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The Planter

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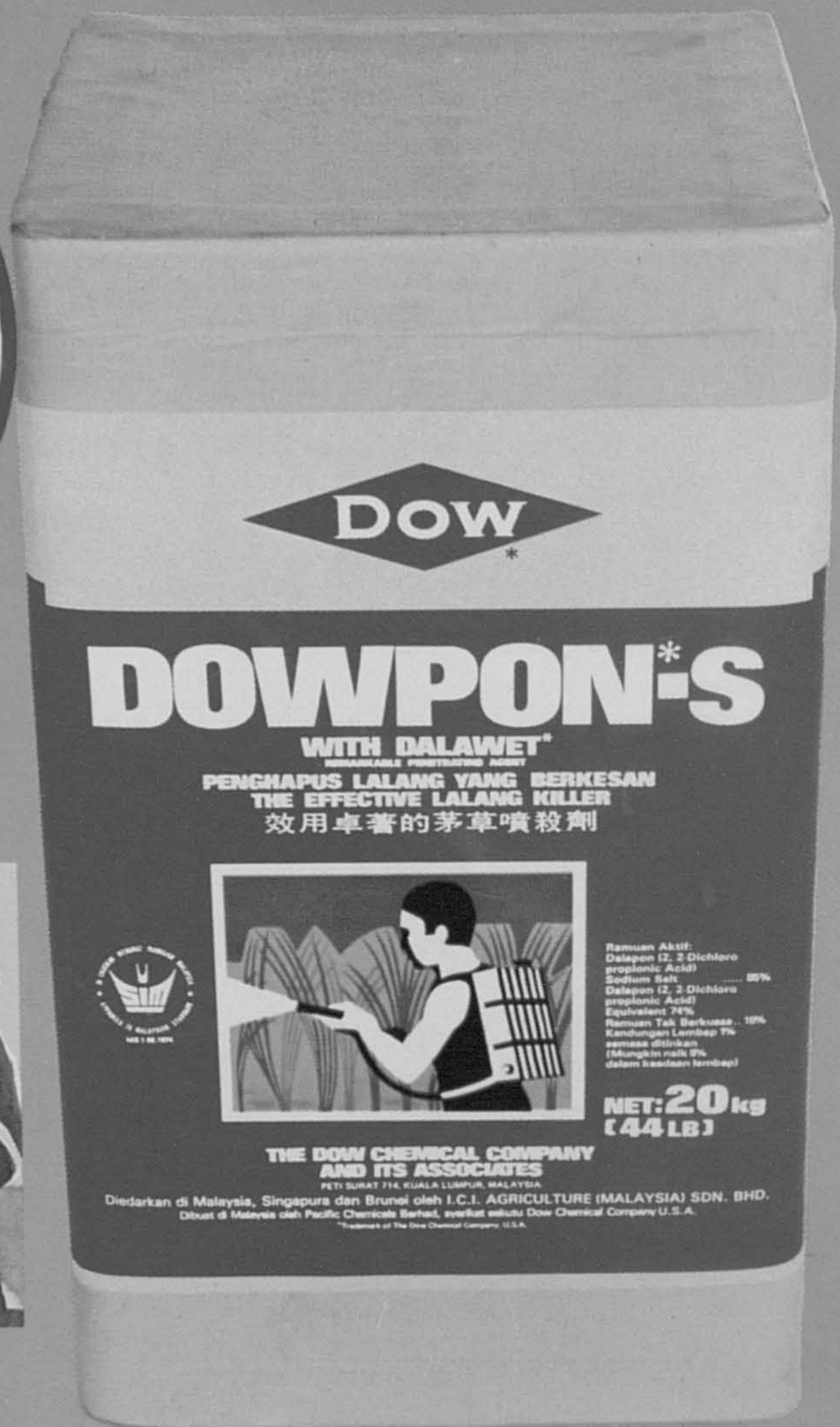

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The Planter

KDN 9432

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The Incorporated Society of Planters

Founded 1919

THE SOCIETY REPRESENTS the Planters of Malaysia and other territories, whose personal and professional interests it is bound to endeavour to secure and promote.

OBJECTS foremost in the Society's Memorandum of Association are:

To promote the general interests of the planting profession.

To promote the advancement and facilitate the acquisition of that knowledge which constitutes the professional qualification of planter.

To watch over, promote and protect the mutual and individual interests of its members in respect of matters pertaining to or arising from their employment in the planting profession.

To promote and maintain good feeling, co-operation and understanding between members and their employers.

ACHIEVEMENTS of the Society are a technical education scheme, the publication of authoritative works on tropical agriculture, a monthly magazine featuring original technical articles, the sponsorship of conferences and symposia on tropical crops, and the organisation of joint consultation with employers.

MEMBERSHIP of the Society is open to: —

A Those directly employed in plantation management such as estate managers, assistant managers, superintendents, supervisors and cadets, and

B Executive engineers, estate medical officers, and qualified scientific or administrative staff of estates or organisations mainly concerned with the planting industry.

Category B may include those employed in such other senior executive, administrative, professional or advisory capacities as may be deemed by the Executive Council as being equivalent thereto

Neither category shall include clerks, conductors, hospital assistants, etc.

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The Planter

KDN 9432

MAGAZINE OF THE INCORPORATED SOCIETY OF PLANTERS

(1) *The Planter* is published monthly from the Society's Office at 1, Pesiaran Lidcol, Kuala Lumpur 04-06, Malaysia.

(2) It features original technical articles in tropical agriculture, for the benefit of the planter (in active service or practice), papers relating to the Society's Technical Education Scheme, and other contributions of more general interest.

(3) The magazine's current print order is 2 000 copies and this is steadily rising.

(4) *The Planter* is read in some 51 countries*.

(5) Copies are exchanged with a wide range of agriculturally based institutions.

(6) Subscription copies go to 32 countries.

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Editorial :

"COCOA – ANOTHER AGRICULTURAL COUP D' ETAT?"

In the wide agricultural spectrum of Malaysia, cocoa is still a relative new comer—notwithstanding its first plantings on inland soils (in Peninsular Malaysia) during the 17th century!

Time and again, the prospects for growing of cocoa on a large scale have been reviewed, with almost equal numbers of protagonists and antagonists.

The early pioneers found the problems of cocoa growing somewhat overwhelming. Planters with long memories would recall typical conversations about the absence of hardy planting material resulting in 'sweet-toothed' test making a bee-line for cocoa, being attracted by the pleasant aroma.

Readers would also recall that, even around the early sixty's HADDAN and others had sounded warnings about the lack of prospects for cocoa in Malaysia because of stem 'die-back'. Fortunately however, Malaysia fought back with her usual tenacity, with the result that cocoa is now regarded as an 'up and coming' plantation crop.

Still, the danger is not past—as evident from the warnings of MAINSTONE (see last issue) and BYRNE (see current issue).

Apart from its improved 'status' as a monocrop' cocoa is becoming increasingly popular as an inter-crop with coconuts. In fact, private sector entrepreneurs in Malaysia are taking advantage of a French 'break-through' in evolving a hybrid coconut tree, said to be best suited for inter-cropping with cocoa.

We hence feel that it may not be long before Malaysia makes an agricultural *coup d'état* with cocoa, even as a similar miracle occurred in the case of oil palm and a much earlier one with rubber.

The current price levels for cocoa are of course encouraging. But, none dare say that the bonanza will continue eternally, as we know already, of other crops.

For the planter, producer and processer, life has to go on come rain, hail or sunshine.....so, we feel strongly that the fillip and momentum gained during the current period of relative price stability will prove encouraging enough for the establishment of a cocoa growing industry in Malaysia on a firm foundation.

Elsewhere in this issue, the experience of one major estate crop in this direction is illustrated. We welcome similar contributions from other groups towards the wider education of our members and others interested in the diversification of Malaysian agriculture.

Recent plantings of cocoa in the Jengka Triangle are thus encouraging, since they would help to accelerate the pace of smallholders' participation in the cocoa growing industry.

In fact, the Government has duly recognised the position of sugar and cocoa as 'new and high value crop'.....mid-term review of the Second Malaysia Plan promised Government's support for the promotion of such crops.

Suitability of cocoa for smallholders has been recognised universally, since cultivation of the crop does not require heavy expenditure. But, it is still somewhat hampered due to lack of processing innovations in order to obtain correspondingly higher prices.

For cocoa to become established as a plantation crop, relatively higher yields (e.g. over 1,000 lbs. per acre) should be assured. This would mean more research, and also more innovative field effort—the latter is very much the concern of the planter.

From the UN Food and Agricultural Organisation to national agricultural bodies, experts everywhere are convinced about cocoa being a rewarding agricultural investment under conditions of efficient inter-planting.

This would perhaps be the trend in Malaysia in the near future, but whether cocoa is cultivated as a monocrop or in inter-planting, planters should have sufficient experience in its growing, also acquiring adequate knowledge as the basis of their skill, acumen and even 'sixth sense'.

With these objectives in view, the Society has for many years been active in raising the level of knowledge among members on every crop of interest to Malaysia, including cocoa.

Our conference on cocoa and coconuts organised in 1967 still stands out as a pioneer effort in this direction. Further initiative has been taken by the Society under its Technical Education System.

It is our earnest hope that our members would utilise these 'channels' to bone up their knowledge and expertise on cocoa growing, so that any upswing in industry or official thinking in terms of increased cultivation of the crop would find them 'ready, able and willing' to get on with it immediately.

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Planter, Kuala Lumpur **52**: 49–53 (1976)

Vascular-streak dieback of cocoa in Papua New Guinea and Peninsular Malaysia

P. N. BYRNE*

SUMMARY

This paper makes reference to descriptions of the fungus and symptoms associated with vascular-streak dieback (v.s.d.) of cocoa. V.s.d. in Papua New Guinea where this disease was first reported, is discussed in general terms. The importance of this disease in Peninsular Malaysia, and the need to restrict its spread and the selection for resistance (less susceptible) strains is also discussed.

It is suggested Peninsular Malaysia should move into use of budded cocoa as a means of ensuring v.s.d. resistant and high yielding plantings.

Vascular-streak dieback (v.s.d.) of cocoa occurs in some of the cocoa growing areas of Peninsular Malaysia and is potentially the most destructive disease of cocoa in Malaysia.

In the sixties, v.s.d. caused heavy losses and discouraged the development of cocoa in Papua New Guinea. There are signs that development is now regaining impetus and a major factor in this has been selection of resistant strains of cocoa.

Peninsular Malaysia can learn and benefit from Papua New Guinea's experience and work.

References on description of fungus and disease symptoms

The causative organism (*Oncobasidium theobromae* Talbot & Keane) belongs to a new genus described by Talbot and Keane (1971). In Malaysia the most readily available description of the disease would be Keane and Turner (1972) who reported the status of the disease in Peninsular Malaysia at that time and its treatment. A report on mycological investigations up to the end of 1971 was published by Keane, Flentje and Lamb (1971).

V.s.d. in Papua New Guinea

Cocoa was only a minor crop in New Guinea prior to World War II although fairly substantial plantings were being made at the outbreak of the war. During the war, plantings were neglected or removed so that only a small area survived.

In the immediate post-war period, cocoa plantings by both small-holders and estates was encouraged—as sole cocoa or inter-planted to coconuts. Between 1950 and 1960 annual cocoa exports increased from 500 to 6,000 tons and predictions were for 100,000 tons by 1985.

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* F.A.O. Cocoa Cultivation & Processing Expert, FELDA, Pusat Penyelidekan Pertanian Tun Razak, Jerantut, Pahang.

While v.s.d. in Papua New Guinea did not assume significance until the sixties, it probably occurred in New Guinea in the early part of the century and the 1930's. Green (1938) described dieback as the most important above ground disease of cocoa and his description of symptoms indicates v.s.d. probably was amongst the diebacks reported by him.

In the early sixties, v.s.d., which had previously been endemic at a very low level in certain areas, became epidemic. The change from endemic to epidemic condition according to Prior (Private Communication) probably was related to a period of increased rainfall. The change to the epidemic condition prevented realisation of the full potential for plantings in affected areas and overall rate of development slowed down in response to this threat.

In some cases, deterioration of v.s.d. infected stands was accelerated by ineffective pruning treatment and superimposed insect pest problems, notably the cocoa weevil borer (*Pantorhytes* spp.), leaf eating caterpillars and pod suckers.

It is difficult to assess production losses due to v.s.d. as other factors were frequently superimposed. In areas where v.s.d. occurred, effects varied from abandonment, other factors (e.g. insect infestation) were invariably superimposed. Without these superimposed factors and in relatively mature stands, production probably would have been at economic but depressed levels. Even in these cases, the more susceptible trees were killed by the disease resulting in gaps in the canopy leading to deterioration of the stand. Deterioration or recovery was dependant on degree to which stand was affected. Overall loss of production to v.s.d. has been estimated at between 25 and 40 per cent. Development in v.s.d. free areas was also checked and production was stabilised at 28–30,000 tons per year. Currently there are signs that plantings are increasing, so that production increases can be expected.

V.s.d. does not occur in all the cocoa growing areas of Papua New Guinea. It occurs in Papua, Mainland New Guinea, New Britain and some of the offshore islands surrounding these areas. So far it has not been reported in either New Ireland or Bougainville. These two districts account for 35 per cent of the area planted to cocoa and over 40 per cent of exports. Actual production is greater than 40 per cent as some cocoa from New Ireland and Bougainville is exported through the port of Rabaul in New Britain. A ban on the movement of planting material to the two v.s.d. free areas has been in force since 1964.

As yet no economical fungicidal treatment has been found, including systemic fungicides. Pruning out of infections has met with mixed success depending on levels of infections and efficiency of the programme.

