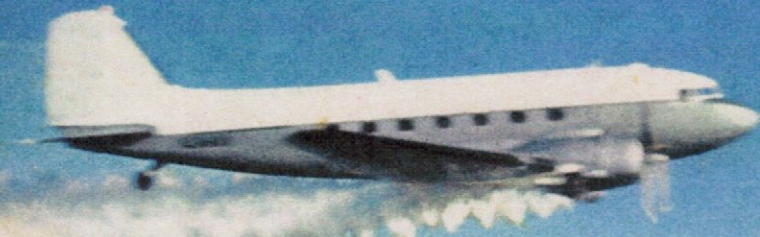


# TROPIC

THE MIAMI HERALD

MAY 4, 1980



## The Deadly Sprays

Can we live without them?  
Can we live with them?



# Don't Worry. It May Be At Least 10 Years Before They Know If This Stuff Kills Us.

By JOHN DORSCHNER  
Photography by  
MICHAEL CARLEBACH

It happened so suddenly. At 7:30 on a weekday morning, Dody Kassewitz was in her Southwest Dade backyard, feeding an injured pelican, when she heard the drone of a low-flying airplane.

Because she was 3½ months pregnant, she had to strain to look up from her kneeling position: It was a pale-yellow cropduster that apparently had been spraying a nearby grove of fruit trees. Dody had read the articles suggesting a link between pesticides and birth defects, but for a moment she didn't think about it.

Then she realized: *The plane is still spraying.* The idiot pilot hadn't turned off his nozzles when he left the grove. She couldn't believe it.

A second later, the smell hit her, the terrible, unmistakably oily stench of pesticides. Thinking of her unborn child, she ran through the yard, trying frantically to get away from the stink. It was everywhere.

Dashing into the house, she found her husband Jack in the bathroom, closing the window. He too had smelled it. Dody tore off her clothes and jumped into the shower, trying to scrub the invisible stuff off her body.

Sometime later, when the odor had drifted away, Dody and Jack walked back into the yard. In the holding pen next to the shed, they found the pelican flopped on its side. It was dead.

## A Pound Of Pesticide For Every Person

We live in one of the most sprayed regions in the world. Roughly two million pounds of chemicals each year are spread over Dade County alone, more than a pound per person. That's an enormous amount when you consider that only three-quarters of an ounce is needed to spray an acre for mosquito control.

Blame it on the southern subtropics having to support a northern culture. Our lawns are sprayed. Our pets are dusted. Our indoor roaches are zapped once a month by the exterminator. Our houses are tented for termites. Our golf courses, waterways and roadsides are fumigated. And, most of all, out on the edge of suburbia, 100,000 acres of South Dade farmland are bathed regularly in chemicals.

The results show up everywhere — and in everyone. Bits of pesticides are in each of us. They are in our water, our blood, our food. In our mothers' milk.

How does it affect us? We know

that cancer is on the increase, that one in four Americans will get it. We know that we in South Florida are more likely to get cancer than those in other areas. Is that because there are more elderly here? Because our intense sunshine causes more skin cancer? Or could it be, at least partly, something else? Like pesticides. "The incidence of cancer keeps going up," says one researcher. "And the incidence of chemicals keeps going up."

What to do? We can try to escape to organic foods (which may do no good). We can worry and do nothing. We can try to forget that powerful poisons exist — eat, drink and be merry. Or we can explore what National Geographic calls "The Pesticide Dilemma," a scientific detective story that is just beginning to unfold, in which there are no set answers but many opinions. And even more questions.

What are we to make of it all? Who is to decide what is right for our bodies? The doctor? The chemist? The farmer?

Consider:

In the heart of vegetable country, Immokalee residents regard these chemicals so lightly that pesticide containers, considered toxic that the law requires they be buried, are used as trash cans in the schoolyard. One environmentalist believes that situation is "unbelievable" and "absolutely pathetic."

In Dade, a state inspector thinks the chemicals are so harmless that when someone complains of the misuse, he is wont to criticize the person. ("Ms. [Women's Lib] Miller was quite emphatic," began one of his official reports to Tallahassee.) A migrants' lawyer is attacking him for reports he terms "unprofessional and racist."

