

Ecuadorians Give Thanks For School Aid Received

A U.S. foreign service officer in Ecuador turned some old automobile tires recently into a success story for the All-ance for Progress. The story came out in an interview with Ward P. Allen, 47, now director of the Office of Inter-American Regional Political Affairs in the Department of State, just back from Guayaquil, Ecuador, the most important seaport. Allen was U.S. Consul General there. It all began with a letter of request typical of many which are continually received from all parts of coastal Ecuador by the U.S. Consul General. This particular letter attracted attention because it was laboriously printed and signed by 26 people—one of whom wrote his signature in the other 25 "signing" with thumb prints.

IT CAME from a little village in the sugar cane plantation area at the edge of the jungle, some 60 miles east of Guayaquil—an area where Communists agitators have been active. It said the village wanted to establish a school for teaching both adults and children. The letter requested the Consul General's help in supplying one tea-ner's desk, one portable blackboard, six wooden benches, three boxes of chalk (one colored if possible) and 50 notebooks (with pencils).

"WE HAD no U.S. government funds available to give direct aid of this sort except on a government-to-government basis," Allen explained, "so I took up a collection in the consulate. We supplemented it with proceeds from the sale of several old tires no longer usable on U.S. government vehicles and the required items were obtained."

Since no road reached the village and there was no telephone or telegraph communication with it, Allen's reply that the consulate general would fulfill the villagers' request took ten days to reach them. It was hand-carried by various travelers.

A FEW DAYS later the Consul General was visited by a small Ecuadorian who introduced himself as the only literate man in the village (his signature had appeared on the letter). He reported that when he read the Consul General's reply to the assembled villagers, they were so delighted that they all got drunk on cane alcohol.

The small Ecuadorian, who turned out to be the school teacher, made arrangements to transport the equipment by an old-fashioned, high-bottomed truck — called a "mixto" — which could negotiate the ground beyond the end of the road. He also invited the Consul General to attend the ceremony of inauguration. The latter promised to do so.

IN ORDER to let the village know of his arrival, Allen notified the most widely listened to radio station in Guayaquil of his departure time.

After traveling for several hours along the so-called "road," he reached a little farm where the road petered out. There he was met by the teacher, several village representatives, and the entire children's population of the village. The children were dressed in paper clothes in the Ecuadorian and U.S. national colors and were led by a little girl dressed as best

she could to look like an American flag. BOARDING THE "mixto" the U.S. Consul General and his escort jaunted through the jungle to the village clearing, which had been decorated for the occasion. On one side was a bamboo, thatched-roof pavilion, which the men had built as a schoolhouse. The supplies and equipment had already been installed.

There was a special program of speeches, recitations, and children's games. Consul General Allen also distributed some extra boxes of

books, pamphlets, and pictures which he had brought along.

AFTER THE dedication of the school, Allen kept in touch with the village and continued to find ways to supply the school with materials. One morning in Guayaquil — Oct. 9, the city's independence day — Allen found the school teacher from the jungle at the door to his office with a large turkey struggling in his arms. The villagers had fattened it up as a gift. They wanted the helpful American to have a good meal on this holiday.



Mrs. Frehee

FOREIGN SERVICE officer Warren P. Allen recently returned to the capital from Ecuador, where he served as consul general in the seaport city of Guayaquil. While there he aided residents of a remote Ecuadorian village to establish a school. He is shown in his Washington, D.C., office with Indian artifacts ranging in age from 500 to 1500 years, which he collected while in Ecuador.

