Book Stirs New Studies Into Use of Pesticides

By VINCENT THOMAS ssemblyman, 68th District More than a century ago the

est-seiling "Uncle Tom's Cabsparkplugged the abolition slavery. Last spring another est-seller. "Silent Spring." riggered a sweeping investigaion of the dangers to human and animal life caused by use of modern chemical bug kill-ers-"pesticides," to use the

ers—"pesticides," to use the technical term, The grim fact was spotlighted that once again human ingenuity had come up with a method of im-proving man's environment and increasing his food supply which also carries a built-in hazard of maiming or killing innocent beings. As a result several bills were

As a result, several bills were introduced in our regular session last spring, proposing changes in our existing Cali-fornip system of controlling pesticides. All were referred to The contract for the lights committee for interim study. The Senae Fact Finding Com-The Senate Fact Finding Comthese bills. held a two-day hearing on

SPOKESMEN for the state departments of health, agricul-ture, and fish and game testi-fied as to the magnitude of the National Municipal League. problem involved, and as to their experiences with them. Others who appeared were growers and representatives of chemical manufacturing firms. Before the witnesses testi-

fied, the committee was told that the purpose of the hear-ing was to determine if addi-tional state law was needed. U. S. Senate hearings on federal angles have been held, but the responsibility of the state government is greater. because it must exercise the primary police power in the field

A PUBLIC health depart-ment doctor told the committee that pesticide poisoning of human beings has become an important health problem in California. Physicians' reports of such cases total between 800 and 1,100 per year, and the rate has doubled in the past 10 rate has doubled in the past 10 years. Deaths from such pois-oning average about 10 per year. About half of these deaths occur in non-farm fam-ilies, though only about 13 per cent of pesticides are used off the farm. Children account for the farm. Children account for many accidental deaths. The department recommended

more intensive research into how pesticides affect man and

past 30 years. It has done more of this work than any other government unit in the world, including the federal bureaus In the last full year, almost

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lights was awarded to G. & B Electric Co. on a low bid of \$47,000. The bid was about 20 per cent below the engineer's estimate. Work will include installation of poles and floodlights. Each unit will held 160 bulks of

unit will hold 160 bulbs of National Municipal League. A main switchboard to con-trol the lights also will be installed

William Hogan

(Continued from Page 14) when he leaves Korea's strug-gles to his grandchildren. It seemed time, Mrs. Buck has stated, that the American people descurbing people discovered something about Korea and Koreans. We

have some responsibility for their present plight; their country, after all, was arbi-trarily divided by Americans. Her mission here is to spread knowledge about Korea, and she does so by applying her she does so by applying her obvious narrative gifts as the educational tool at hand.

This is a much longer, much more panoramic work than Mrs. Buck's famous novel of China, "The Good Earth," which appeared more than 30 years ago. I still remember Wang Lu, the poor farmer who became a wealthy land-lord, in that parable of the life of a man in his relation to the soil.

Here, Mrs. Buck's charac-ters tend to get lost in the historical pageantry, as the reader tends to get lost in the drone of the classroom.

his environment, and tighter control of known dangerous pesticides. The head of the department of agriculture said that his agency has been testing food and feed samples for injurious chemical residues during the

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multi-state survey, were found

in three-quarters of the ani-mals and fish studied. They game birds, to rabbits and self.

pesticide chemicals, in one OCTOBER 31, 1963

have been found in all species deer. Once started a chain of from fresh and saltwater fish, chemical poisoning may extend for the future on this subject.

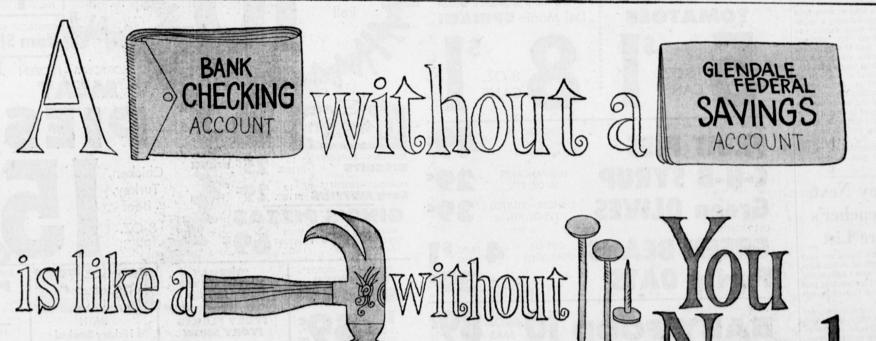
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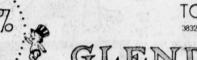
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