy in our territory. There is a reason, and if we can discover it we can profit greatly thru that knowledge. Please fill and return your report sheet at once, and it will be in time to count in the report that will be given at the forthcoming field meeting.

UNIFORM HONEY PRICES

One valuable service done by the American Honey Producers League and the various Honey Co-operative marketing organizations is the attempt to secure thru publicity and education, reasonably uniform selling prices subject to differences in locality. Investigation shows a wide variation of price in adjoining states, in adjoining counties, and even in the same town. This should not be. Yield being approximately equal, it costs about as much to produce, pack and market a pound of honey in one locality as in that adjacent. The retail prices should be as nearly level as possible thruout the state, at least.

BEEKEEPERS MET

The Jefferson-Denver County Beekeepers Association held a fine meeting at the C. H. P. A. headquarters Saturday, May 3 with a large attendance. The following program was observed: Importance of Honey Exhibits, F. L. Stone; Shipping Honey in Less than Carrier Crates, Frank Rauffuss; Winter Losses and How to Avoid Them, Prof. Newton Boggs; How to Increase Membership, Burt W. Ritter. Question Box. This association will unite with the C. H. P. A. for their annual picnic and summer field meet at Rocky Mountain Lake, Denver, on June 7.

THEBESTO BEE

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Published when the spirit moves, for our members and for western beekeepers, by the Colorado Honey Producers Association, at 1424 Market St., Denver, Colo. Frank Rauchfuss, Manager.

PARAFFIN FOR HONEY SECTIONS

The use of a light coating of melted paraffine on the upper side of comb honey sections is gaining in favor, and the following are the directions for its use:

"Paraffin was first used for keeping the tops of honey sections free from propolis stains by Harry Warren, of Wabuska, Nevada. We have supplied him years ago with this commodity and he finally told us how he was using it.

The paraffin is heated either on a regular stove or over a gas or oil stove, so it is quite hot. A good bristle brush of about three to three and one half inches in width is being used for applying the paraffine to the tops of the sections, after they have been put up and filled with foundation and are wedged up in the super ready to go on to the hive. These supers should be handy to the place where the paraffin is heated and the brush should be passed over the tops of the sections quickly, and in such a way so that only a very thin coating is left on the sections, somewhat on the plan in which a good painter uses varnish. Never make two strokes over the same surface. If the job has been properly done a very thin film of paraffine is on top of the sections and this is all that is necessary to keep propolis from being deposited and discoloring the wood. The application of paraffin saves considerable work in the preparation of honey sections for market and those that have once tried out the plan have not given it up, so this shows that they must be satisfied with it."

THINKING IN FRAMES

What is a "frame of brood?" Beekeepers often confuse "two frames of brood," for example, with "brood in two frames." There's a big difference. Sometimes we hear of colonies with five, six or seven "frames of brood," when, really, they have a little patch of brood only in each of that many frames. Learn to think in terms of solid frames of brood. It is less confusing.

FRAIL CASES NOT GOOD

Exporters of extracted honey are complaining bitterly about the light weight can cases that are used by many producers and may soon demand a reduced price unless cases are well-made, of tough wood, with middle partitions. Our attention has recently been called to some cases made from "loblolly" pine. A sample case arrived with one end split open, and weighed, without middle partition, full two pounds more than the regulation C. H. P. A. export case with partition. Loblolly pine is totally unfit for honey can cases, both on account of the excess weight and because it is full of pitch and splits easily. Its use is not economical, regardless of price. Freights on such cases are cumulative, too. The dealer pays, first, excess from the factory. Then the beekeeper pays, as he receives it from the dealer. He pays again when he ships out his honey. The jobber pays again, the importer pays, the bottler pays, everybody pays added freight on those two or three pounds that handles it in the original container. Does such a case pay the producer, even if he does save a few pennies by its use?

PACKING HONEY IN PAILS

Last Thebesto Bee cautioned members against packing large quantities of honey in pails unless they actually know where and how they are going to dispose of it. Recent experiences of some of our members who put up part of their crop in small pails last season, expecting to make a greater profit on the jobbing market leads us to repeat our warning.

The experience of those who have tried it is that the beekeeper who packs his crop in smaller containers than 60-lb. cans beyond what his local market will consume, is courting trouble unless he has it sold in advance to responsible parties. We might give some striking instances of the costliness of this practice from among our own members, but instead will only call attention to the fact that the Ontario Beekeepers' Association is right now engaged in filling sixties from five-pounders, because they found too late that the smaller containers were unmarketable except at a heavy loss. Be advised in time.

PROFESSOR BOGGS LEAVES

Professor Newton Boggs, Colorado State Bee Inspector for the past three years, is leaving us next month for Wisconsin, where he goes into commercial honey production on an extensive scale. Mr. Boggs has made a host of friends among Colorado beekeepers during his residence here, and has accomplished some things educational that are well worth while. Thebesto Bee wishes him and his charming young wife the best of luck in their new venture.

Professor Boggs is succeeded at Colorado Agricultural College by Professor Richmond, who comes direct from a similar position in Texas State College. He is a Canadian, and received his training at Guelph, Ontario, Agricultural College. He has also spent some time at Ames, we believe and comes highly recommended. He is expected to arrive in Colorado June 4, and will be at the Association Field Meet June 7, where he is to speak on Canadian beekeeping.

Belated reports on bee conditions and honey prospects can be of little value. Send in your report promptly. This is a small but very important part of co-operation.

