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# THE BEE LINE



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JULY 1977

## AMERICAN HONEY QUEEN "Julie Schmitz" WILL HOSTESS TOUR TO XXVth INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF APICULTURE AT ADELAIDE, AUSTRALIA

The Federal Council of Australian Apiarists' Associations is hosting beekeepers, scientists and all others who have an interest in apiculture at Adelaide, Australia for the XXVth International Congress of Apiculture.

The dates are Oct. 14 through 19.

Two tours are being offered to the "land down under." Those who have always wanted to see Australia can combine a visit with the meeting.

Members of the American Beekeeping Federation only can leave Oct. 9 and return to San Francisco Nov. 5. The tour includes several sightseeing days before the meeting and tours to points of beekeeping interest following the meeting, as well as sightseeing and "fun in the sun." Sights include R. Blackwell's fox-harrison honey extractor, the only one of its kind; and the largest beekeeping

establishment in New Zealand near Hastings. Price, \$2,016 double occupancy; \$2,191, single occupancy. For more information, write Robert Banker, Secretary, American Beekeeping Federation, Cannon Falls, Minnesota.

American Honey Queen Julie Schmitz of Pierre, S.D. will be hostess for the second tour, which has been arranged by Paul Heins of Albany.

The tour leaves and returns from Los Angeles, Oct. 5 to Oct. 26. Tourists will visit New Zealand before and following the convention, as well as sights in Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide. The group will also visit Bora Bora, Tahiti and Papeete. Cost is \$2,250 double occupancy; \$2,586, single.

For information, contact Away Travel Service, P.O. Box 769, Albany 97321.

More about the Congress in the August newsletter.

## SUMMER MEETINGS

The Oregon State Beekeepers Association summer picnic will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, August 6, at the Lewis-Brown Horticulture Farm at Corvallis. (Note, this is not being held on Sunday as in the past).

The program will feature Dr. Christine Peng, apiculturist at the University of California at Davis. Her research includes work on queen rearing, pollen substitutes and American Foul Brood diagnostic techniques.

The picnic will be held at the farm or in a nearby park. Bring table service and food for the potluck dinner. The association will provide beverages and honeyed ice cream.

To reach the farm, take the Corvallis-Hwy. 34 exit off freeway, west to Peoria Road (just west of Corvallis bridge). It is located at Hwy. 34 and Peoria Road.

DEADLINE FOR  
INFORMATION FOR  
AUGUST NEWSLETTER  
IS AUGUST 5th

## MORE MEETINGS

Several branch associations have held picnics, including the Portland group, which was slightly dampened by rain July 17.

Upcoming picnics are:

**COOS COUNTY** — 1 p.m. Aug. 14, Coos Co. Fairgrounds, Myrtle Point. Members will set up the fair booth following the picnic. The fair runs Aug. 17 to 21. Secretary Jack Piper, 267-6586.

**SOUTHERN OREGON** — 6:30 p.m. Aug. 1, Tovele Park, Table Rock Road near Central Point, on Rogue River. Contact President Morris Curtis, 826-3089.

**TILLAMOOK** — 1:30 p.m. Aug. 28, Kilches River County Park, watch for sign north of town on Hwy. 101 at the cheese factory. President Ken Ray, 842-6945.

**OTHER MEETINGS** — **ROSEBURG** group meets Aug. 9. Contact Pres. H. Leroy Davis for meeting place, 673-4261.

**IF YOU ENJOY BEE TALK**, join a branch association. Contact officers: **LANE**, Eugene Garner, 746-5972; **COOS**, Jack Piper, 267-6586; **MID COLUMBIAN**, Hugh Holte, 298-1929; **PORTLAND**, Dave Cressler 223-2787; **ROSEBURG**, H. Leroy Davis, 673-4261; **TUALATIN**, Mark Johnson, 621-3137; **TILLAMOOK**, Ken Ray, 842-6945; **WILLAMETTE**, West Kester, 623-2072.

## "CAPPINGS"

Mr. and Mrs. Dick Turanski, 1635 River Road, Eugene, announce a junior beekeeper has joined the family. The Turanskis are parents of two queens, too. Alan David arrived July 15, weighing a husky 10 pounds.

Although Dick admits he has some help coming up, he plans to concentrate on selling bee equipment for the time being. See the ad section for the sale of his 200 colonies.