Pruning out of infected branches to delay disease build-up in newly infected areas, is practicable and is essential in newly planted areas to remove sources of infection. However, it may not be practicable in mature stands with high levels of infection as pruning could drastically reduce yields and accelerate deterioration of the stand. In these circumstances, it may be better to ignore the disease and replant when yields drop below an economic level or until planned replacement of the stand.

Replanting within or adjacent to infected stands even with resistant material has not always been successful. With high levels of infection, losses of infills have been up to 100 per cent in Papua New Guinea. O'Donohue (Private Communication) considers that given resistant material and highly efficient control measures, seedlings (and clones) can be raised under conditions of high infection rates, at least in new plantings if not in replants. He considers dieback can be lived with from the earliest age.

Pruning out of infections cannot be recommended as a general treatment. Consideration must be given to age of stand, levels of infection, the extent to which trees are infected and the danger to nearby cocoa.

There are degrees of resistance (or susceptibility) to the disease, but no trees are completely resistant. Any tree can become infected but trees vary in their reaction to infection. In some cases progress of infection through the tree is slow, while other trees are able to seal off infections, thus some trees are effectively resistant. Seedlings on the whole are more susceptible to the disease than mature trees.

Resistance apparently is an inherited character. In Papua New Guinea, selection of resistant material, mainly by O'Donohue (Unpublished), has been the most promising control measure to date. Resistant planting material is being distributed either as cuttings or seed, mainly the latter. No doubt the availability of this material has been a major factor in the recent upsurge in plantings in Papua New Guinea.

While resistance to v.s.d. is heritable, there is some segregation for resistance in a progeny, therefore vegetative material would be preferred to seed. There is a practical limit to the amount of vegetative material which can be produced as cuttings. For this reason, budding is being adopted as a more practicable means of vegetative propagation in Papua New Guinea and as a means of establishing significant quantities of resistant material in area remote from propagators.

While v.s.d. has not been found as yet in either New Ireland or Bougainville, there is a possibility it will become established eventually despite a ban on movement of plant material. Plans are in hand to introduce v.s.d. resistant material to both these districts to build up the proportion of plants resistant to v.s.d. to buffer the effect of a possible introduction of v.s.d.

In summary, v.s.d. has been in many of the cocoa growing areas of Papua New Guinea for a number of years. In the early sixties, this disease assumed epidemic proportions resulting in production losses and slowing down cocoa development.

Selection of resistant material in Papua New Guinea has proven to be the most practical control measure and has contributed to a renewed interest in cocoa development.

V.s.d. in Peninsular Malaysia

Keane and Turner (1972) were not prepared to commit themselves on the possible build-up of v.s.d. to serious proportions in the Bagan Datoh-Telok Anson area, as occurred under the wetter conditions at Jerangau, but they were cautiously optimistic. My recent observations have indicated that the disease is possibly moving into an epidemic phase but possibly at a much lower level than occurred in Papua New Guinea and probably Jerangau.

The exhortation of Keane and Turner to keep a continuous check on the disease in new plantings is strongly supported. In addition, it is urged that more positive steps should be taken to contain the disease and lessen its impact.

Movement of planting material from areas where v.s.d. occurs to v.s.d. free areas should be restricted. Possibly it would not be practicable to apply this ban to cocoa seed but a ban should be placed on the movement of vegetative material. It is not definitely known if v.s.d. can be transmitted by seed; Prior (Personal communication) has traced *O. theobromae* to the pod placenta but not to the seed itself. Even if the fungus penetrated to the seed it is doubtful if the seedling would survive long enough for sporulation to occur. Vegetative material should only be taken into v.s.d. free areas after adequate intermediate quarantine. It should be remembered that the 'incubation' period for this disease is about three months.

When available, it is imperative that only planting material (seed or vegetative) selected for v.s.d. resistance be distributed—including areas free from this disease at present. This infers that seed production should be in v.s.d. free areas if possible.

The selection of v.s.d. resistant clones is a long term project. The first Papua New Guinea series of screenings for resistance to v.s.d. depending on field infections, took three years. However, it is hoped that a more rapid screening technique will be developed. This is the main object of Prior's programme (Personal communication). In addition to screening for v.s.d. resistant parent trees and progeny also need to be tested for yields, quality and agronomic characters so that v.s.d. screening is only the initial step in a selection programme.

The programme could be considerably speeded up by the introduction of vegetative material already screened for resistance to v.s.d. and proven for other characters. This would be an interim measure to cover the period during initial selection and testing of local material.

It is known that Papua New Guinea has material already screened for v.s.d. resistance and either proven or well on the way to being proven for other characters. There is no published details of selection for v.s.d. resistance in Sabah.

A breeding programme in Peninsular Malaysia would require facilities for screening selections and progenies for v.s.d. resistance. For obvious reasons it would be necessary to carry out this work in an area where v.s.d. occurs.

The use of vegetative propagation to ensure uniformly v.s.d. resistant and high yielding plantings should be considered for Peninsular Malaysia. With its tradition of budding and because it is the early stages of cocoa development, Peninsular Malaysia would be in a better position to adopt this approach than any other country. This has worked with rubber on a large scale and there is no reason why it should not work with cocoa also.

Summary of recommendations for Peninsular Malaysia

1. Plantings should be continuously checked for v.s.d.
2. Treatment should depend on careful consideration of a number of factors.
3. Movement of cocoa vegetative planting material from v.s.d. areas to v.s.d. free areas should be banned.
4. Only planting material from resistant trees should be distributed.
5. Facilities for testing for v.s.d. resistance should be set up.
6. Vegetative material of proven resistance should be introduced after suitable quarantine precautions.
7. Serious consideration should be given to basing future cocoa development on vegetative propagation using budding.

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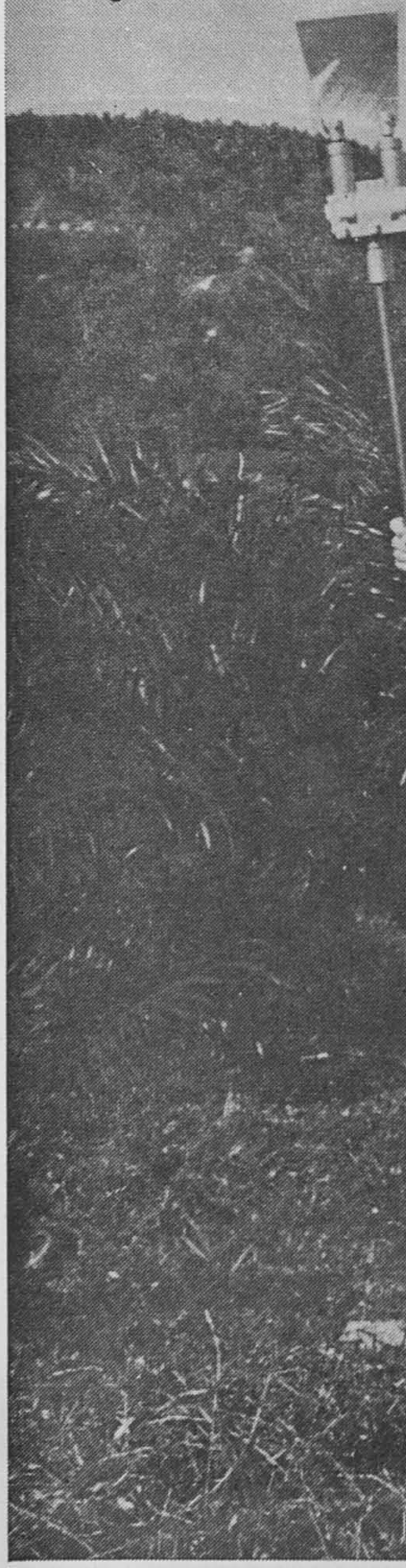

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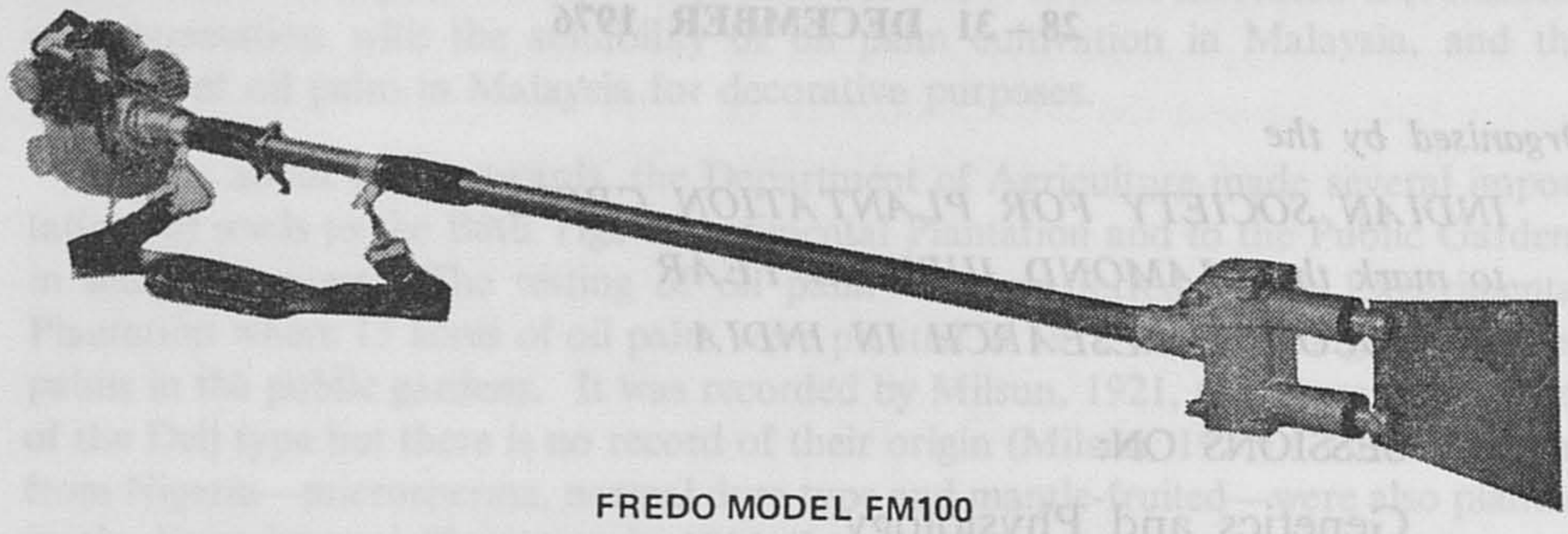

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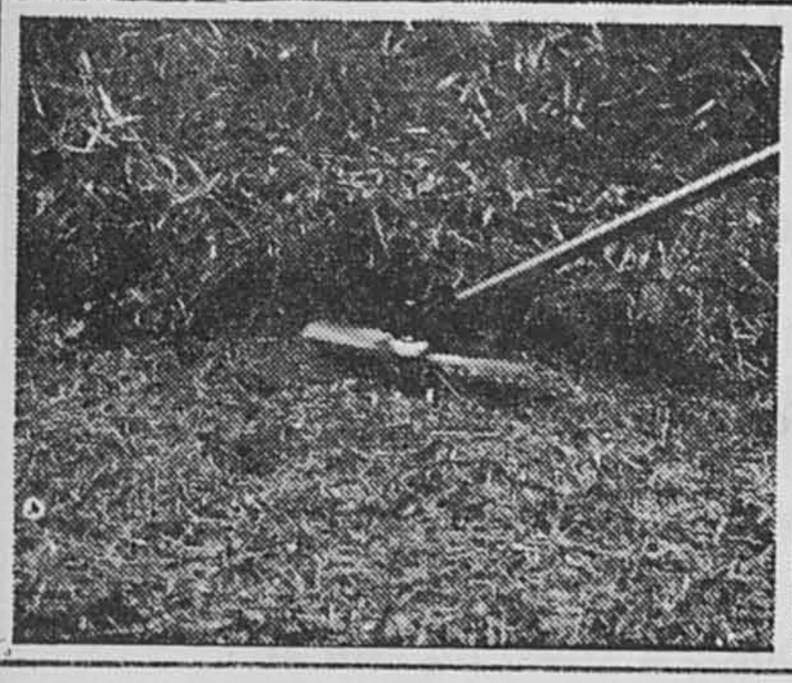
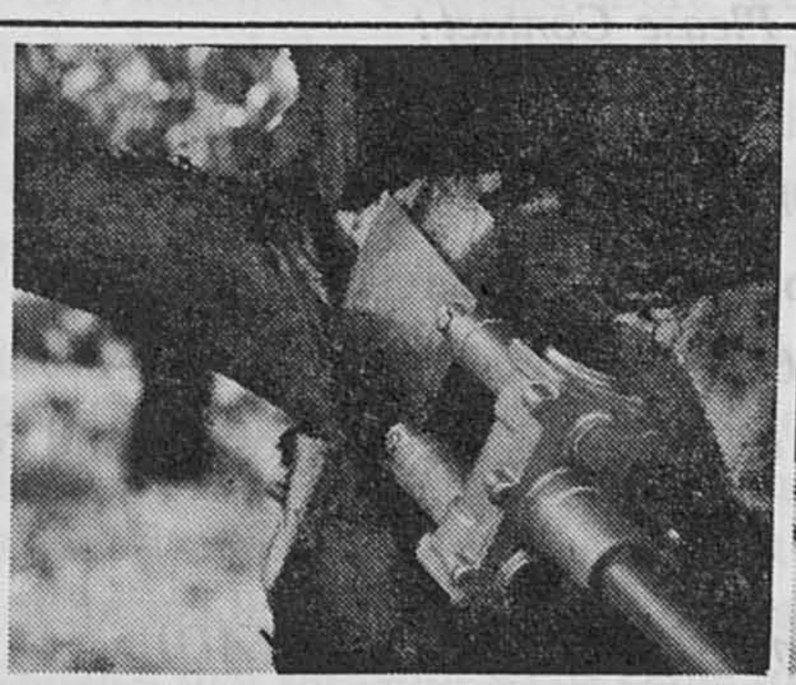
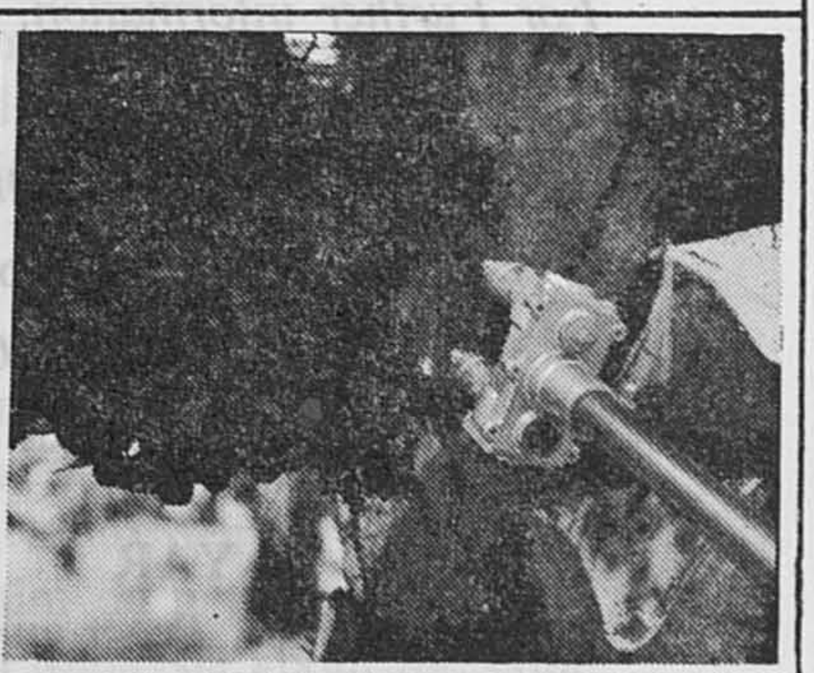
(Optional)	(b) 3200 mm (10' 6")
Total Height	260 mm (10.24")
Total Width	190 mm (7.48")
Total Weight	6.4 kg (14.11 lbs)
Width of Blade (Std)	120 mm (4.72")
(Optional)	135 mm (5.32")
Length of Blade	143 mm (5.63")
Thickness of Blade	1.1 mm (0.04")