Yet even researchers trying to discover the dangers of pesticides think people may be overreacting. "There's a civil fear that borders on panic, more pervasive than the fear of cancer," says Tim Aldrich, research epidemiologist at the University of Miami. "I don't know why. Is it because it is all around them? Or their fear of chemicals? Oftentimes, scientists are measuring the presence of pesticides in parts per trillion, which is the equivalent of looking for one drop of vermouth in 500,000 barrels of gin. "One of the curses of the modern-day chemist," says Carl Pfaffenberger, who studies Dade County water for the Environmental Protection Agency, "is that our research has gotten so sophisticated. We can now measure minuscule amounts of things that might not mean anything at all."

Or it may mean a great deal. When pediatricians notice an odd new birth defect (combining cleft

the face, extra fingers and toes, opening for the anus and a tumor in the center of the brain), the suggestion is pesticides. When University of Miami researcher Sam discovers more birth defects in rural Dade than in the urban area, the suggestion is pesticides. When Vietnam veterans become cancer victims and their children have birth defects, the suggestion is Agent Orange, a defoliant used by the Army. When a Washington pediatric specialist, Dr. Angel R. Polon, looks at Reye's Syndrome, a mysterious disease first spotted in 1963 that kills children already ill with the flu, he suggests that pesticides in the food may be affecting the virus.

And in western Dade, researcher Dr. Rich has heard a report, completely unconfirmed, that in a ree-block area there were six cases of leukemia and Hodgkin's disease within a relatively short period of time. The area was until recently agricultural. The suggestion, of course, is pesticides in the soil.

Now, in none of these cases has a provable link been established, but many scientists are continuing to look. Cautiously. "Seventy-two percent of the pesticides that EPA is reviewing for risk are suspected carcinogens," says Richard Lipsey, pesticide coordinator for the University of Florida. "And many of them are used in Dade County. . . . The key word is 'suspect-'"

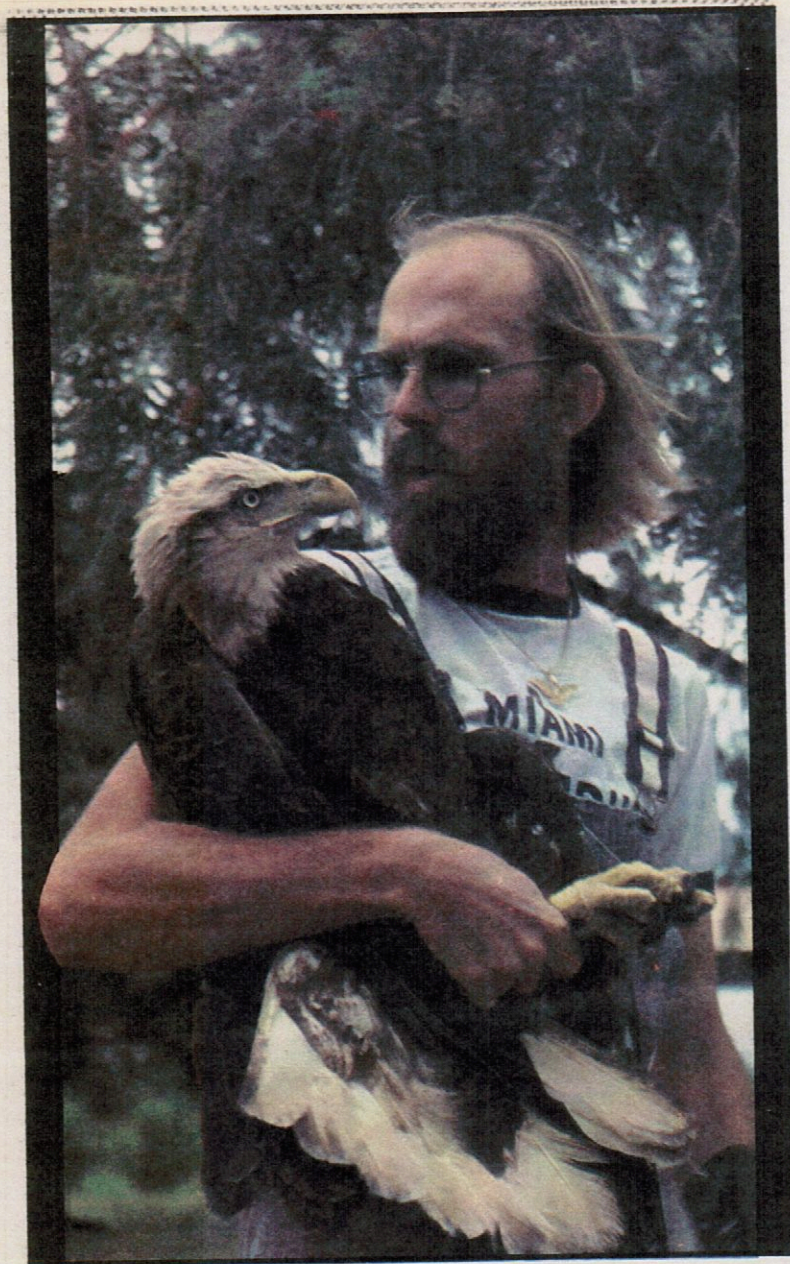
"The real question," says Jack Griffith, a federal pesticide expert who is currently a visiting professor at the University of Miami, "is what does this mean to us 10 years from now, 20 years? What will it mean to our children? And I don't think we have started to answer that yet. . . . A chemical in the body — it's only reasonable to assume it might have an effect somewhere down the line."