PARCELS POST INCREASE

A radical increase is contemplated in parcels post rates by the present congress, amounting to nearly 300 per cent on some items. If successful this will hit beekeepers hard, "going and coming." The excuse given is that postal employees are entitled to an increase in wages, and the raise is to be taken care of thru the increased parcels post tariff. If you don't want to pay this additional postage, write or wire your congressman and senators at once, protesting against the passage of the Paige bill to increase parcels post rates. Colorado's senators are L. C. Phipps and Alva Adams, Jr. Congressmen are Hon. Frank C. Vaille, Hon. C. B. Timberlake and Hon. Edward T. Taylor. Your protest against this ruinous legislation may mean its death. Do it now!

Don't forget the picnic lunch when you come to our Summer Field Meet June 7. Bring plenty to eat, and the whole family to eat it. Coffee, lemonade and coffee cream and sugar will be furnished. Just bring the eats.

MORE HONEY ADVERTISING

Honey is receiving much indirect publicity in food advertising these days, in a manner that cannot fail to extend its use as a food. Last Thebesto Bee mentioned the prominent advertisements of The Denver Baking Co., and their "Honey Bread," in which an appetizing section of comb honey was displayed. A late issue of "Baking Technology," a leading bakers' trade publication, contains a page illustrated display advertisement that was prepared as part of a Pittsburgh Toast campaign. Here again a jar of honey has a place in the composition along with other items of butter, cheese, jam, coffee, milk, etc. The interesting point in all this is the fact that honey in some form is steadily becoming, thru this and similar advertising to be looked upon as a necessary adjunct to a well balanced meal.

SIX QUEENS GIVEN AWAY!

Yes, given away! At the Summer Field Meeting of the C. H. P. A. and the Denver-Jefferson County Associations, to be held at Rocky Mountain Lake Park, North Denver, Saturday, June 7.

You see it's this way: the program committee wants to add a little spice to the entertainment this year and has ordered two good untested queens from Jay Smith, two from John M. Davis, and two Caucasians from Herman Rauchfuss. These will be here in time for the meeting on June 7. These will be given to beekeepers, on that day, only one to go to any one family. Details explained when you get there. But they are free, with no strings, and maybe one will be yours, providing you come.

MR. AND MRS. ECKHARDT PASS

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Eckhardt, of La Salle, Colo., have passed on since our last. The Eckhardts were loyal members of the C. H. P. A. for many years, were among the earliest to join.

County beekeepers' associations thruout the state are cordially invited to unite with the C. H. P. A. for their summer Field Meet to be held at Rocky Mountain Lake Park Saturday June 7, and a place on the program has been reserved for all that may come.

PROGRAM

of

Field Meeting of The Colorado Honey Producers' Association and The Denver-Jefferson Co., B. K. A., held at Rocky Mountain Lake Park, Denver, June 7, 1924.

- 10 A. M.—Opening of Meeting, by the president, Geo. Miller.
1. Southeastern Beekeeping.—Kenneth Hawkins. *
2. Better Bees and How We Secure Them.—H. H. Jacobs.
- 12 M. —Recess for Dinner.
- 1 P. M.—3. Smoker lighting contest for members of C. H. P. A. **
(3 queens given as premiums.)
4. Better Comb Honey at Less Cost.—L. W. Howsam.
5. Honey Production in Canada.—Mr. Richmond.
(Mr. Richmond is successor to Newton Boggs as Deputy Bee Inspector of Colorado.)
- Ladies' and Men's Bean Guessing Contest for Members of C. H. P. A. and Denver-Jefferson County Associations.
3 prizes for men—First, second and third choice of queens.
2 prizes for ladies—First fancy rubber apron, second plain rubber apron.
- For Children of Members present—
GIRLS—Peanut rolling contest. First prize 1-lb. box sweet Message candy. Second prize, ½-lb. box Sweet Message candy.
BOYS—Potato Race. First prize, League baseball. Second prize, Spaulding's baseball bat.

*Mr. Hawkins is a former government extension employe, working in the southeast.

**The smoker contest for members of the C. H. P. A. is something that perhaps should be given a little explanation. Each beekeeper is presumed to bring his own smoker that he is familiar with and all of the members will be given the same kind of smoker fuel so they will be on equal terms that way. The one who gets up a good volume of smoke first would have the first choice of queens secured for this occasion. The second one the second choice, and the third the third choice.

Rocky Mountain Lake Park is located between Federal and Lowell Boulevards, West 46th and 48th Ave. It is very convenient to those coming by auto from Northern, Colorado. [No. 37] Rocky Mountain Lake Tramway car goes right to the Park and the West 44th line [No. 28] goes within 2 blocks of it. Be sure and bring your family.

ANNUAL FIELD MEET

Rocky Mt. Lake Park, Denver
Saturday, June 7, 1924

The usual summer meeting of the Colorado Honey Producers Association will be held at Rocky Mountain Lake Park, Denver, Saturday, June 7, beginning at 10 o'clock. Let's make it a hummer by a big attendance.

The meeting is open to all beekeepers and those interested in beekeeping, whether members or not. Bring plenty of lunch, enough for yourselves and something for the unattached "stranger within the gates."

Following the picnic dinner and the discussion six choice untested queen bees will be given away. Two of these are from the Jay Smith Apiaries, two from John M. Davis, and two from Herman Raufuss' Caucasian queen yards at Englewood. Now will you come?

Rocky Mountain Lake is on two street car lines, easy of access from the city, has a good, large pavilion for use in case of sudden showers, plenty of good boats for the young folks, and is in every way a desirable place to hold our association picnic June 7. Come.