DOWN TO EARTH

Show Offers Sprucy Ideas

"Wintergreen" was again presented to the people of Detroit Dec. 3 as their very own Christmas Decade at the Detroit Historical Museum. It is staged by the Michigan Horticultural Society with artists in the field of flower arranging coming from all over the southern part of Michigan. The quality of the show provides a measure for community shows. Due to its locale, the artists are able to use the fine old chests and tables from the pioneer homes of Detroit. Mobiles hanging from the high ceilings are always an

outstanding class of entries. One of these which caught my eye was made from an umbrella base with the ribs covered with tinsel and suitable motifs trimming the ribs. THE DETROIT department of parks and recreation always has a huge bank of evergreen specimens and gay colored potted plants. The public can study an exhibit which shows them how to identify evergreens and how they can be used in the Christmas picture. Peacock feathers are always hard to come by. Now you have them, what can you do with them? At "Wintergreen" an outstanding arrangement on a chest was a long horizontal motif with the peacock feathers incorporated with the pine needles and the center accented with glitter and blue balls, green grapes and other additions which were smaller but using the blue and green coloring. It was stunning: Bring out the peacock feathers.

"AS ADVERTISED" by this column there was a Workshop of the other night initiated by the Westchester Branch, National Farm and Garden for the study of practical ways to light up your home grounds for the Christmas holidays. H. J. Miller and Miss Jean Hardy of the Detroit Edison gave presentations along with the winners of the community lighting contest last year who told how their prize-winning masterpieces were put together.

IT WAS emphasized that when you tackle this job you must have a paramount theme, a focal point. Often in arriving at this goal you wish to light up a wall of the exterior. It seemed as though they achieved their best effects by using 100-watt amber flood lights. There is a new round bulb on the market called an ice bulb. With an emphasis of a couple colors you can have a new type of accent on a door motif. These ice bulbs would also be interesting used in an evergreen arrangement in a hallway area.

One house last year had put out an angel and silhouetted it against a wall, with two floodlights to

provide a large shadow of the cut-out.

THE ENTIRE team of young women who make up this group of practical gardeners deserve a salute for their efforts to make this a fine civic event, beginning with the lighting in the auditorium showing holiday lighting accompanied by organ music to the refreshments served the guests with their cookies made from their best recipes.

Your writer has been questioned about the idea of buying potted, balled evergreens for home use during the holidays. If you participate in this venture, remember you should keep the greens well watered each day and I would have a hole dug and ready to receive them when you are through. Considering the weight and cost involved, I would be against it.

Dear Santa: Steve and Cathy has been pretty good this year. We would like to have Tinkertong trucks for Steve; train, Steve, Doll that talks for Cathy; play doll for Steve and Cathy; Lago building sets and Robot Commando, Steve; tool chest, Steve; cash register for Steve and Cathy. Please send as many as you can. Thank you.

STRICTLY FRESH Some say that the most respected car made in America is still the police car. It has been claimed that high heels were invented by a woman who had been kissed on the forehead. The trouble with our politicians is that some don't get elected. If you still have your tonsils and appendix at middle age, chances are you're the doctor.

The Birmingham Eccentric eat

NATURE NOW

Wheat Cultivated, Improved, Used in Variety of Ways

Wheat is the most important of our more than 5,000 species of grain in dry sections of the west. Grasses. Ground, it makes the flour which is the basis of so many of our everyday foods.

Had you been a man living along the Asian or African coast of the Mediterranean Sea as early as 4,000 years before the Christian era you would already have been eating foods made from wild wheat. A species of this plant called "emmer" never produces more than two kernels to a spikelet, still grows wild in the highlands of Syria and Palestine. During thousands of years of its cultivation wheat has been improved not only by hybridization but also by nature's own mutations.

A NUMBER of species of this grain are grown today, most of them belonging to the genus "Triticum." So called "spring wheat" and "winter wheat" are both cultivated in the United States. The former is planted early in the season and is often used in milder climates. The latter is sown in the autumn and harvested in July. It needs a covering of snow to protect it over the winter.

Wheat can be grown in a variety of soils and a rotation of crops produces the best results. In our northeastern states the planting pattern is: wheat, clover, corn, oats and back to wheat. In the west, where land is plentiful, this crop is often grown two or three years in succession and then the fields are allowed to lie fallow for a year.

