Border Bug Battle

Few Land-Grant colleges of agriculture are as near the border of a foreign country as is this college, at The University of Arizona. Likewise, probably all readers of PROGRESSIVE AGRICULTURE IN ARIZONA have been stopped at the Nogales border and asked "Bringing any fruits or vegetables?"

But of the thousands who are stopped daily, few realize the importance of that question, or the hazard to our agriculture, our livelihood and food supply, in the possible invasion of insects and diseases from which our crops, trees, soil, and ornamental plants and flowers are now protected. The USDA Plant Quarantine inspectors are doing an important job and deserve the good will and support of all of us.

The side door camper had come all the way up from Panama and, said the U. S. Department of Agriculture plant quarantine inspector at San Ysidro, Calif., "I spent 20 minutes playing hide and seek in drawers, closets, etc. Every drawer, in its remote corner, yielded at least one plant or fruit wrapped in used clothing.

"The wife of the driver insisted 'This is the very first time we ever did anything like this; we didn't know it was wrong.' "

But then, under a mattress in the sleeping portion of the camper, the inspector found a cactus plant 2½ feet tall, with balled roots 8 inches in diameter and a foot deep.

The glib wife explained: "Oh, we took some clothing to the poor people down south, and they probably slipped that cactus in there, as a secret gift for us to discover when we got home again." The inspector mentally questioned the ability of anyone's sleeping on top of a 2½ foot cactus with a bigger-than-football ball of earth at its base, but all he said was that such smuggling of forbidden plants would bring a $5 fine.

Carelessly, the woman reported sharply: "But it only cost us a dollar!" As the search of the camper continued, it netted a total of 48 plants — citrus, orchids, cactuses, 13 sugar cane nodes, nearly half a pound of cotton seed, nuts, etc.

The inspector computed, assessed a total fine of $27, sharply asking if there might possibly be anything else, anything he had overlooked.

"No," the lady replied. "Absolutely not," as she reached in her purse to produce the $27 — and out rolled three more oranges!

Congressional Record Reprints Editorial

The editorial by Dean Myers in the September-October issue of PROGRESSIVE AGRICULTURE IN ARIZONA entitled "Aid is Two Way Street," was reprinted in *The Congressional Record* at the request of Rep. Morris K. Udall of this district. The editorial, pointing out that plant searches by U. S. botanists throughout the world bring many valuable plants from other countries to the U.S., including pharmaceuticals with great promise, was reprinted with a preface by Cong. Udall, in which he warmly endorsed the sentiments expressed.

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with career exploration programs. 4-H has become the largest out of school co-educational youth program in the world.

"We're proud that 4-H provides such wonderful opportunities for citizenship and leadership development," says Wright. As an example he cites the 4-H camping activities. This is one of the ways 4-H youth live together in an informal environment to learn, practice and broaden their citizenship and leadership acumen. They learn to live close to nature, with each other, see the values of conservation practices, and the needs for proper utilization of our natural resources.

The 4-H of Today

"Today, 4-H is in transition," says Wright. "The reason for this is that there is a need to up-date experiences to fit living in a changing society in which there are changes in technology, education, the struggle for socio-economic equality and a movement towards better international understanding.

"In the future, 4-H will become more individual, more people-centered," he said. "Being people-centered rather than project-centered will provide opportunities for boys and girls to find, in the program development, factors to help them reach their potential in decision making and career exploration.

"The emphasis will swing away from only 'how' to 'why' in project effort. The 'why' we need cotton production is becoming as important as 'how' to produce it. We need to teach 'why' a commodity is needed, 'why' is it utilized and in what ways, 'why' consumer education is important, and 'why' economics plays such a vital role in the overall production scheme," says Wright.

Although membership in 4-H clubs has never been restricted to anyone who wanted to belong, Arizona 4-H leadership will continue in efforts to reach more boys and girls from disadvantaged rural, as well as urban, areas. Projected growth will require more adults in leadership roles.

Volunteer leaders work with boys and girls in the age bracket of from 9 to 19. Currently these volunteer leaders, more than 1,300 of them in Arizona, are working with more than 8,000 4-H boys and girls. There are 4-H clubs in each of Arizona's 14 counties. And, every county has an opportunity to expand 4-H opportunities and experiences to more youth.