The above specifications are subjected to changes without notice)







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Development in oil palm industry in Malaysia*

DR. HARCHARAN SINGH KHERA

For convenience of analysis and exposition, we can subdivide the development of the oil palm industry in Malaysia into three stages:

First stage. The first stage occupied 1875 to 1916. The period witnessed the introduction of oil palm seeds in Singapore (Zeven, 1965), the increased Government experimentation with the suitability of oil palm cultivation in Malaysia, and the planting of oil palm in Malaysia for decorative purposes.

From about 1903 onwards, the Department of Agriculture made several importations of seeds to the Batu Tiga Experimental Plantation and to the Public Gardens in Kuala Lumpur. The testing of oil palm was transferred to the Experimental Plantation where 15 acres of oil palm were planted in 1912 with seedlings of selected palms in the public gardens. It was recorded by Milsun, 1921, that these palms were of the Deli type but there is no record of their origin (Milsun, 1921). Three varieties from Nigeria—microsperma, normal dura type and mantle-fruited—were also planted in the Experimental Plantation in 1914 (Jogue, 1952a).

In 1922, selected seedlings from the Experimental Plantation were planted at the new Experimental Plantation, Serdang, where individual palm selection was continued. The oil palm population established for experimental purposes at Serdang also included collections of different West African varieties imported direct or *via* London and planted between 1925–1928. These varieties included thin-shelled and shell-less fruited palms which are now being used for extension of the Deli type in experimental breeding at this Experimental Station (Jogue, 1952b).

In 1911, Henri Fauconnier, a Frenchman, visited Tanjong Norawa Knini Tobacco Estate near Medan in Sumatra. He purchased Deli seeds, having chosen the seeds himself and planted these in an avenue at Rantau Panjang Estate near Kuala Selangor. In 1912 Fauconnier obtained more seeds from the same estate where Adrian Hallet had selected three of the best palms amongst a considerable number under observation. Palms grown from these seeds were also planted at the Rantau Panjang Estate entrance and the Rantau Panjang Estate bungalow was known as "La Maison des Palmes".

Although the oil palm was introduced in 1875 and its economic possibilities realised it is strange that the palm remained only an ornamental plant for many years. It was not until 40 years later, by which time the world's consumption of vegetative oils and fats had increased to such as extent as to demand additional supplies, that attempts were made to cultivate the oil palm on a plantation scale. It was probably a coincidence that oil palm seeds came to Malaysia about the same time as rubber and also by the same route. Although Malaysia was the largest world producer of rubber by 1916, the oil palm was yet to be grown commercially.

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* Unless otherwise stated "Malaysia" in this article refers only to "Peninsular Malaysia".

The probable reason for the late start was that neither palm oil nor kernel oil were then in great demand due to technological and other reasons. However, we cannot attribute the whole cause for the late start in Malaysia to these reasons. In the Netherlands East Indies, commercial planting had started about a decade earlier. Fortunately, in the case of Netherland East Indies there was a dynamic entrepreneur, Adrian Hallet, a Belgian who set the oil palm industry going. Malaysia had to wait until 1917 when Henri Fauconnier, a friend of Hallet, planted the oil palm in Tennamaram Estate in Selangor. While Fauconnier was planting oil palm for decorative purposes, Tennamaram Estate, nearby, was being opened up for coffee planting. The coffee experiment was a dismal failure. Oil palm seeds were obtained from the Rantau Panjang Avenue and planted in the Tennamaran Estate in 1917. Tennamaram Estate became the first commercial oil palm plantation in Malaysia. This marks the beginning of the oil palm industry in Malaysia.

Second stage. This stage comprises a long period beginning with the commercial planting in Malaysia in 1917 and ending in 1961. This was an exciting period—a period when the oil palm industry gradually increased its importance and laid the foundation for its rapid 'take off' in the sixties.

The second commercial oil palm plantation, also in the Kuala Selangor district, was developed at Elmina Estate. The estate was first opened up in 1919 and the first 40 acres planted in 1920. A total of 570 acres were planted in 1920–22, and a total of 1,010 by the end of 1923. The Department of Agriculture received a number of enquiries regarding the possibilities of establishing the crop under estate conditions. The heavy, slump in the price of rubber during 1921 was mainly responsible for the stimulation of interest in the crop. The interest was not, however, long sustained, partly owing to the improvement in the price of rubber following the introduction of the Stevenson Scheme (Bauer, 1948, McHale, 1969) and culminating in the 1925 boom.

It was not until 1926 that there was a marked increase in the extent of the area planted with oil palm. The transition to oil palm was slow. While rubber production had become subject to restriction scheme, large areas of suitable soil in Johore were then alienated for oil palm cultivation on very generous terms. By 1925, 8,000 acres had been planted with the crop and this increased to 50,000 acres by 1930 and 63,000 acres three years later. By the end of 1940, the acreage under oil palm was 77,000 acres.

Prices of oil palm product[1] were low in the 1930's, otherwise expansion would no doubt have been at a faster rate. During this period (1930–40) only 27,000 acres were planted. However, the industry recovered from the depression of the early 1930's faster than did rubber. Despite the deterioration in the price level and the slow-down in planting, production continued to increase as the palm oil yield increased with the maturity of the palms.

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(1) Refers to palm oil and palm kernel oil. In the case of Malaysia palm oil is the more important product.

In 1940–41 Malaysia exported palm oil at the rate of 51,000 tons per annum which amounted to 12% of world palm output. At this time, Malaysia ranked as the fourth largest producer. From late 1941 to late 1945, Malaysia was under the Japanese Occupation. This period increased the neglect of the oil palm industry in the country and the destruction of many of the expensive factory installations on the oil palm estates. With the return of peace in 1946 efforts were directed at rehabilitating the industry first and then at extending the acreage under oil palm. After the war, prices of oil palm products were some 4–5 times higher than in pre-war days and remained remarkably steady. This encouraged further extension of new planting and replanting in order to replace old low-yielding plants with higher yielding material. But the existence of "Emergency" made it difficult to accelerate the pace of development.

During the period 1938–50, the oil palm acreage in Malaysia increased by about 33% (under 3% per annum) to a total of 96,000 acres. In the period 1950–60 there was a further slow increase by some 40% (about 4% per annum) to 135,000 acres.

Third stage. As mentioned earlier, the need for diversification in agriculture was emphasised by the World Bank Mission as early as 1955. The relatively favourable rubber prices in the fifties did not immediately created the need. However, the declining prices in the early sixties and the pessimism about the future prices of rubber brought the question of diversification to the forefront again.

As regards agricultural diversification, rubber producers and government officials alike began to look around for practical alternatives. Oil palm was recommended by the World Bank Mission, and again by the team of experts from the Ford Foundation[2], as one of the main crops for agricultural diversification. To land support to the recommendation: several prominent authorities[3] from existing commercial oil palm and rubber interests in Malaysia stated that at the prevailing and expected market prices an investment in oil palm was more profitable than an equivalent investment in rubber. The attractiveness of oil palm industry gradually increased. The comparative advantages of labour, land and capital factor use in many of the traditional sectors of the economy were no longer as great as they were and the alternative uses of factors were becoming more attractive.

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(2) *Policies and measures Leading Towards the Greater Diversification of the Agricultural Economy of the Federation of Malaya,* a report submitted to the Government of the Federation of Malaya by the Ford Foundation Survey Team, February, 1963.

(3) *For example :*

(i) Terbau Estate Limited, Director's Report, 50th Annual General Meeting, 1950.

(ii) Chairman of Petaling Rubber Estates, Limited, in his report for 1960. *Malay Mail,* 16th March, 1961.

(iii) Temerloh Rubber Estates Limited, *48th Annual Report 1962.*

(iv) "Profit Advantage to Oil Palm" *Financial Times,* 10th March, 1962.

(v) Chairman of Oil Palms of Malaya, Limited, in his statement to Stockholders at *31st Annual General Meeting* on 27th December, 1962.

(vi) Golden Hope Rubber Estate Limited (now called Golden Hope Plantation), *57th Annual General Meeting,* 31st May, 1963.

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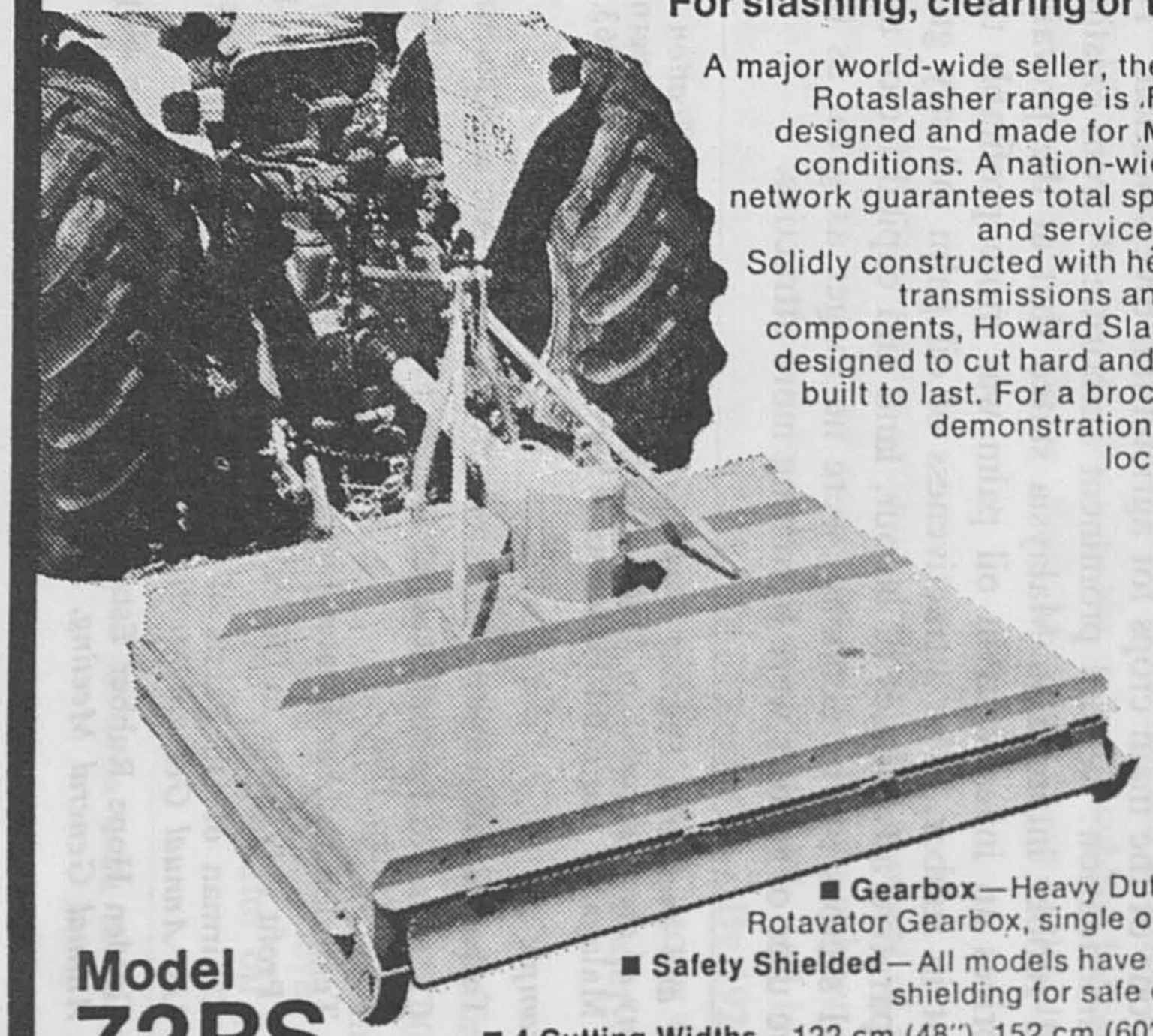