## Cans of Poison In The Schoolyard

How much effect? In the scientific detective hunt, before a researcher proves any health hazard to the public, he has to first study those people who have far more exposure to pesticides than the rest of us — the farm workers. According to federal statistics, the migrant lives to be 49, 21 years less than the American average. Is this due to malnutrition, alcoholism, pesticides? No one can say for sure, but the hunt is on.

And that is why people look to the small town of Immokalee, a major producer of winter vegetables on the edge of the Everglades, a two-hour drive northwest of





Miami. Its dusty streets are a bizarre combination of bars and ramshackle "labor camps." Chicanos live here; so do black workers. But many who come to toil in the fields are winos from the nearby cities. At 5:30 a.m., they gather in front of Fred's Barn, hoping to be picked up for a day's work. If they are left behind, most begin drinking in the parking lot at 6.

"Parathion?" says a red-faced fellow sitting on Fred's curb, his beer hidden in a paper sack. His left arm is tattooed: *Rebel*. "I've heard that parathion pesticide is bad stuff for you in the fields, but who knows. . . ." His forearms are a raw pink from a skin rash.

"Dermatitis is so common in Immokalee, on the arms and legs," says Beth Zacovic, a paralegal counselor with Florida Rural Legal Services. "Horrible sores. But usually by the time they have the rash, the organophosphates are out of their system. Doctors tell them, 'Don't go into the fields when your arms are like that.'" But that means they don't get paid, and so many workers ignore the advice.

Long-term dangers make even less impression. "It's very hard," says Zacovic, "to tell someone at the poverty level, 'Don't go to work because it may result in a birth defect.' Or: 'You'll go sterile.' It's hard when you need the food today." Zacovic's group surveyed 443 field hands; almost half said they had been accidentally sprayed.

Most, however, retain a massive indifference toward the dangers. In Immokalee, you see almost everywhere the big 55-gallon drums that once held pesticides. They are used as trash cans in labor camps, in parking lots, even in schoolyards. Some are exceedingly poisonous. One of the most popular, the green-and-yellow cans of Vorlex, is so toxic that a teaspoon of residue could kill a person.

Four of these containers are in the side yard of the Immokalee Day School. On their sides, plainly visible, are instructions that the cans be kept away from children. "Warning: May be fatal if inhaled, swallowed or absorbed through the skin. . . . Vorlex may be corrosive under certain conditions. . . . Do not re-use empty drum. Return to drum conditioner or destroy by perforating or crushing and burying in a safe place."

According to EPA regulations, the label of a pesticide container has the force of law, and EPA researchers are shocked that contain-

ers of Vorlex would be so blatantly misused. But in the atmosphere of Immokalee, the drums are a symbol of how casually residents view their pesticides. "It's hard educating the workers about what's happening," says Zacovic. "They've been working around pesticides all their lives, and they don't think about it."

Occasionally, such indifference can be deadly. In 1974, a 4-year-old boy named Felipe Brown discovered a one-gallon container of parathion left in a field. As a game, he pretended it was gasoline and poured it into an abandoned can. Some of the highly toxic substance spilled on his skin. Within hours he was dead.

Even adults rarely take precautions. Because of the heat in the fields, most workers don't wear gloves or masks (both are recommended by EPA experts), and many don't even bother with long-sleeve shirts, which means the arms and hands are coated with residue as they grope to pull the tomatoes off the vines. Worse, there are no facilities in the field for washing their hands before lunch, and crew chiefs bring Igloos to the fields filled with ice for drinking. At the bottom of the containers are cans of beer: The workers put their pesticide-contaminated hands into the ice, reaching for the beer, minutes before other workers drink the melted ice.

