### HORMONE HELD AID TO CROPS

How the dusting of very small amounts of hormone material may bring more snap beans to maturity and otherwise improve the quality of the crop was told by Dr. F. C. Stark, Jr., specialist in vegetable crops of the University of Maryland Extension Service.

Dr. Stark was addressing one of the final sectional meetings of the Tri-State Packers Association, which concluded a three - day spring conference at the Lord Baltimore Hotel.

He said the program still was in an experimental stage, but that there has been evidence that the use of the hormones would induce the development of more beans from a profusely blossoming plant; would induce a certain degree of seedlessness desired by the packers, and was effective especially during a hot, dry season.

Dr. Stark said that, under experimental conditions, 1-500th of a pound of the hormone material, mixed with ordinary insecticides, had been found effective.

"It is our hope that this experiment may have commercial significance," he added. "Ultimate results are yet to be determined."

Dr. I. C. Haut, head of the department of horticulture, University of Maryland, in a discussion after the formal adjournment of the conference, told of the development in university laboratories of the succulometer—a mechanical device for measuring the moisture content of corn on the ear.

"The mechanism eliminated the factor of human error, and also is much more rapid," Dr. Haut said discussing the development with Dr. E. P. Walls, of the University of Maryland.

"The moisture content of corn in the field is a very good index as to when it is ready for packing," Dr. Haut explained. "The succulometer establishes that factor quickly and certainly.

Another mechanical measuring device for determining vegetable maturity is the tenderometer as it applies to green peas, Dr. Haut and Dr. Walls said. The mechanism was not originated at the University of Maryland, but has been used and developed there, the specialists said.

By means of the tenderometer, the readiness of a pea crop can be determined mechanically, it was explained. The mechanism "shears" through the pod and the amount of pressure necessary for the shearing is registered.

### EASTON KHORASSANS TO INTERSTATE CEREMONIAL

Approximately fifty votaries and tyros from Ma Deva Temple. No. 231, Dramatic Order Knights of Khorassan, will attend the big Interstate Ceremonial to be held in the Pythian Building, Baltimore, next Saturday, April 19.

A chartered bus will leave Princess Anne at 7.00 A.M., Salisbury at 7.25 A.M., Easton at 8.55 A.M. and Grasonville at 9.32 A.M., picking up members en route Arriving at the Emerson Hotel at 11 A.M., where reservations have been made, the members will register at the Pythian Building around noon.

Among the officers attending from Easton are: W. T. S. Benny, Royal Vizier; H. E. Plugge, Secretary; Clarence J. Leverage, Treasurer; Floyd S. Butler, Shiek; J. Bennett Morris, Royal Prince; and D. Joseph Schwaninger and Carl Davis, Escorts.

The ceremonial will begin with a parade at 1.30 in the afternoon, followed by initiation and a banquet at 6.30. The evening will be given over to the eighth order. More than 500 members are expected from eight States and the District of Columbia.

### ROMANCOKE CLAIBORNE FERRY SERVICE RESUMED

Resumption of ferry service between Romancoke and Claiborne, suspended more than a year ago, was resumed early this week by the rebuilt ferryboat Gov. Emerson C. Harrington.

The ferryboat was withdrawn from service on the Eastern Shore route on December 9, 1945, for conversion from steam to Diesel power.

The completion of the work was delayed by strikes in mid-Western plants. The old boilers and steam engine were ripped out of the craft and the interior of the hull was rebuilt to accommodate two 250-horsepower six-cylinder Diesel engines, each driving a propeller one of which is mounted on each end of the ferryboat.

As a steam powered craft the Harrington required upward of an hour to negotiate the stretch of water between Romancoke and Claiborne.

Tests run on the bay by the Baltimore Marine Repar Works, which coverted the craft, indicate the trip can be easily negotiated in 25 minutes.

The schedule calls for departures from Claiborne at two-hour intervals beginning at 7 A.M. and continuing through 7 P.M., with departures from Romancoke beginning at 7:40 A.M. daily and every two hours thereafter until the last trip at 7:40 P.M.


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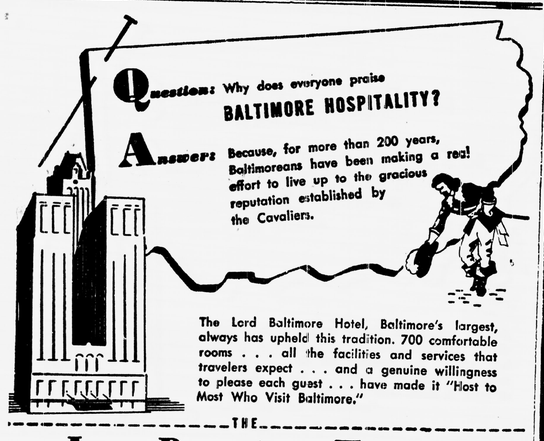


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