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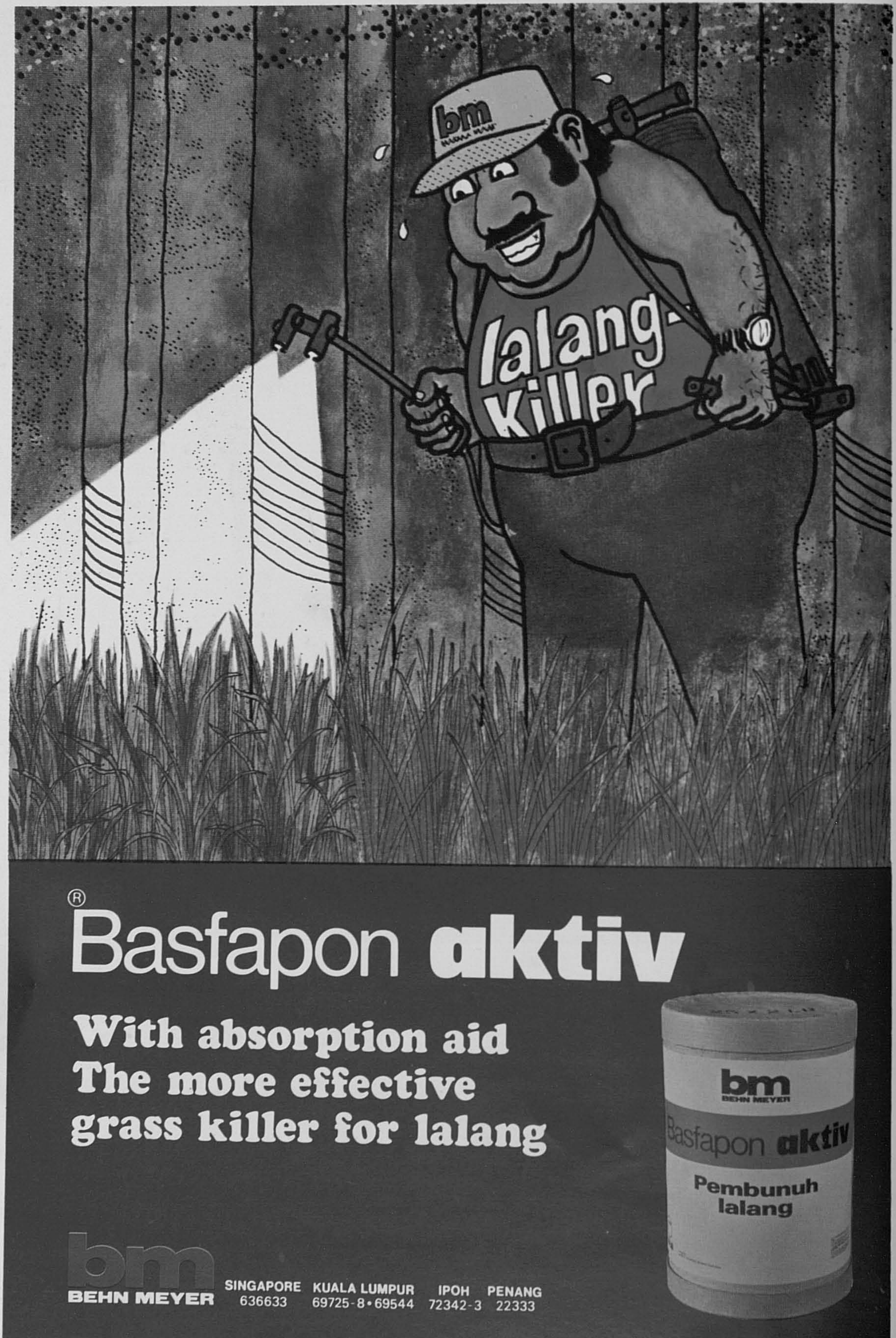

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In view of this, the Malaysian Government decided to promote in general a programme aimed at a rapid expansion of Malaysia's oil palm acreage, and in particular to enable smallholder participation on a large scale in this hitherto wholly estate owned enterprise. The Government's policy at this time was that where the soils were suitable for oil palm this crop was to be grown in preference to rubber. This policy was carried through mainly by the Federal Land Development Authority (FELDA) in its land development schemes. In other words, the emphasis was to accord much more priority to the oil palm than ever before. To encourage smallholders who wished to replant their old rubber with oil palm were eligible (from the beginning of 1962) to receive replanting grants[4] as in the case of replanting rubber lands with rubber. The various State Governments also encouraged new planting or replanting of oil palm in their various schemes. Most commercial plantation companies also accorded top priority to oil palm in their new planting or replanting programmes whenever the soil and climate were suitable.

So the 1960's witnessed a phenomenal change in the rate of development of the oil palm industry in Malaysia when compared to other agricultural crops (see *Table*). In 1972 about 7.4 million acres of land in Malaysia were under cultivation. Though rubber still dominated the area to the extent of over 4.2 million

TABLE

Estimated cultivated area under agricultural crops, Peninsular Malaysia selected years ('000 acres)

Period	Rubber		Oil palm		Coconut		Rice		Others	
	Acreage	%	Acreage	%	Acreage	%	Acreage	%	Acreage	%
1947	3,514	64.7	78	1.5	512	9.6	814	15.3	403	7.6
1950	3,551	65.3	96	1.8	485	8.9	931	17.1	371	6.8
1953	3,636	66.8	108	2.0	485	8.9	834	15.3	378	6.9
1956	3,694	65.5	115	2.0	517	9.2	876	15.5	438	7.8
1959	3,783	64.2	126	2.1	520	8.8	924	15.7	442	7.5
1962	4,140	67.9	153	2.5	510	8.3	817	13.4	483	7.9
1965	4,328	67.8	208	3.3	507	7.9	865	13.5	477	7.5
1968	4,258	62.6	498	7.3	517	7.6	1,183	17.8	350	5.2
1970	4,275	59.6	692	9.6	527	7.3	1,318	18.4	364	5.1
1972	4,261	56.8	887	11.8	532	7.1	1,414	18.9	402	5.4
1973										

Sources: *Monthly Statistical Bulletin of the Federation of Malaya, 1963;*
Monthly Statistical Bulletin of West, Malaysia, April 1975.

(4) For details, see Legal Notification 528/55. Under Fund 'A' of the Rubber Industry (Replanting) Fund Ordinance of 1952, rubber estates were eligible to receive replanting grants. These grants were essentially to assist estates to replant or newplant with rubber. However, with the special permission of the Board Administration Fund 'A' these funds were allowed to be used for the planting of oil palm. A grant of $750 per acre was provided by the Replanting Board. Payment of the grant was made in 5 instalments as follows: (i) the first instalment of $300 was paid when the land was cleared and ready for immediate planting; (ii) the second instalment of $150 was paid 6 months later, (iii) the third, fourth

acres, its share of total planted acreage declined from 67.9% in 1962 to 56.8% in 1972. With the exception of rice and pineapples, the area of other crops either declined or remained stagnant. But in the case of oil palm its share of total acreage increased from 1.5% (78,000 acres) in 1947 to 11.8% (887,000) in 1972.

At the moment the production of rubber in Malaysia is over 1.4 million tons from a total planted acreage of some 4.2 million acres. By 1980, Malaysian may well be producing over 1.4 million tons (Zeven, 1965) of palm oil and 200,000 tons of kernel per year. It is indeed fortunate that such expansion is taking place at a stage when advances in plant breeding have allowed production of large quantities of improved high yielding progenies. In rubber it was otherwise for in the rubber boom of 1910–20 large acreages of low yielding and unimproved rubber seedling were planted (Gray, 1968). The late participation of Malaysia in the oil palm industry was also beneficial in terms of factory installation. Since the early 1900's European manufacturers had been experimenting in Africa and Sumatra with various types of machinery for palm oil and kernel extraction. By the time machinery was installed in Malaysia it was much improved. Malaysia was thus saved the pioneering pains. The rate of extraction efficiency in Maīaysia today is higher than that of any other palm oil producing country.

CONCLUSION

In 1961 Malaysia embarked on an intensive agricultural diversification programme and the crop which has achieved the most notable success since then is oil palm. Within a relatively short period, the oil palm industry has become an important sector of the Malaysian economy in terms of its contribution to the national output, income and employment. Since 1966, Malaysia has become the leading producer and exporter of palm oil, and in 1974, it accounted for over 65% of world's exports of palm oil. The widespread popularity of the crop in the estate sector and the heavy emphasis on oil palm in the new land development schemes are due to the expected long term profitability of oil palm compared to rubber.

However, it is important to bear in mind that the rubber industry has played and will continue to play a unique and dominating role in the economy of Malaysia. Although agricultural diversification has repeatedly been emphasised, unfortunately it has been handicapped by the limited number of other suitable and profitable crops for cultivation in Malaysia on a commercial scale. This, together with the distinct advantage Malaysia already enjoys in rubber and palm oil production, seems to make it inevitable that the future development in agriculture will continue to place considerable reliance on these two perennial crops.

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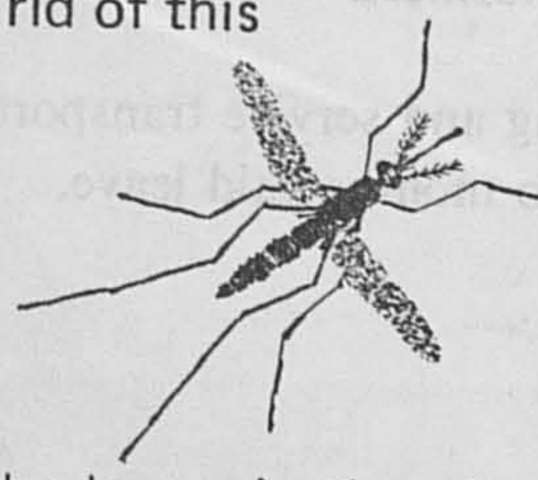

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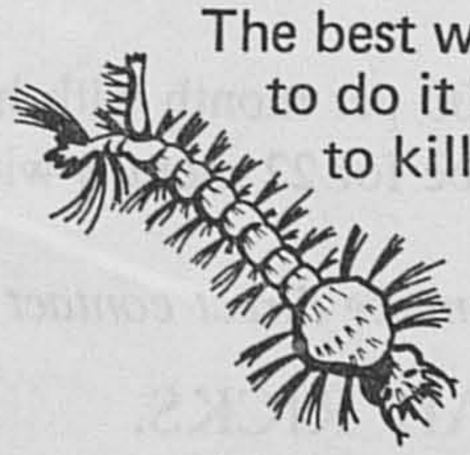

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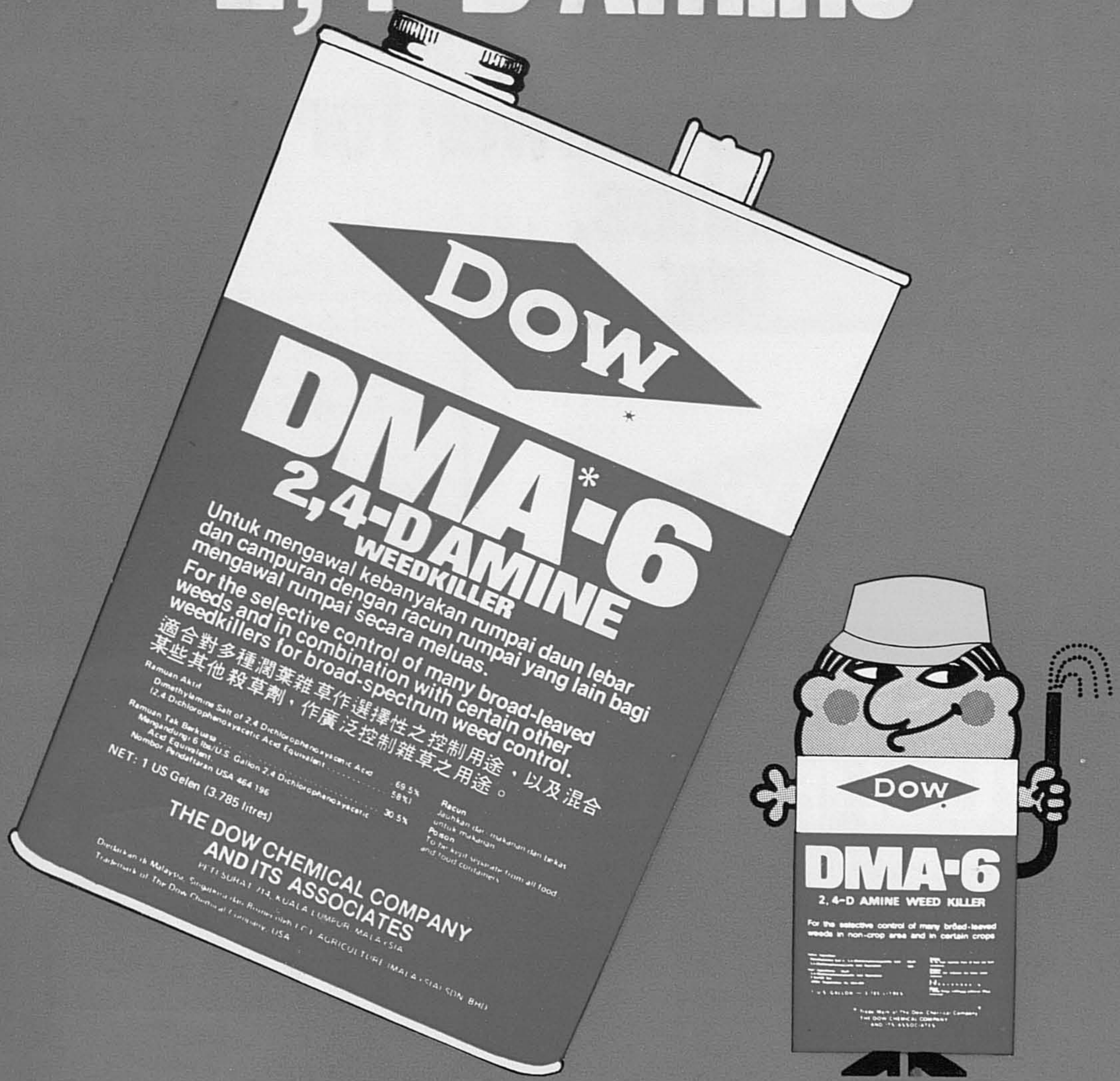