Ultimately, the results may show up in the blood. Organophosphates, the most popular group of pesticides, have a tendency to reduce the blood's level of cholinesterase, an enzyme necessary for life.

In Immokalee, at the Collier Health Services Clinic, Dr. Albert Ball says an informal survey of about 100 patients for cholinesterase found that the average was "lower than expected, but most were not ill."

The problem here is hellishly subtle. Mild organophosphate poisoning can resemble the flu: slight nausea, mild fever, general aches. Many times workers don't even realize what caused their illness.

Yet it is on this obscure enzyme that many scientists are concentrating their search. In Dade County, government hygienist Thor Glander has been giving a free cholinesterase test to anyone who wants it: exterminators, farm workers, government employees who spray chemicals. Most exterminators refuse to cooperate, but of those who take the test, about one in five — 22 per cent — have significantly reduced cholinesterase



Above, left: Jack Kassewitz Jr., head of the Wildlife Rescue Team, holds a Southern bald eagle that was blinded by pesticides. Left: Unusually recently, crop-dusters and farmers in Dade County were caught between conflicting government regulations; it was virtually impossible for them to dispose of pesticide containers.

Right: A sprayer who calls himself "Stringbean" ignores warnings about protective gear. He works without a shirt, his hands and clothing soaked with solution, but he said he wasn't worried. He told the photographer, "We all gotta go sometime." Below: It was a can of parathion abandoned in a field that led to the death of 4-year-old Felipe Brown.

evels. Glander has to write a letter to the employers recommending they be kept away from chemicals until the blood recovers.

Last year, a University of Miami survey studied 16 children who were picking tomatoes in South Dade. They went into the fields three weeks after the last pesticide spraying (a minimum of 48 hours is required by law), and they wore gloves, something which many farm workers don't do.

The result: "Quite a bit of skin rash," but no symptoms of disease. There were residues of pesticide in the children's urine, but it was well below the level considered safe for industrial workers.

What does that mean? At this point, perhaps nothing. But UMEPA coordinator Robert C. Duncan says a new study is coming out about some people poisoned by pesticides at least seven years before. The victims had apparently recovered, showed no obvious symptoms of disease, but a battery of tests revealed that they now rank lower than normal in intelligence and muscle-reflex measurements.

"What may be happening," says Duncan, "is a decrease in the quality of life. But it's extremely hard to get any statistical evidence to show that's true."

Says Duncan's colleague, Jack Griffith: "At this point, there is no good study in this country on how pesticides affect migrant workers." Griffith is hoping to do the first. Working with the Palm Beach County Health Department, he plans to study 460 families, comparing the health records of migrant farm workers, non-migrant farm workers and rural people who do not work in the fields. By looking at these different groups, he hopes to sort out other problems and find a direct pesticide connection. "But this," he adds, "is going to take time."

As it is, farm workers are receiving little sympathy. In South Dade, Dr. Jerome Beloff, medical director of Community Health Inc., says that "normally, if the cholinesterase level is low, we suggest that they [farm workers] be taken off the job and given a non-field position for a while." But Beloff concedes that the laborer is more likely to be fired than put in the office: "He probably doesn't have any skills to do anything else."

Nor do workers get much sympathy from the government. Robert M. Husted of Florida Rural Legal

Services recalls one client, Charles Walker, who worked all day in a field being sprayed with pesticides while a plane dusted the field next to him.

At the end of the day, Walker's eyes were swollen shut, his skin was peeling, and he had wounds on his hands and arms. Dr. Kenneth Rosen decided that Walker had a severe case of dermatitis. But that didn't convince Frank See, from the state Department of Agriculture. After he investigated, he wrote a snide note to his supervisor: "Treatment — 7 or 8 good scrub baths per day — application of skin lotion following each. (The ole Mississippi black guy will soon have everything washed down to the original. He will probably get well real soon after a settlement is made with Workmen's Comp.)"

Inspector See is no more sympathetic to others' complaints. "Ms. (Women's Lib) Miller was quite emphatic about closing down all agricultural pesticide spraying or usage within one half mile of her home and those around her.... She has two children with very bad respiratory problems and she doesn't want to put the blame where it should be."