\* \* \*

Corvallis sixth-grader Courtenay A. Thompson is Oregon's winner in the American Beekeeping Federation's essay contest "The Role of Honey Bees in Feeding the World."

Courtenay, 12, is the daughter of Gene and Charlotte Thompson, 97 6960 SW Winding Way, Corvallis 97330.

Courtenay's article should "bee-hove" some beekeepers to write about the industry, as she has, and others to just get in and do some research and learn about "our friend, the honey-bee."

\* \* \*

Did you read the article on beekeeping in Oregon and some of its problems in the July 15 Salem Capital Press? Capital Press writer Al Wilson interviewed and photographed Oregon State Beekeepers Assn. President Tom Thayer to gain the information for a well-done article.



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## FEEDING BEES ISOMERIZED CORN SYRUP

By Oliver Petty

The use of isomerized corn syrup as feed for honeybees has been questionable since it first appeared on the market. There was much concern among beekeepers because it is so similar to honey and at times there was no way to detect it when mixed with honey. It was often referred to as artificial honey. The American Beekeeping Federation collected funds and initiated special research to prevent it from being blended with honey.

Isomerized corn syrup is produced by a process of adding special enzymes to corn syrup and is sold under different trade names. The most popular brands are Iso-Sweet, and Liquidose No. 71, (High Fructose). Liquidose is being carried by Liquid Sugars Inc. in Salem.

Until recently there has been no organized research on the use of the syrup as a feed for bees. Several article writers have urged extreme caution in using it. Charles Mraz made the statement that it made the bees seem dopey and disoriented. R.C. Daniels warned it should not be used because it had not been scientifically proven safe. He stated its use could cause considerable loss if it proved to be impractical.

I talked to beekeepers from Florida and several other areas at the American Beekeeping Federation in Philadelphia, Pa. in 1976. They had used it with good results.

In the spring of 1976, I purchased four barrels and used it for spring feeding. I saw no adverse effects.

Last fall I was faced with entering winter with little or no feed on about 300 colonies because of a severe loss from insecticide poisoning. The bees had no fall flow to stimulate them toward a recovery.

I decided to gamble on the use of Liquidose 71 since it was somewhat cheaper and less work than feeding sugar. I felt I had little to lose.

I purchased about 1,700 gallons of syrup at \$1.10 a gallon and fed as much as six gallons to some colonies during late August through September. The bees responded pretty much as in a honey flow. With very few exceptions, the colonies went into winter with young bees and a good-sized cluster. Some colonies that had received severe brood damage from the insecticide did not respond as well and still didn't build a good wintering cluster.

Several beekeepers that knew I had used the corn syrup here asked for my appraisal and results.

While I kept no accurate records of the results I did note that the colonies wintered well, much better than colonies which had been in Klamath Falls during late summer. The bees from Klamath Falls had picked up considerable late honey dew and did not winter as well as usual. Colonies returning from fireweed locations with reasonable winter stores and with some supplemental spring feeding had less winter loss than either the syrup-fed bees or the Klamath Falls colonies.

The corn syrup will sugar

into a mush at cooler temperatures. I used five barrels of this "mush" for spring feeding with what I felt were very good results and with a minimum amount of effort. I used a wooden rim under the lid and put up to one-half gallon of mush on a newspaper on top of the frames.

In the June issue of "Bees and Honey," a monthly beekeeping report edited by Elbert R. Jaycox, extension beekeeping specialist, University of Illinois, Urbana, Ill., Jaycox gives results of his controlled studies on 44 colonies of bees fed the Iso-Sweet and sugar syrup for wintering.

"This spring we examined and rated the colonies for strength for the first time Feb. 10 and 11. We checked several additional times for colony deaths and the amount of food stored. On March 30 and April we made a thorough evaluation of the colonies by rating strength, number of frames of brood and other attributes.

"There did not appear to be any difference in survival or strength between the group fed the different syrups. If Iso-Sweet were not suitable as winter feed, we should have seen a difference after such a severe winter. There is a slight chance that feeding larger quantities of syrup might have made a difference but I think not."

On the basis of my experience and the report by Jaycox, I would not hesitate to suggest the use of Isomerized Corn Syrup as bee feed. Liquidose No. 71 has 71 per cent solids and at \$1.10 per gallon would make it about 14 cents a pound compared to sugar at 18 to 20 cents a pound.



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