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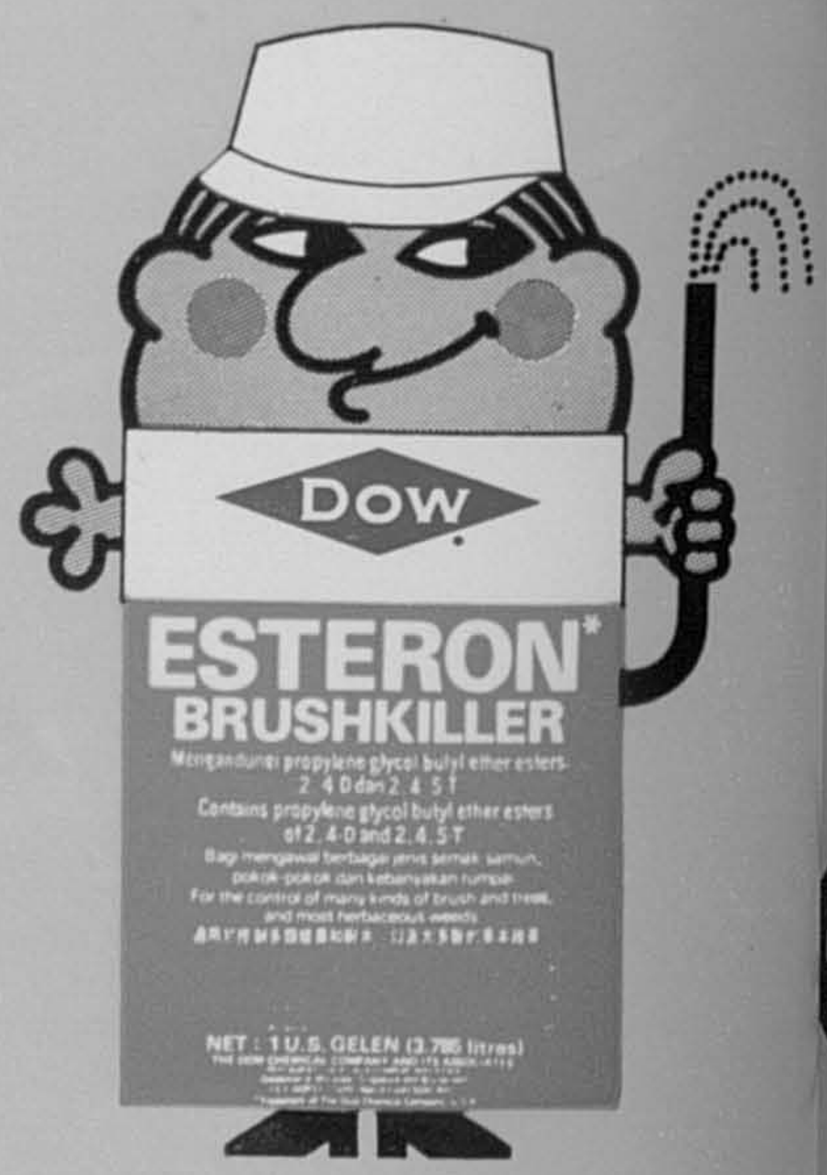

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Recollections and Personalities of Early Planting

by

ERIC MACFADYEN

Director of Harrisons & Crosfield Ltd.

My personal contacts with rubber planting go back half way over the sixty years.

I first saw rubber trees from the window of the train on my way from Klang to Kuala Lumpur for the first time. The railway then extended from Kuala Kubu to the newly opened Port Swettenham: with a branch from Kuala Lumpur to Kajang. E. H. Wallich, then State Engineer, had come down from Kuala Lumpur to meet one of my fellow travellers on Capt. Daly's Malacca, pride of the Straits Steamship fleet in January 1903.

"There—that is the new kind of rubber the planters are taking up" said Wallich, pointing out a small 3 year old clearing on the right of the line, as we puffed up-hill past Sungei Renggam. He added that he believed it was known as Para rubber. With rambong, the indigenous *ficus*, he no doubt assumed we should all be familiar.

P. W. Parkinson was already on Sungei Renggam, which belonged to the Selangor Rubber Co., the earliest company to be formed (in Glasgow) to plant rubber. Parkinson lived to command a battalion in France, to be gravely wounded, and to make a marvellous and, happily, a lasting recovery. He is today a member of the Council of the Rubber Growers' Association.

There were then two other estates on which a few rubber trees could be spotted from the railway: Glen Marie, where H. E. Solbe was in charge, recently come from Ceylon: he too is still hale and hearty. Nearer K.L. was H.C. Rendle, on Pataling, ready then, as now, for the next thrill of fortune's switch-back. Glen Marie and Pataling were, both Liberian coffee estates, being turned over to rubber, in the hope of better luck: as was to happen, in the next few years, to coffee estates generally. Glen Marie had been in pepper before coffee.

An incident of that, my first trip from Singapore casts a sidelight on labour conditions in 1903. Labour was then more often indentured than "free," and planters in some of the less accessible places employed Chinese "sinkehs." Captain Daly's passengers included a gang of such sinkehs for a Perak estate: of whom two, while we were lying off Malacca town at midnight, a good two miles out, had jumped overboard and swum and waded to the land; thus abruptly curtailing their three year indentures.

In Kuala Lumpur in 1903 the planting community had a pronounced Edinburgh flavour. Names like "Wardieburn" and "Hawthornden" perpetuate the affinities of the old coffee planters there: Christopher (Kit), William, and Robert Meikle the latter the companion of Captain Syers when he was killed by the Selangor Club Seladang—John, Clem, and Alec. Glassford. The three Glassford brothers were the backbone of the old golf club on the Petaling hills.

A solitary Southron in the Batu Caves neighbourhood was A. B. Lake, who died lately, *multis fiebilis.* (Mark John Kennaway became his assistant). The great twin brethren of Klang (not invariably brotherly) were E. V. Carey, working for Loke Yew on Batu Unjor, and W. W. Bailey who had the advantage, in opening up Highlands and Lowlands, of the powerful backing of Murray, of the Mercantile Bank, in Singapore.

The two Kindersley brothers were at Kajang, as were E. B. Skinner and M. S. Parry (at West Country); to the Kindersleys (the "Corporal" and the "Marine"—the latter, alas, one of the victims claimed by the war) belongs the distinction of first planting rubber (on Inch Kenneth) on an estate, as distinct from an experimental, scale. Skinner, Parry and Hicks were the owners of Weld's Hill, now an inner suburb of K.L. Coates was squire of Labu. Hislop Hill was still at Bukit Nanas, close to Seremban, though on the point of retirement.

At Linsum, Bloomfield Douglas had the biggest para trees we had any of us then seen, F. M. Porcher, in Atherton, had the nucleus of the "Consolidated." Malcolm Cumming was manfully struggling to keep together the group of estates which were to become the Linggi we know: to be joined presently by young Crisp—a gallant boy and one of the most cruel of our war losses—the Fosters, and other great names.

"Anglo-Malay" was beginning to gather round J. A. Macgregor (whose clan history, with other picturesque details, is set forth in Bruce Lockhart's enthralling first volume). At the foot of Gunong Angsi the Braddons had a little coffee on Paroi Estate: I doubt if there was any other development down the Rembau Valley, unless V. Wickwar had already begun to open Senawang.

On the Selangor coast C. E. Baxendale, W. Greig, and R. W. Munro were down at Jugra, neighbours of the old Sultan Abdul Samad. Along the Kapar road H. M. Darby, who had not yet met that prime mover William Sime, was managing Vallambrosa. At the end of the road his brother D'Esterre ("Kamuning") Darby was in charge of Loke Yew's Kuala Selangor interests. Two outliers, Tanner and Tollemache, were next door to each other at Batang Berjuntai.

These men practised the simple life; *faute de mieux.* Their estates were small ventures struggling against shortage of capital and depressed prices for their products. Coffee had pretty well proved a wrong 'un: some were turning to coconuts; without very much better prospects. It needed the eye of faith to discern, in rubber, a future winner.

The labour forces were very small and even so it was not always easy to persuade the D.O. to discount their modest monthly pay cheques at the District Treasury.

One old planter friend of that time allowed me to peruse an estate diary he had kept for a number of years. I recall the entry for Jan. 1, 1901. "I mustered the labour force at 6 a.m. decided to weed the main drain. He took the right bank and I took the left."

This was indeed the day of small things. When the founder of one of the agency houses in Kuala Lumpur before leaving the Federated Malay States for good made a round of his "bad and doubtful debtors," to one of his veteran clients he addressed a particularly moving appeal, culminating in the reproach—"You owe me even for the stengah you've just stood me."

"Archie, my boy," came the answer, "you bring tears to my eyes. We must have the other half. And I'll tell you what I'll do for you. If I ever pay anyone, I'll pay you."

But they were not given to being downhearted. When E. B. Prior took over a place named Forlorn Hope, he stipulated for its being renamed Golden Hope—as it is to this day. In the same way, E. V. Carey on buying Hell's Glen called it Paradise.

The P.W.D. roads were already excellent, but in horse-and-trap days, 12 or 15 miles was a long way. Many of us had a good distance by bridle path or through the jungle to bicycle or walk before reaching a road. It would often happen that a planter would go for weeks without seeing another *orang puteh.* Some Government men were married, but married planters were rare. It was not a life for an English woman, unless a man's income could run to many more comforts than were generally to be found in a planters bungalow.

My first estate bungalow cost $340 and lasted a good many years. One's food consisted of curry and rice, at least once and sometimes twice a day. Goat, the kampong chicken, bread perhaps once a week—did not afford the basis of a very elastic menu: even if the Tamil cook had possessed more artistry than any of mine. When green pigeon were known to be flighting one would send a flying savage with a chit to a neighbour to meet at the place and, after an hour's shooting, adjourn at dusk to a near-by rest house for a bottle of *kunchi* beer or a tepil stengah.

But if one seldom got off the estate the life on it was a good one. Anyone who grows things sees results for his trouble. And we were not overworked or over worried: not every day was mail day, as it seems to be now. We might—we most of us did—have a touch of fever, but we did not have nervous breakdowns. And off the Estate—if social occasions were rare, they were apt to be intensive.

A meeting of the United Planting Association would be arranged to synchronise with a Selangor Turf Club date, or a Seremban gymkhana, or (in the Hubert Berkeley epoch) a Klang pony meeting. The Selangor Club or the Sungei Ujong Club would

buzz with planters' politics in the morning—grievances about crimping and coolies' pay, the price of rice, the enormities of Government Departments. (The shortcomings of owners and agents were less in the news, thirty years ago, as we were largely our own owners and, if we had agents were in debt to them for last month's rice). There would be a big tiffin and then racing, with Artie fully making a book; next a full house in the Club bar and, after dinner at 10 p.m., poker at the Shebeen or some other hospitable spot, until the adjournment.

In the north of the Peninsula an entirely separate crowd existed: the sugar planters of Province Wellesley. When the railway stopped at Kuala Kubu it was a roundabout journey from Selangor to Province Wellesley, which depended on Penang, as Johore depended on Singapore; living its own life and recking little of neighbours in the "Native States." This was a much more old-established community than our's: the names of their estates "Alma," "Malakoff," "Inkerman" attribute their establishment to the generation whose war had been the Crimean.

They had been developed by West Indian interests, and the flat fields of the Province, below tidal level and protected from the sea by bunds, drained by broad channels discharging through water gates, reproduce the conditions of Demerara. West Indian methods and organisation followed West Indian capital.

The general manager was a being apart: hardly of the same flesh and blood with the team of assistants—hard driven and hard driving agriculturists from Ulu Scotland, living almost under barrack conditions and messing together, bound night and day to the most exacting of all tropical cultivations, in return for a scale of pay I dare not particularise here lest I call a blush of indignation to the cheek of the Incorporated Society of Planters. Bred in such a school, once the floodgates were burst by the rubber boom and the fat billets of the Federated Malay States lay open to those hardy Caledonians, it must have seemed to them indeed a Promised Land. The Honourable John Turner was their King, and William Duncan heir to the throne.

Between the Selangor-Sungei Ujong planters and the sugar enclave in Province Wellesley was a smaller group of coffee estates centred round Taiping. It was here, early in 1906, that I became a planter. Jebong Estate had been planted in the nineties by Frank Stephens (one of another triumvirate of brothers). Like his neighbour, Sperling, he had backed rubber early, and the two of them were producing commercial crops when most others were merely experimenting.

