

Food Poisoning Danger Cited In Home Canning, Preserving

Roy O. Gilbert, M.D., Los Angeles County Health Officer

Botulism is a form of food poisoning that is fatal in about two-thirds of the cases that occur. So powerful is the toxin that causes this type of poisoning, that one ounce of it could kill millions of people.

The bacteria that produce the toxin (bacilli of the group Clostridium botulinum) are perfectly

harmless when in the presence of air. Indeed, since these bacteria live in the soil they are frequently found on vegetables or on fruit that has been left on the ground, and such foods may be eaten raw or freshly cooked without any ill effects whatsoever. When confined to the airless space of a can or jar, however, these organisms may germinate and produce a toxin so deadly that the smallest taste

may cause death. Home canned string beans head the list of foods that are likely to cause human botulism, with spinach, beets, and asparagus next in line. But all foods low in acid such as meats, fish, poultry, most vegetables, olives, figs and the like are also dangerous when improperly canned at home.

The bacteria will not usually grow in acid foods which in-

clude most of the fruits, tomatoes, pickles and fermented foods. If the acid of these foods is changed by mold growth, however, the germs may be able to grow and liberate toxin. Any canned food that shows signs of mold should not be used.

A pressure cooker, which processes food at a much higher degree of heat than other methods of preservation, should always be used in the canning of non-

LITTLE LEAGUE ELECTION

Officers of the Torrance Central Little League will be elected at a meeting Oct. 28 at 7:30 p.m. in Madrona Elementary School. The league is bounded by Carson, 190th Sts., Western Ave., and Hawthorne Blvd.

acid foods. The gauge must be tested and canning directions followed to the letter. One slip in the proper technique of the canning procedure may result in the growth of C. botulinum.

Flag Designers Try to Top Betsy

Youngsters in Mrs. Jane Choppe's fifth and sixth grade classes at Calle Mayor School have gone Betsy Ross one better.

While discussing the admission of Alaska to the union recently, they became interested in problems of redesigning the flag to allow for an extra star and decided to send President Eisenhower their idea of what the new banner should look like.

They decided to have a contest to see who could design the best new flag so that Alaska would be included.

The finished products showed many varied ideas, including many radical departures for the present, familiar Old Glory. In drawing up their plans, some children scattered the stars all over the flag, while others moved the blue field to the center or right side of the banner.

One even eliminated the stars entirely, replacing it with a large outline map of the United States.

The winning design, submitted by nine-year-old Robert Koppensteiner, placed the 49 stars in a blue triangle covering about a third of the banner, with the red and white stripes at various angles on the rest of the flag. His flag was picked by a vote of the class.

The second place entry was drawn up by Bill Silnkard, and

Bids for Bridge Called by Board

Plans and specifications for construction of a pedestrian bridge across Dominguez channel to link the picnic area of Alondra park to the El Camino College parking lot were approved this week by the Board of Supervisors and a call for bids issued. Supervisor Kenneth Hahn reports.

Bids on the project will be returnable on Nov. 19. Construction of the bridge was decided on to make additional parking available to patrons of the picnic area, particularly during the summer months when there is a heavy demand on picnic facilities.

Penny Leonard designed the third most popular flag.

