

He worked out a humidity and air-cooling control machine in 1902. He tried it out in the Sackett-Wilhelms Lithographing and Printing Company in Brooklyn.

From this inauspicious birth, the industry has grown into a multi-billion dollar business that encompasses everything from candy making to television set manufacture. Goodies get their smooth coatings when dipped in chocolate under carefully controlled temperatures. Television sets work better because some of their innards are assembled under ideal humidity conditions.

Air conditioning plants also are making life a little easier for some television stars who must combat the heat of strong lights as well as the tantrums of temperamental directors and producers.

Prisoners in Reno's jail can loll about in comfort while others in the area swelter under the hot summer sun.

Then there is the man on the West Coast who installed air conditioning in his chicken house. He claims it keeps his birds laying on the job.

Science News Letter, June 12, 1954

ENTOMOLOGY

**Pine Borers Scavenge But Bark Beetles Kill**

► NOW IS the time for home owners to start warring on bark beetles, insect killers of pine trees, Dr. Roger F. Anderson of Duke University School of Forestry, Durham, N. C., has advised.

The bark beetle kills, but pine borers, contrary to popular notion, are mere scavengers, incapable of harming healthy trees, Dr. Anderson pointed out. Bark beetles reach the peak of their destructiveness in summer. The problem becomes more acute when there are summer and fall droughts.

"There is usually no cure after bark beetles begin their onslaught," Dr. Anderson said. "Prevention is the answer to this problem."

Preventive measures include keeping the trees growing vigorously by giving each sufficient space, allowing no soil disturbance, and keeping them well watered during dry spells.

Another preventive method is to spray the tree trunks with a solution of the gamma isomer of benzene hexachloride, one-half pound per 25 gallons of water. This chemical is sold under many trade names. Oil solutions of the chemical should not be used, because the oils will burn any foliage they might contact.

The beetles, scarcely a quarter-inch long, are dark and cylindrical in shape. They produce small, curled white grubs.

During dry periods, the trees are weakened and especially vulnerable to attack by the beetles. Both bark beetles and their grubs live and feed in the soft white tissues between the outer bark and wood of the pine.

Science News Letter, June 12, 1954

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