Jebong was purchased by a Ceylon syndicate in 1905, and after a few months B. C. N. Knight, of Maskeliya, was sent over to manage it. Guy Cordon Brown, himself originally a Ceylon tea planter, was appointed Visiting Agent and asked to find two assistants who could help Knight with the Malay labour force. Of these I became one, I could not have had better luck either in my manager, my fellow assistant, or the estate: in particular the art of tapping was brought up to a standard on Jebong, in quite early days, which was not attained on the generality of rubber estates for many years.

That little world revolved round the New Club at Taiping—surely the most clubbable club in Malaya. Taiping itself, *consule* Roger, was not yet Ipoh's poor relation. Last year when I walked round Jebong, and revisited the New Club with S. B. Palmer, I asked myself—where else were to be found such rubber, and such men?—a sign, no doubt, of anecdotage.

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Report from Uplands School

EASTER TERM 1976

As usual the Easter Term is hot and dry. The football padang has become a desert and the players can be but dimly seen through a choking cloud of dust. This, though, does not seem to deter the enthusiasm either of the boys or of our enthusiastic and indefatigable sports master.

We have taken advantage of the recent very hot weather to organise a weekly swimming session at Teluk Bahang's Rimba Rekreasi where there is an excellent fresh water pool. Each week two classes, enough to fill a bus, make the wearying Hill Railway journey. The trouble with such down the Hill activities is the time-consuming journey. In order to have an hour's swim one must travel for about two and half hours, on foot, train and bus. By all accounts, though, it has been worth it.

The hot sun has also been useful in another way. The gardeners have been freed from their grass-cutting duties to turn their hands to painting. As mentioned last time the dormitories and several of the buildings at Crag have now been painted. This term is the turn of Hillview, the building which belongs to the I.S.P. Schools Association. Now that the grass is brown and withered the gardeners can be spared to paint Hillview and this work is in progress.

As Hill fires are quite frequent in this season it is reassuring to note that the grass, and other vegetation around our buildings, both at Crag and at Hillview, is kept cut short to a safe distance. It should be noted that the School is well supplied with fire extinguishers and that these are serviced regularly. We also have fire drills at frequent intervals.

Other happenings during the Easter Term include several cases of mumps but these did not constitute an epidemic.

The Common Entrance Examination for girls took place during February and we also had football matches with St. Christopher's. Yet to come are the termly school examinations which will be after 9th week-end.

We have had, too, a visit from the participants in the latest course to be run by the Regional Centre for Science and Mathematics (RECSAM) from the Universiti Sains. Some of our children were asked to undertake tests, and as usual they enjoyed themselves in the process.

(*Sgd.*) P. E. DRURY,
Principal.

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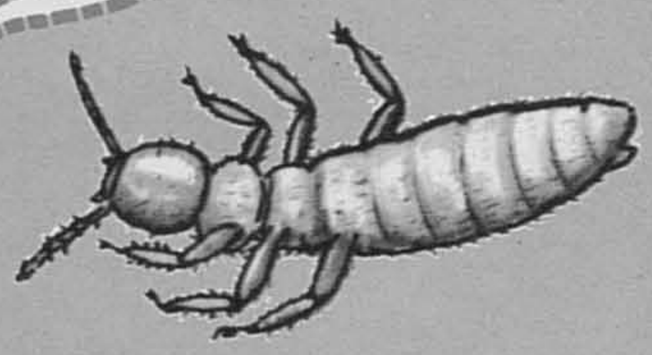

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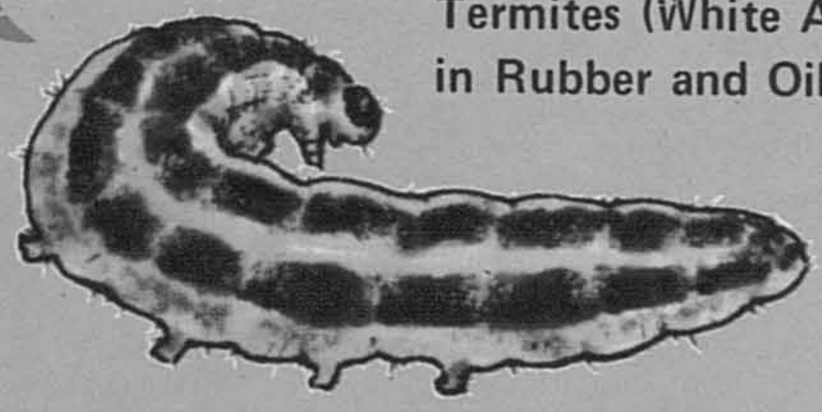
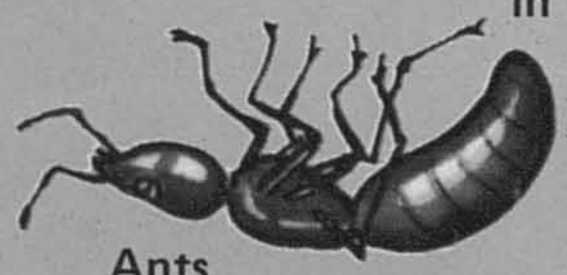
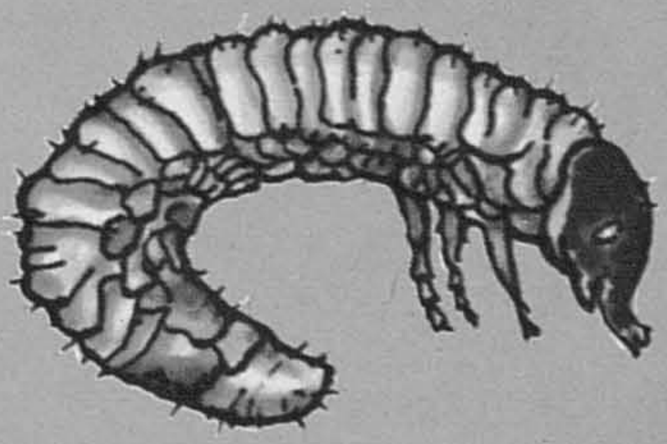


Cutworms and Wireworms
in Vegetable.



Ants
in Pepper and Pineapple



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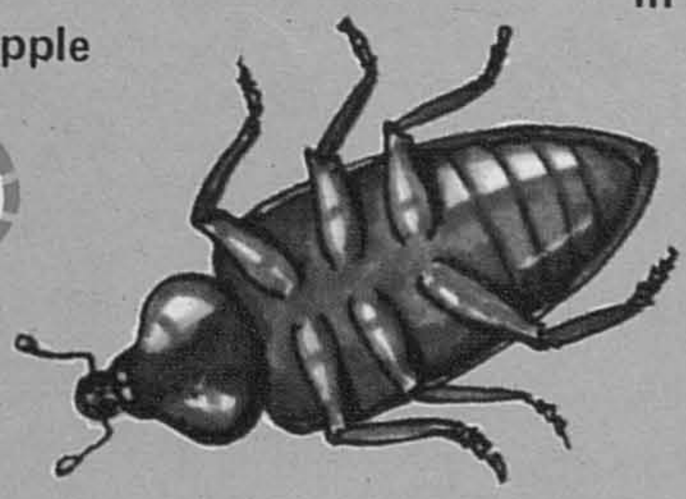

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"Operation Bacon"

by

TAN SRI DATUK MUBIN SHEPPARD

This is a true story, and I wrote it when I was District Officer, Klang at the beginning of the Emergency, early in 1949. The names of the Chinese are fictitious, but the Manager referred to is the late Jack Tovey who was then the General Manager of Highlands & Lowlands Rubber Estate, and lived in a bungalow only about 3 miles from Klang.

This story describes how the Manager of a Rubber Estate and a District Officer worked together to benefit the general public, using somewhat unorthodox but perfectly legal methods.

The success which was thus achieved was the principal topic of conversation in Klang and Port Swettenham for several days afterwards, but is probably now forgotten. The typescript of the story remained among my Klang papers until recently, but I have extracted it at the request of the Editor of "The Planter", and I hope that it will be of some interest.

The monthly meeting of the Klang Town Board was drawing to a close; all the items on the Agenda had been disposed of and more than one member was eyeing the clock, but they still had to wait for unofficial questions. "Mr. Chairman", asked Mr. Khong, "why is the price of pork so high in the Port Swettenham market?"

The question was largely rhetorical, for Mr. Khong and other Chinese members were well aware that there had been a ring in the Port Swettenham pork market for many years, of which every stall holder was a profitable member.

The matter was referred to the Markets sub-committee, but since its powers were limited to giving advice or appealing to the finer instincts of the leading pork butchers, it was unable to report any progress. All pork offered for sale to the public must be sold in the Government market, and every stall holder held a licence which could be cancelled for a breach of regulations, but it was no offence to profiteer, and even if the present stall holders were ejected, it was most improbable that anyone except a nominee of the pork butchers guild, which had survived the Japanese Occupation without loss of personnel, as a result of generous payments into the appropriate pockets, and was also rumoured to be closely associated with a notorious strong arm secret society, would dare to replace them.

It was tempting to 'let sleeping dogs lie': these conditions had been tolerated since before the war. But at least ten thousand people were affected, and here was a chance to strengthen the wavering confidence of a section of the community in the administration.

If the pork ring was to be broken two conditions were essential; an offence against Town Board regulations must be proved and at least one Chinese must be persuaded to assist with some inside information.

All pigs are required to be slaughtered in the Government Abattoir and the carcass must be stamped with a vermilion strip by the Veterinary Officer before it may be offered for sale in the market. But the purchase of sick pigs at bargain prices, and their surreptitious slaughter, is a well known malpractice of some pork butchers. It was odds on that Ah Chee, the senior pork butcher, had made part of his fortune by this means, but he had taken good care in all his twenty years in business never to be caught.

The talisman which opens the lips of a Malayan Chinese on a subject in which his personal safety is imperilled is hard to find.

The motive which made Ah Kim, the vegetable gardener, break the long silence was mainly gratitude. He attributed his recovery, a year earlier, from a severe attack of malaria, to a chance visit by the District Officer to his small house, which had led to his rapid transfer to the hospital. He lived in an area close to Port Swettenham, where more than a hundred Chinese families grew vegetables and reared pigs under his leadership.

Ah Kim's story was soon told. Ah Chee, who with his relatives occupied half the pork stalls in the market, slaughtered three or four pigs regularly at the abattoir, but almost as regularly he killed one before dawn behind his house, a mile from town, and sent the carcass to the back entrance to the market in an ancient Austin Seven at daybreak. Here it was quickly cut up into small sections and shuffled among the legitimate meat, while the gory evidence of slaughter was swept into a cesspool.

"Operation Bacon" needed careful planning. No one, and this included the market staff, must be given the slightest hint that a raid was imminent. Ah Chee must be caught within a minute of the arrival of the Austin, and since it was impossible to forecast the exact time of its arrival, the plan must include a hideout from which the back entrance to the market could be seen.

By a process of elimination it became evident that the only means of avoiding premature discovery was to use a small borrowed Trade van as a lookout post, which could be driven into position while it was still dark. My friend, the Manager of a neighbouring Rubber Estate arranged for the loan of a van, advertising a popular brand of cigarettes, and sent his Malay driver to collect it on the night before a Chinese festival, when the demand for pork was likely to be particularly brisk.

The arrival of the District Officer at half past four the next morning at the Manager's bungalow, and his departure soon afterwards concealed in the back of a red Trade vehicle, accompanied by the Manager and two Special Constables, aroused a storm of rumours among the other S.C's, but not even 'King Kong' the Manager's powerfully built driver had any idea of their destination. He got his instructions en route.

"Drive through the town till you come to the crossroads by the Port Swettenham market, then turn left and park the van opposite the back entrance. Once you are in position pretend to be asleep, but watch for an old Austin Seven. If you see it enter the back lane leading to the Pork Market tell us immediately. Until then, keep silent".

Cigarettes and conversation were barred and time passed slowly. The town began to come to life: wooden clogged feet passed to and fro along the cement pavements, throats were cleared with echoeing vehemence, one of the S.C's swallowed a mosquito and only subdued a choking fit by heroic self control. The van had two oval windows in its back doors, but fortunately the warmth generated by the ambush party shrouded the inner surface with a film as opaque as frosted glass and protected them from the inquisitive.

By six o'clock it was daylight, and still Ah Chee had not arrived. Could Ah Kim's information be at fault? Should they withdraw before they were discovered any try again another day?

A whispered conference was in progress when the welcome sounds of a small car reached expectant ears. A moment later 'King Kong' said "Sudah masuk" (it has gone in) and four dishrivelled figures (the D.O., the Manager and two S.Cs) scrambled out of the van and hurried across to the market.

On the back seat of the Austin Seven lay the carcass of a pig, neatly bisected and still warm. In the market lay another, stretched on the cement slab, while on the floor stood a bucket containing the liver and heart of both. It looked like a "fair cop", but Ah Chee, first poker faced and then a picture of injured innocence, pointed to the Abattoir stamp, a long vermilion streak, stretching the length of both carcasses.

The Indian Veterinary Officer, summoned from his bed, soon demolished this stratagem. The carcass on the slab proved on expert examination to have been slaughtered in the Abbatoir some sixteen hours earlier, but that in the car was freshly killed. The liver and entrails corroborated this view. By applying the warm body soon after slaughter to another bearing the official stamp, the vermilion stripe can be made to transfer, without removing all traces from the original.

Behind Ah Chee's house a labourer was still at work, when the District Officer arrived there, removing the traces of the morning's misdeeds, but a large clot of fresh pig's blood had eluded his broom and fragments of skin, hair and blood were easily detected on the surface of the cesspool.

In the face of so much evidence Ah Chee and his confederates pleaded guilty when they appeared before the Magistrate and were duly convicted of an offence under the appropriate section of the Town Board Enactment. The cancellation of their market licences by the District Officer followed swiftly.

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But for the moment the D.O. was no nearer his ultimate object—a reduction in the price of pork. Ah Bee, by all accounts as great a scoundrel, was left with a monopoly in the other half of the pork market. Within a few hours applications for the vacant stalls began to arrive, mostly from nominees of Ah Chee.