Draught resistant strains of wheat have been developed which grow in dry sections of the west. WHEAT has many enemies including insects such as the Hessian fly, the corn bug and the sawfly. Entomologists work ceaselessly to control these pests which do millions of dollars worth of damage each year. Fungus diseases like rust and smut are equally destructive. Smut may be controlled by treating the seed before planting. The life cycle of rust can be halted by eradicating the common barberry which acts as its alternate host.

Like most grasses, wheat plants have a shallow system of fibrous roots. The jointed stems with nodes and internodes are a characteristic feature. Wheat is a flowering plant and its flower cluster or head bears from 15 to 20 spikelets, each of which is crowned with four to five flowers. These in turn each produce a grain of wheat.

THE STRUCTURE of the tiny but perfect wheat flower is typical of that of wind-pollinated plants. There is a single pistil composed of an ovary with two feathery stigma which catch the wind-blown pollen.

The whole is enclosed in accessory scales or bracts. There are no petals for these serve only as bait and landing platform for insect pollinators. Magnified 30 to 50 diameters a wheat blossom assumes the extraordinary jewel-like colors and shapes so characteristic of the grasses.

AS IN ALL flowering plants the wheat grain is the ripened ovary. In the endosperm or tissue surrounding the embryo are stored the starches and sugars which feed the young plant and which we use as food. The "germ" or embryo is extracted and prominently displayed in "health food" shops. Bran, which is the ovary wall or coat of the grain, is removed in the milling of white flour. It is regarded by some as an essential food.

MANY KINDS of flour are available. Graham flour includes the entire grain. Standard bread flour is about a 72 per cent extraction. Macaroni and germ of the wheat being removed. Cake flour is more highly refined using only 40 to 50 per cent of the grain.

Hard wheat, particularly durum varieties, is used in the manufacture of macaroni and allied products. Our breakfast tables are laden with a score of wheat cereals and this staple grain is also used in distilling whiskey and alcohol and in making beer malt.

Bran, shorts and middlings left over from the refining process are fed to animals. THIS IS a little about wheat. It is interesting to know that man may have eaten wild grain before he could write or talk or even draw pictures on the walls of a fire-lit cave.

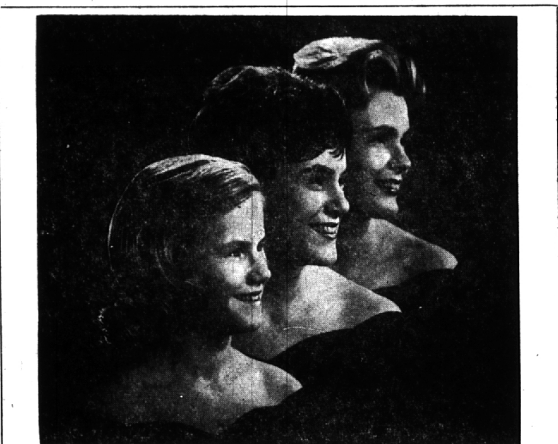
MARCH OF DIMES Plans Meeting Of Teenagers Plans were announced today for a county-wide teen age meeting, sponsored by the Oakland County March of Dimes, to be held on Saturday, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the MGM dance studio, Coolidge Highway, Farmington Hills, Mich.

The purpose of the meeting will be to inform the teens of Oakland County of the vital work that the county March of Dimes is doing for those victims of paralytic polio and similar afflictions and how they can assist in helping raise funds for aid in this work during the January March of Dimes campaign.

MRS. LOUIS GOLDMAN of Huntington Woods has accepted the appointment as Oakland County teen adviser. In accepting the appointment to this position, Mrs. Goldman made an appeal to all interested teens and groups to attend this important meeting and learn how they can help the March of Dimes and gain rewarding experiences in being part of this interesting program.

The University of Michigan announced its first class of seven students in 1841.

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