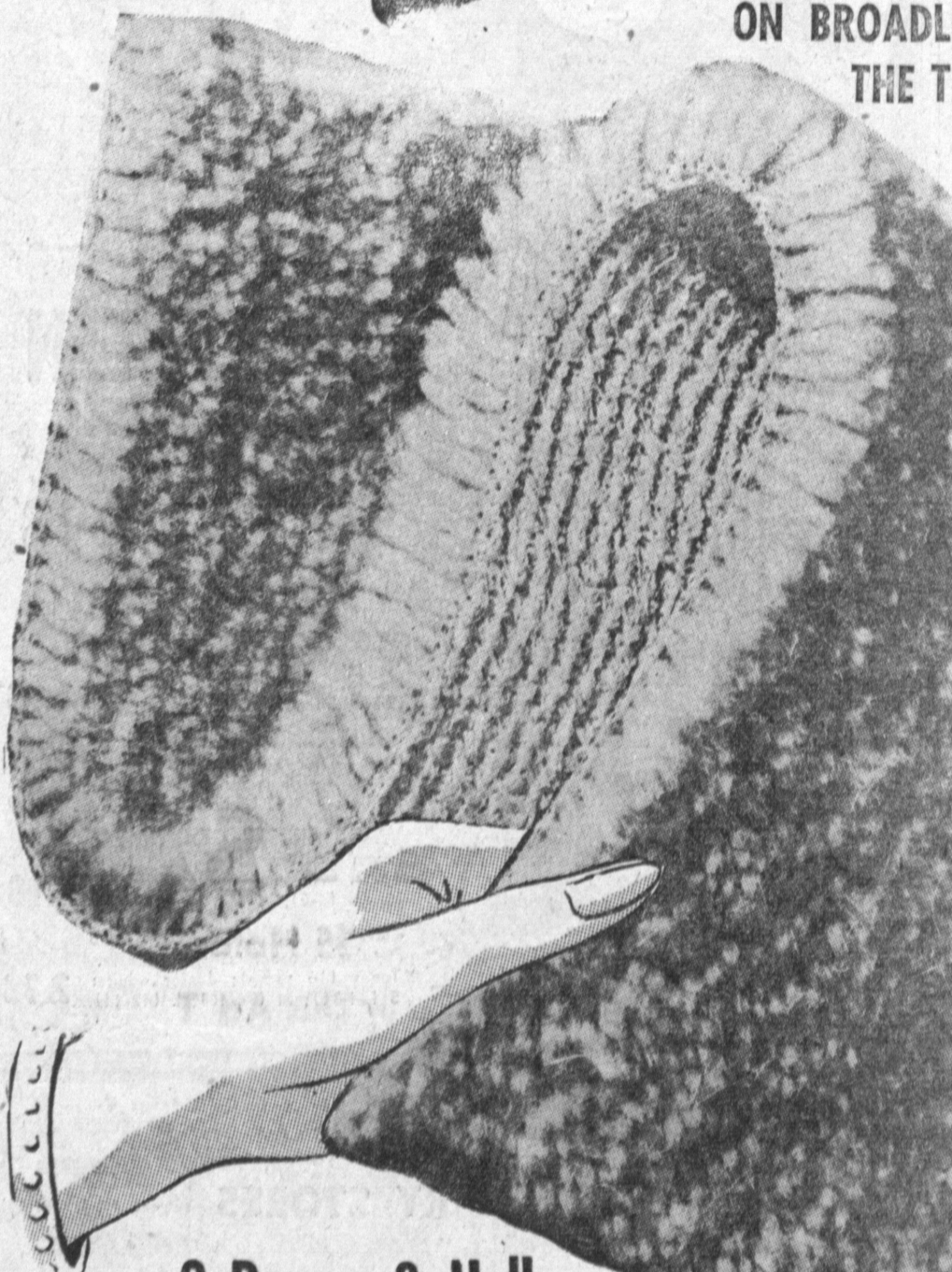
Robert's design was sent to the president last week, and the children are eagerly waiting to see what he thinks of the idea.



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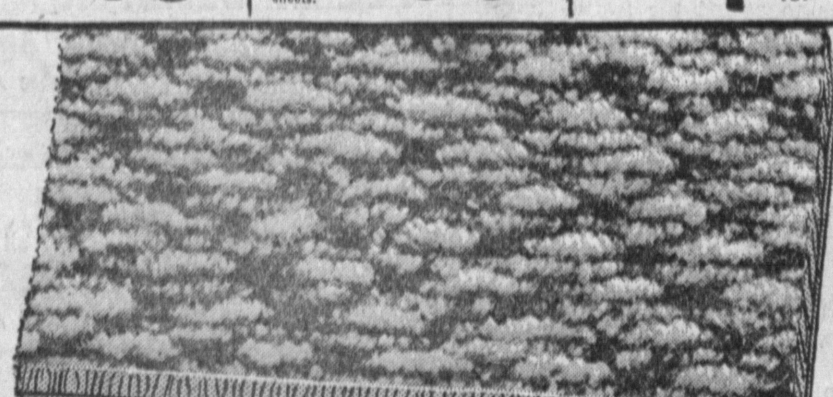
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FLAG DESIGNER—Nine-year-old Robert Koppensteiner holds up his idea of what the 49-star flag, including Alaska, should look like. Robert's fifth and sixth grade class at Calle Mayor School decided to design various flags and send the best one to President Eisenhower. Robert's entry was voted best by his class. Teacher is Mrs. Jane Choppe.

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