But if the public was to benefit from the purge, new men must be introduced into the market and in sufficient collective strength of will and capital to be capable of resisting trade rivals, whatever their methods.

It could not be regarded as a gilt edged investment, and the risks could not be ignored, but Ah Kim the vegetable gardener, backed by the capital, pig population and moral support of his entire neighbourhood, took up the challenge and within forty eight hours five new butchers, selected by him, had started business.

Ah Kim's prices, ten cents a pound lower than usual, cornered the market for a few hours, and started a price war. Ah Bee cut his prices by fifteen cents and gave overweight. For a month the public revelled in an orgy of cheap pork. The number of pigs slaughtered at the Abattoir increased by twenty five per cent.

Thanks to my friend the Estate Manager, and to the gallant Ah Kim, "Operation Bacon" was an unqualified success, but it could never be repeated.

The monthly crop

SMOKING HABITS AND ATTITUDES

In a government social survey in the United Kingdom in 1967, the following were some of the conclusions: —

1. Three out of four current smokers either wish to or have tried to stop smoking. Thus most people smoke not because they wish to but they cannot easily stop.
2. Only 2% of smokers are able to limit themselves to intermittent or occasional smoking.
3. Learning to some is a phenomena of adolescence. If a person is still a non-smoker by age of 20, he is unlikely to take it up.
4. The motives for young people to smoke are all psychosocial.

They include—

availability of cigarettes, curiosity, rebelliousness, toughness, anticipation of adulthood, social confidence, parental example, older people smoking, friend smoking.

The symbolic value of smoking is to create an image of toughness, precocity, sexiness, and sophistication.

—Berita MMA

DO NOT SMOKE IF YOU WANT TO WIN

A cigarette a day can mean the difference between victory and defeat for a sportsman, according to a West German study.

"Blood pressure and pulse rate rise measurably after only one cigarette", said the author of the study E. D. Luebs of Berlin's Institute in Medicine in sports.

"The smoker brings himself artificially to an altitude of 2,000 to 3,000 metres, thus reducing his athletic ability", Professor Luebs wrote in the medical publication, Der Kassenarat.

In studies made at a shooting contest, the number of errors among marksmen rose from seven per cent before smoking to 27 per cent after one cigarette, he said.

Victory lineups at swimming contests showed non-smokers outnumbered smokers four to one. The same contests showed smokers were unplaced in twice as many events as non-smokers.

Professional basketball players had a 12 per cent miss-rate in target practice after smoking one cigarette. The rate rose to 14.5 per cent after two smokes, Prof. Luebs said.

—Berita MMA

Recollections. For the benefit of the present generation of Planters articles of the past will be reproduced from time to time. In this issue, we have reproduced an article from *The Straits Times* of 6th October, 1936 under the title of "Recollections & Personalities of Early Planting" by Eric Macfadyen, then Director of Harrisons & Crosfield Ltd.

HARRISONS & CROSFIELD

Old Favourites

The bard said that music is the food of love; others that plants respond to music. They can even tell the difference between the good, the bad and the unbearable. Certain flowers, for instance, bloom on Brandenburg Concertos and wither on exposure to hard rock. What has this to do with our weedkillers? Well,weeds also flourish on a diet of sunshine, nutrients and muzak — especially the toughest, creepy types. As a planter you will not want your favourite plantations to be robbed of their food of love. That's why Ansar weedkillers have won their "gold disc" in such a short time. Over a wide range of usage, Ansar means the death of weeds.

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Ansar, Pesar or M.S.M.A. They carry the tune. Death to those obnoxious weeds. We are putting a new jacket onto our potent weedkillers. Which is the reason for the new names. Buah Emas M.S.M.A. and Pesar. At first you may not be familiar with the sound of these. But rest assured, neither will the weeds adapt. Remember, Buah Emas M.S.M.A. & Pesar and the refrain goes on and on. And if music be the food of love — spray on.

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Reproduced from "The Planter" October, 1925

When I Was Young

(To be sung to the tune of "When I was a lad I served my term.")
With apologies to "H. M. S. Pinafore."

When I was young (though it may seem strange)
I got a billet on the Stock Exchange.
As a Junior Clerk without a hat
In time I came to get the jargon pat;
And I calculated at such a rate
That now I am a Planter on a Rubber Estate!

CHORUS: *He calculated at such a rate*
That now he is a Planter on a Rubber Estate!

I worked like a slave from morn to dark
Then got promoted to a Checking Clerk,
With little red button and clothes to scare
And bay rhum oozing from my long lank hair;
But I checked those bargains with such address
That now I am a Planter in the F.M.S.

CHORUS: *He checked, etc.*

Came to the rubber boom and things looked blue
For I dropped my money and the Guv'nor's too,
And the Guv'nor said to myself, said he,
"You're far too clever for the likes o' me.
Don't want to lose you but think it best
So here's five thick 'uns and a ticket West."

CHORUS: *Did'nt want, etc.*

T'was cold up North so I made a trip
As a 'foremast hand in a South-bound ship.
Chipped rusty plates and greased down stays,
Became most nautical in many ways;
And I greased those stays so superior
That I became a Planter in Liberia.

CHORUS: *He greased, etc.*

Two years graft in the Afric Bush—
Blackwater fever and I got the push.
Said a pal in London when I got back,
"They want a Planter out in South Perak."
And I told the tale with such minutae
They offered me the billet of a fourth S. D.

CHORUS: *He told the tale, etc.*

So East I came and met my fate
As a shirt-short planter on a Rubber Estate;
Till my old P. D. with a smile benign,
One day handed me a form to sign.
And I signed that form so care-full-ee
That now I am a Member of the I. S. P.

CHORUS: *He signed that form so care-full-ee*
That now he is a Member of the I.S.P.

VON DE LUST.

A Parody

(With Apologies.)

Tap, Tap, thou Tamil arl,
My function's to get parl,
With which to choke the Store.
You're not so sick as I am
Each time appears a "Kayam,"
Although you may feel sore!

Cheat, Cheat, thou cunning Chink,
You think the Tuan's a gink,
Who lives to give you "wang,"
This month you'll live to rue;
I've sundry cuts for you;
You'll find your kira "wrong."

Lift, Lift, "Disease and Pests,"
Your lives are but long rests,
Your work is much too slow,
You've got to lift this trunk,
(Because my T. A's drunk)
Up to my bungalow.

Run, Run, thou young S. D.
There's lots of work to see,
And still more to be done.
The P. D. and V. A.
Are round your "tote" to-day,
You go and watch the fun!

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"Sandy's Spice"

A. A. SANDOSHAM

Freedom of the City

Modesty has never been one of my failings. I remember once when I declined the invitation at a social function to entertain the crowd with a song or play on one of the musical instruments I said I had no voice and that the only musical instrument I played was at home and that was the second fiddle. My daughter said, "*Daddy, that's not true. I know you don't believe in high fidelity and are always making overtures to other girls. Besides, isn't there another instrument you play so well and so frequently*"? To my query as to what that was (hoping she won't say, the organ) she said, "*Why, you are always blowing your own trumpet!*"

The key to the city of Manila was presented by the Mayor in recognition of my services to CMAAO (a brain child of the Philippines) over the past 8 years or so as MMA delegate during a period when MMA did not have the funds to give financial aid to its delegates for attendance. While this is a personal honour it is also a recognition of the help given by MMA and as such I feel it merits a record in *Berita MMA* and brought to the notice of members. I know it is a great honour to me but I tried to find out if I can put it to practical use and enquired if the key would entitle me to go to the Manila Key Club which is reputed to have the prettiest call girls! They just laughed and said it does not even open the gate to Intra Muros since it was blown down by successive air raids by the Japanese and the Americans. It is just a symbolic honour.

Manila Hotels

I find they are among the most expensive places in the world. Of course, the amenities provided to the patrons are also among the best I have experienced. It was just as well we all went (except one unfortunate fellow) without our wives and could enjoy the night life of a gay city.

I was particularly struck by the Floor Show. A couple of girls with a build on them that made your mouth water, could not have found less scanty bikinis adorned with sequins. They danced on the floor keeping time with silver-plated trambolines held over their heads. The arms raised attitude seemed to help their figures too. The flood lights flashed from the gleaming surface of the trambolines and the sequins as the girls danced. All eyes were glued to the dancers and the band struck up a fanfare: desirable because it helped to drown some of the cruder expressions of enthusiasm. We leered at the girls as they halted in front of us, grinning fixedly and still wiggling. They kept shifting their hips from left to right and back again, jerking their shoulders cleverly to keep the wobble going.

As I had booked to leave the hotel early in the morning I wanted to settle my bill the previous evening but they wouldn't hear of it. The desk clerk on duty when I wanted to check out at 6.00 a.m. hadn't heard of any concession rates we were supposed to be charged. Then I found I had been charged double-room instead of single-room rates. The clerk said that according to the security guard on my floor my wife had spent the nights with me. Perhaps the masseuse was also exhausted and decided to occupy the spare bed. I dared not make a fuss lest my fellow-delegates would overhear and so paid up like a duke.

As so often happens when I finish attending conferences overseas I was completely prostated, I mean prostrated.

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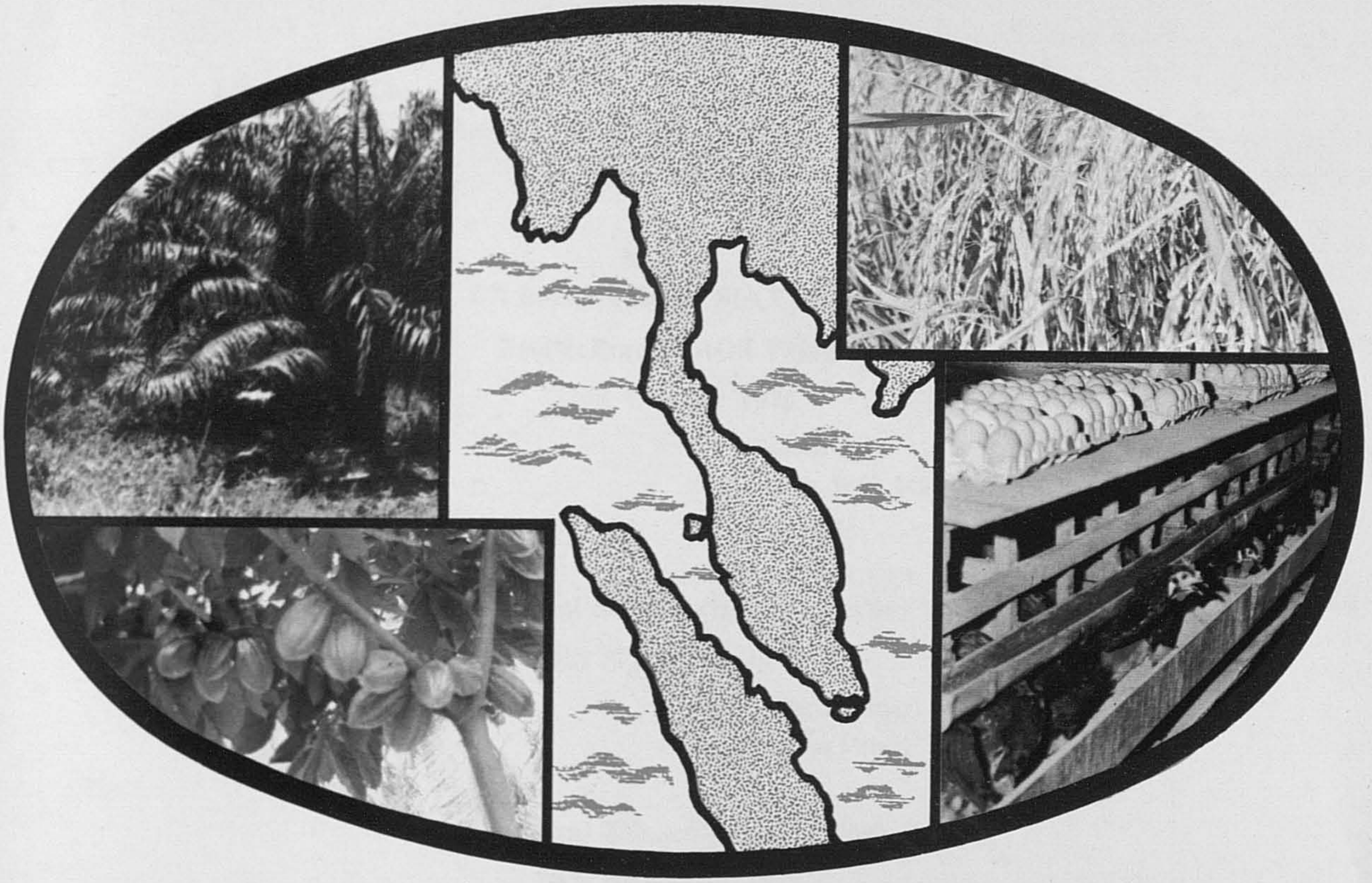

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Douglas Francis Lee	(Central Johore)
Ismail bin Ibrahim	(South Trengganu/East Pahang)

EXAMINATION SUCCESSES

Estate Practice (Oil Palm)

22nd October 1975

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Tan Miang Hang	(North West Malaysia)
Tan Su Leong	(Selangor)

Agricultural Science (Botany Section)

19th November 1975

Chan Kim Lye	(Malacca/Muar)
Lim Hong Joon	(Central Perak)

Agricultural Science (Soils Section)

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Chan Kim Lye	(Malacca/Muar)
Lim Hong Joon	(Central Perak)
David S. K. Das	(Central Johore)
Sharip bin Mamat	(North Johore)
Ahmad Zaini b Mohd Tahir	(North Johore)
Norman Santa Maria	(Lower Perak)
Hamid bin Awang	(Central Johore)
Syed Abdul Rahim b Syed Mohamed	(Lower Perak)
Mohd Damanhuri b Hj Mohd Ibrahim	(North Johore)
Tee Kang Chuan	(Overseas)
A. Tharmalingam	(West Pahang)
Edward Chong Bin Keong	(Sabah–Tawau)
Douglas Francis Lee	(Central Johore)
Ismail bin Ibrahim	(South Trengganu/East Pahang)

Awards

Hj Abdul Rozan K. Saundarajan, being awarded Bintang Kinabalu (BK) and Ahli Darjah Kinabalu (ADK) by the Yang Di Pertua Negara Sabah, on 16th October, 1975.

