RANCH RIDDLES RE-SOLVED

by W. E. Pyke

Castor oil made easy, mending garden hose and other handy ideas for farm and home.

Do you know that if about 60 parts of castor oil, 5 parts of milk of magnesia and 35 parts of water are shaken until emulsified, the resulting mixture has lost practically all of the unpleasant and nauseating taste? Try a "milk-shake," using this formula, the next time some of the children need castor oil.

Mending Garden Hose

When a leak occurs in the garden hose, the location of the hole may be marked, the pressure turned off and the leak repaired in the following way: Two layers of friction tape are wound about the hose for several inches either way along the hose. Each succeeding rotation of the tape should overlap the former about half way, and they should take the course of the stripes of a barber pole. When the pressure is turned on the hose expands against the tape and the leak is sealed. If small leaks are mended promptly, the hose can be used several seasons longer than it would be possible to use it otherwise.

Cheap Fire-Extinguisher

Most people hope never to experience a disastrous fire. However, fires of accidental origin are far too common. Statistics show that many such fires originate in the kitchen, storeroom, garage or shop.

Fire extinguishers are rather expensive. Satisfactory fire extinguishing bombs can be made from burned out light bulbs. First the metal part should be carefully removed. The tube, where the bulb was sealed, is placed beneath the surface of a supply of carbontetrachloride and the tip is crushed off by means of a small pair of pliers. The liquid rushes in to almost fill the bulb because of the vacuum. The opening may then be closed with wax.

The presence of bombs similar to the one described here, placed in convenient spots is a safety measure worth considering. Carbontetrachloride, if thrown at the base of a fire, changes to a heavy gas which shuts out the air and smothers the flames. The availability of two or three small bombs of this type may bring what might otherwise be a disastrous fire quickly under control.

Those Troublesome Ants

A good eradicator for ant hills is a mixture of equal parts of carbontetrachloride and carbon bisulphide. This mixture is not so malodorous as carbon bisulphide alone and is practically non-inflammable. For ant hills about the yard or near the foundations or buildings, it may be squirted in by means of a long-spouted oil can. The opening to the hill should then be closed tightly with the heel. The heavy vapors will descend and destroy the ants within. The queen is almost always killed and the ants are gone.
Mosquito Repellant Powder

A mosquito repellent powder can easily be prepared by blending 2 parts of talcum powder with 14 parts of powdered starch and 1 part of oil of eucalyptus. This powder, when applied generously and rubbed in, serves as a satisfactory repellent for some time.