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Butterflys Go

To Florida Too

jobs on record.

butterfly net 30 years ago, plus

that boy's persistence, has led to

It might be described as one of

Dr. Frederick A. Urquhart, head

of the Royal Ontario Museum's Di-

vision of Zoology and Palaeonto-

logy, announced recently that his

research to find out where the

butterflies go in the winter is complete. It is the first proof of an insect migration ever presented, and the techniques developed

will enable scientists to study me vements of some insects which are vitally important in agricul-

As a boy, Fred Urquhart was curious about Canada's best known butterfly, the King Billy.

or Monarch. No one knew where

they went in winter. Some said

they made a suicide flight to the

ocean; others said they migrated

After years of study, and re-

search since 1938 with the assist-

ance of hundreds of cooperators

all over North America, Dr. Urqu-

hart found his answer. The Mon-

archs go to Florida and the Gulf

of Mexico for the winter, and they

come back to Canada in the spring

weary, tattered, but sun-tan

The problem that made the years of work necessary, was that the scientist had to know exactly

to prove any theory. How do you

After several years of experi-

menting with different glues and

papers, Dr. Urquhart found a way to stick a label on a butterfly's wing that wouldn't wash off, and that wouldn't interfere with flight.

From 1938 to 1940, he worked

with other scientists across the

country, trying different kinds of

tags and labels. His work was

interrupted by war service. In

1950, he was back at it again, and

a satisfactory technique was de-

veloped in time for the 1954 tag-

In all, 40,000 Monarch butter-

flies have been tagged, and Fred Urquhart captured and labelled 20,000 himself. He has had over 300 cooperators in Canada and the U.S.A. tagging and spotting. Until this year, results were discouraging. Butterflies bearing the la-

bel, "Return to Museum Toronto" were found in but a few scattered locations. None of those tagged on the Gulf or in Florida

were captured here, and no Cana-

dian tags were found in Florida.

seemed to help in some unexplain-

ed way, and the rsults already

this fall have made the proof of

A Monarch tagged on September 3 at Meaford, Ontario, was

found in Galveston, Texas, on October 18. And Dr. Urquhart has had his personal reward, for the other two important specimens,

found in Brownwood, Texas and

Silsbee, Texas, were both tagged by him near his Highland Creek

A scientific report on the project is being prepared now for re-

The study of the Monarch butter-

fly was not limited to its migration. Dr. Urquhart also wanted

have no natural enemies, and if

all of the Monarch caterpillars survived, the earth would soon be

In finding the answer to this

migration complete.

lease next year.

knee-deep in them.

The strange weather of 1956

follow a butterfly?

to South America.

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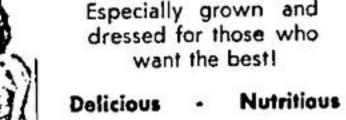
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NEWSPAPERS ARE NERVE CENTRES

Business men must learn to trust, respect and co-operate with the press as an initial step in developing good community relations, Ira G. Needles, president of B. F. Goodrich Canada Ltd. told the annual meeting of the Stratford Chamber of Commerce re-

He said that newspapers, radio and TV are the nerve centres of speaker. community thought and are entitled to the support of business and community leaders. press is determined to present both sides of any situation with complete objectivity in the news columns, but far too often spokesmen retreat behind that deplorable reply of 'no comment." It seems that many are reluctant to recognize that the reporter is seeking the truth, wants to tell the story to the public and must depend upon us to help him."

question, the scientist convinced his neighbours that he was insane. Caterpillars live on milkweed plants, so Dr. Urquhart simply ploughed up his three-acre suburban garden, and planted milkweed. He spent several summers sitting on the ground in his milkweed patch, watching caterpillars.

Why don't they survive? It turns out that the caterpillar is a natural Mr. McGoo. It just can't seem to find its way around. When a slight breeze shakes the plant, most of the caterpillars fall off the leaves, can't find their way back again, and starve to death.

Dr. Urquhart hasn't decided what to do with his three-acres of prime milkweed, now that the project is over.

"People often think of the scientist as a man in a white coat. The curiosity of a boy with a doing complicated and mysterious experiments which no layman could possibly understand," Dr. Urquhart said, "In reality, a lot of important research is just a matter of doing the obvious, simple thing, like labelling butterflies to keep track of their travels, or watching caterpillars to see what happens to them. It's common sense backed up by a thorough understanding of the subject."

Mr. Needles urged businessmen; the community. He said that par- events in our office, factory or to give every possible aid to re- ticipation in chamber of commer- store,' said Mr. Needles. porters and to take the press into ce work and other service funcconfidence. He cautioned against tions in a community depended confusing advertising with news, upon a high sense of personal re-

"The sales story belongs in the sponsibility and faith. Encouraging people to offer advertising column but any news story is treated on the basis of its their services for political office

and to become active in communi-The importance of newspaper ty service projects were importdeadlines and the speed which is ant factors in community success. necessary in replying to a re- "I believe we would reap a rich porter's question were other rules harvest if we further recognized of press relations outlined by the the dignity of our employees by placing their promotions before

The strong personal desire to the community and I believe we serve was lauded by Mr. Needles should demonstrate our interest in as the vital element in service to the communityby advising it of

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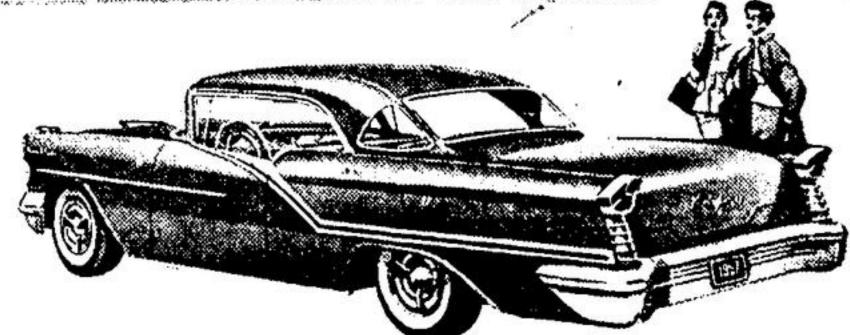
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