On leave

2827 Grut, R.L., JP, Sycamore End, Oak Lane, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 IVA, England.

5573 Hay, D.W.E., c/o 17 Queen Street, Woodside, Aberdeen, Scotland.

Change of address

5893 Abdullah bin Ismail, KPM Niaga Sdn Bhd, P.O. Box 2403, Kuala Lumpur.

4871 Abu Hassim bin Sa'at, Ladang Sungei Sedu, Banting, Selangor.

4941 Brown, G.E.M.. Flemington Estate, Teluk Anson, Perak.

4741 Chandran, M.R., Johore Labis Estate, Cha'ah, Johore.

6306 Jorhan bin Mohammed, Torkington Estate, Sabak Bernam, Selangor.

5992 Katar bin Jamin, Lanchang Estate, Lanchang, Pahang.

5029 Lim Cho Yam, AISP, Selborne Estate, Padang Tengku, Kuala Lipis, Pahang.

5547 Lim Cheong Chai, AISP, Sime Darby Plantations Bhd, Estates Department, P.O. Box 157, Kuala Lumpur.

5933 Louis, P.C., No. 5, Jalan 14/47B, Petaling Jaya, Selangor.

6253 Mohd Saleh bin Mohd Tahir, Sungei Mai Estate, Jerantut, Pahang.

5739 Menon, C.S.U., Bertam Estate, Bertam Division, Paya Rembut, Malacca.

6223 Mohd Nasir bin Haji Hassan, Sterling Drug (M) Sdn Bhd, P.O. Box 9, Jalan Gurney, Kuala Lumpur.

5499 Menon, A. Rajan, PJK, Huntly Estate, Pantai Remis, Perak.

4949 Sargeant, H.J., Lenggeng Estate, Lenggeng, Negri Sembilan.

5569 Tan Miang Hang, Anak Kulim Estate, Kulim, Kedah.

6008 Tee Kang Chuan, PT Gunung Madu Plantations, Jalan Cut Mutiah 30, Teluk Betung, Lumpang, Sumatra, Indonesia.

5734 Tan Chong San, Sabah Agricultural Development (Palm Oil) Sdn Bhd, P.O. Box 132, Semporna, Sabah.

5320 Tan Han Chee, P.O. Box 103, Rengam, Johore.

6029 Tay Ching, CEP Rengam, P.O. Box 106, Rengam, Johore.

5135 Wong Tang Kah, Lambak Estate, Kluang, Johore.

5859 Yap Kim Fatt, Field Development, Amchem Products Inc. USA, c/o GPO Box 865, 7th Floor, MacDonald House, Orchard Road, Singapore 9.

5650 Ayyaru, K., Bagan Datoh Estate, Bagan Datoh, Perak.

6261 Chen Yong Sang, Sungei Bekok Estate, Bekok, Johore.

5751 Chandler, F.D., SDA, 60 B Charlton Road, Keynshan, Bristol BS18 2JB, U.K.

5663 Choh Mon Kee, Sabrang Estate, Teluk Anson, Perak.

5073 Dale-Rudwick, P.H., Ladang Lepan Kabu, Pahi, Kuala Krai, Kelantan.

5760 Fong Ting Wong, Sungei Buloh Estate, Bukit Rotan, Selangor.

5027 Kanapathy, D., Labu Estate, Labu, Negri Sembilan.

6100 Lee Kien Shin, Eldred Estate, Bekok, Johore.

6362 Lian Chin Hoe, Central Oil Palms Sdn Bhd, 9th Floor, Wisma Central, Jalan Ampang, Kuala Lumpur.

6363 Law Soo Hah, Central Oil Palms Sdn Bhd, 9th Floor, Wisma Central, Jalan Ampang, Kuala Lumpur.

5660 Lye Soo Lee, Brooklands Estate, Banting, Selangor.

5034 Menon, K.A.G., Serkam Estate, Jasin, Malacca.

5835 Omar bin Haji Harun, No. 6, Taman Dato Wan, Seremban, Negri Sembilan.

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The proven Latex Stimulant

ETHREL is the proven Latex Stimulant, used very successfully in all natural rubber producing countries to either regulate tapping schedules and save labour costs;

Or simply to stimulate and prolong the duration of latex flow, thereby boosting up yield per acre substantially

ETHREL is the pinnacle of over 30 years' research in plant growth regulators by Amchem Products, Inc. of Pennsylvania, U.S.A. Minor product weaknesses have been identified and satisfactorily rectified, so that ETHREL Latex Stimulant now available commercially is virtually free of defects and inconsistencies.

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Ethephon, the active ingredient in ETHREL, releases ethylene directly into plant tissues. Penetration occurs rapidly: from a minimum period of ½-hour to a maximum of 2-3 hours. Since ETHREL Latex Stimulant is a chemically stable viscous fluid, it is not affected by intense sun or rainwash. Therefore, considerable time and labour are conserved, as ETHREL need only be applied as scheduled.

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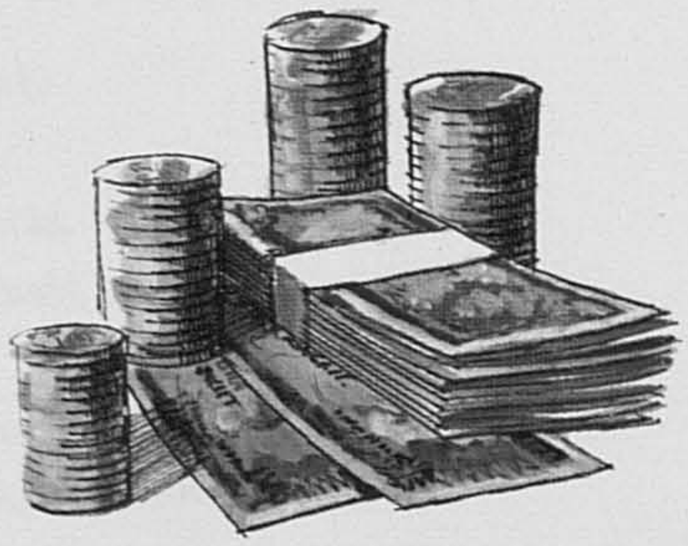

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3241 Stewart, J., BSC., OBE, P.O. Box 83, Miri, Sarawak.
6131 Samuel, Christian, 301 Maple Avenue Apt H 3, Ithaca N.Y. 14850, U.S.A.
4771 Santheran, K., AISP, Chemara Research Station, Seremban, Negri Sembilan.
5333 Tan, Vincent, Siliau Estate, Siliau, Negri Sembilan.
5940 Teoh Kow Tee, CEP Rengam Estate, Rengam, Johore.

Birth

ARITONANG: To Radja and Ria a daughter Sandra Uli Anggriani, on 11th February 1976, at Duchees of Kent Hospital, Sandakan.

New members

6368 Ropee Adman b Yahaya Uddin, Lima Blas Estate, Slim River, Perak.
6369 Dharan Singh s/o Dasunda Singh, Lima Blas Estate, Slim River, Perak.
6370 Sin Chuan Eng, Ulu Yam Estate, Rawang, Selangor.
6371 Dr Neoh Soon Leong, 73 Beach Street, Penang.
6372 Tay Luan Chen, 12 Chapel Close, Singapore 15.
6373 Chew Eng Tzer, Elmina Palm Oil Mill, Sungei Buloh, Selangor.
6374 K.S. Maan, LKTNS, Suan Lamba, Sandakan, Sabah.
6375 Michiel David, Ladang Ubi Johor, P.O. Box 508, Kota Tinggi, Johore.
6376 M.P.G.S. Jayawardena, Blenheim Estate, Teluk Anson, Perak.
6377 Simon G. Hill, Sarawak Oil Palms, P.O. Box 547, Miri, Sarawak.
6378 Ooi Hong Huat, North Hummock Estate, P.O. Box 201, Klang.
6379 Mohd Yousof b Othman, Nova Scotia Estate, Teluk Anson, Perak.
6380 Rosely Abdullah, Training Division, RRIM, Jalan Ampang, Kuala Lumpur.
6381 F.X. Pereira, c/o Johore Labis Estate, Cha'ah, Johore.
6382 Joseph Walton, Unipamol (M) Sdn Bhd, Bhd, P.O. Box 1, Kluang, Johore.
6383 Lee Kong Kian, c/o Dara—Lam Soon Sdn Bhd, Ladang Sungei Merba, Pekan P.O., Pahang.
6384 Chuan Chong Meng, Fraser Estate, Kulai, Johore.
6385 V.T. Ratnam, c/o UNDP, Private Mail Bag, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea.
6386 Eddy Pulle, Jarangan Estate, P.O. Box 8, Tawau, Sabah.
6387 Lim Khoon Leng, Sungei Wangi Estate, Sitiawan, Perak.
6388 Mohd Mazlan, Lima Blas Estate, Slim River, Perak.
6389 Foo Hee Yong, c/o 115–117 Jalan Pudu, Kuala Lumpur.
6390 W.E. Coumou, c/o Chevron Chemical International Inc., 3rd floor, Orchard Building, 1 Grange Road, Singapore 9.
6391 Chan Yam, Jaya Sepakat Mining Corp (M) Sdn Bhd, (Oil Palm Div.), Sri Jaya, Maran, Pahang.
6392 Leong Yim Meng, Ladang Kulai Besar, Kulai, Johore.
6393 Chee King Chee, Prang Besar Estate, Kajang, Selangor.
6394 Ahmad Tajuddin b Abu Hamid, Rancangan K/S Sg Chales, Kahang, d/a Pejabat RISDA, Kluang, Johore.
6395 R. Siva Lingam, Arcadia Estate, Bagan Datoh, Perak.
6396 Jageswaralingam s/o Chelliah, North Labis Estate, P.O. Box 501, Labis, Johore.

6397 C. Marimuthu, Viswanathan Plantations Sdn Bhd, P.O. Box 2, Kota Tinggi, Johore.

6398 Foo Khoon Ming, Tumbuk Estate Sdn Bhd, P.O. Box 2283, Kuala Lumpur.

6399 Lee Eng Chew, Tumbuk Estate Sdn Bhd, P.O. Box 2283, Kuala Lumpur.

6400 Toh Seng Sit, Tumbuk Estate Sdn Bhd, P.O. Box 2283, Kuala Lumpur.

6401 Wong Kia Hai, Hua San Estate, Kuala Krai, Kelantan.

6402 Ng Kian Seng, Australian Chemicals (Div. of Ancom) Sdn Bhd, A-4 Taman Muhibah, Jalan Labis, Yong Peng, Johore.

6403 Tan Tai Leong, Voules Estate, P.O. Box 506, Segamat, Johore.

6404 Ayob b Hj Abd Ghani, Rancangan RISDA Ulu Keratong, d/a Pejabat RISDA, Jalan Buluh Kasap, Segamat, Johore.

6405 C.P. Raghavan, Elmina Estate, Sungei Buloh, Selangor.

6406 Azali b Md Zain, Ladang Kampung Bongsu, P.O. Lanchang, Pahang.

6407 Abu Hassan b Isa, Malakoff Estate, Tasek Glugor, Province Wellesley.

Rejoining

5259 Tuan Syed Mahamad Aljaffri, Perbadanan Ladang2 Tabung Haji, Tingkat 1, Bangunan Bakti, Jalan Campbell, Kuala Lumpur.

5184 Raja Harun Al Rashid b Raja Razman, c/o Bertam Estate, Kepala Batas, Province Wellesley.

5117 Paramajothy s/o Ponniah, Ladang Paloh Hinai, Pekan, Pahang.

4420 Md Joned b Yasin, Dunlop Estates Bhd, P.O. Box 55, Malacca.

3762 A.A. Webb, Sagil Estate, Tangkak P.O., Johore.

4492 Lean Theam Lye, Sepang Estate, Sepang, Selangor.

4545 Archie Milne Powrie, Vizara Estate, P.O. Box 31, Nkhata Bay, Malawi, Central Africa.

Life – Members

3089 F.M.A.J. Richmond, c/o Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corp., 9 Gracechurch Street, London EC3V ODU, England.

3646 J.S.H. Cooper, 73 Barnhorn Road, Little Common, Bexhill-on-Sea, Sussex, England.

3932 L. Davidson, Unilever Ltd., Plantations Group, P.O. Box 194, London EC4P 4DY, England.

4494 Goh Joon, 35 Jalan Sri Pantei, Taman Johore, Johore Bahru.

Culinary Treasure

Layered Durian Cake

Ingredients:

½ tin rice flour

4 ozs. tapioca flour

3 ozs. sugar

6 pips durian (only the flesh)

1 pt. coconut milk (from 10¢ of scraped coconut)

Method:

1. Mix together rice flour, tapioca flour, durian flesh, sugar and coconut milk. Divide mixture into 3.

2. Colour yellow the first part of the mixture, the second part brown and the third leave it plain.

3. Put to steam the part coloured brown first. When this part is cooked, pour the yellow part on top and leave to steam. When it is cooked, then pour in the part left plain. Steam to cook.

4. Cool and cut into serving pieces.

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