## The Wounded Eagle

Dody Kasewitz is now seeing doctors, hoping the crop-duster's spraying will not affect her pregnancy. Odds are, it won't, but her husband, Jack Kasewitz Jr., has not been taking the matter lightly. As leader of the Wildlife Rescue Team, he has seen what pesticides can do to animals. Last year, he says, of the 5,000 injured animals he saw, from goats to birds, about half were dizzy or coated with oily residue, signs of pesticide poisoning.

One was a magnificent Southern bald eagle, one of only 675 in Florida. For 10 months, the bird, has resided in a room in the Kasewitz's shed as it slowly regained its strength. In mid-April, another bald eagle, also sprayed by crop-dusters, was set free.

Others in South Dade have grown irate about inaccurate crop-dusting. Kay Canington, a real-estate agent, says she has lost four horses to spraying planes. She has attended meetings, trying to learn about pesticides. Others talk about fish kills and bird kills, and



# The Deadly Sprays



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the Kassewitzes say they have been hit several times. Once, when a plane was dribbling spray on his injured animals, Jack stood in his yard, shouting and waving at the pilot. That did no good, so he raced into the house and came out with a gun. After another pass, the crop duster decided to move on.

Kassewitz says he has called the Federal Aviation Administration to complain several times. Officials ask for the plane's numbers, which by law are two inches high. Kassewitz always replies the numbers are too small to read, and that ends the investigation.

But after his wife was sprayed, Kassewitz decided to put on the pressure. The son of a Miami News columnist, he called the News about the incident. That afternoon, there was a brief story, including a quote from a FAA official who said it was the first such accident he could recall in 22 years in South Dade. The commercial farmer, Kassewitz, who knew of several who had complained regularly.

But this time, there was some action. An official at Dade Pollution Control happened to see the story. An investigator went from house to house, banging on doors, trying to find who the pilot was. At last, he found a name. The county is thinking of filing charges, for the first time, against a Dade crop-duster.

## The High Cost Of Eating

The question is trade-offs. Mosquito sprays are relatively mild, and the county tries to limit their use. The result: Each year, there are 10,000 phone calls complaining that there are too many mosquitoes around.

In the home, every owner has to decide whether to live with roaches or pay the exterminator for monthly visits. In-house sprays are generally much less toxic than those used by farmers, but one hygienist recommends you air the house out after the sprayer has come. (EPA, by the way, recommends exterminators wear rubber raincoats, rubber boots and masks to protect them from the spray. The heat of such garb means that almost everyone ignores it.)

What about the farmers? George H. Cooper speaks for many of them. He is college-educated, a thoughtful man who is owner of the huge Glade and Grove Supply Co. in South Dade. He has 510,000 acres in vegetable and sugar cane scattered throughout the state.

His workers, Cooper says, don't contract more illnesses than the general population. "I don't think anyone has proven a connection" about long-time exposure to pesticides. "Mitchell has been working for our farm since 1939. He's 63 and feeling great. J.D. is 66, 67. He's been spraying most of his life. And he's never been sick from the spray, never had any problems. If he could pinch your head off with one hand — he's the most powerful man I ever knew."

Cooper scorns the idea that a grower would let someone told by a doctor not to work near pesticides. "The hardest thing is finding good help. We'll scrap for them, even if they can't come in contact with spraying."

Some agricultural researchers claim food production could be cut by 50 per cent without pesticides, that perhaps people would starve. Cooper disagrees.

"We'd eat. But you wouldn't have new cars. You wouldn't have airplanes. Because we'd all be out in fields, beating the bugs off the tomatoes. In the U.S., 10 per cent of the population grows the food supply. In the Soviet Union, it's 25 per cent. So without pesticides there'd be no urban blight — we'd all be out in the country growing food."

Behind Cooper's desk is a black-and-white photograph of his father in 1929. George Sr. is clowning with a mischievous smile, a finger tucked under his chin. He

"Mitchell has been working for our family since 1939. He's 63 and feeling great. J.D. is 66, 67. He's been spraying most of his life. And he's never been sick from the spray, never had any problems."

women died of a rare liver cancer. I only heard about it with the last woman, and she was the only one autopsied." The tests revealed pesticides, and he drove to the area to investigate.

It didn't take long: All three families shared the same primitive well, where they obtained water by pulling a bucket up on a rope. The water had "a thousand times the allowable limits for pesticide."

It turned out that the families had been worried about bugs and, without reading the label, had spread a pesticide powder around the base of the well. Whenever the powder disappeared, they spread some more. If they had bothered to study the warning, they would have learned that the material wasn't to be used near drinking supplies and that the powder was still going strong even weeks after it disappeared.

One mystery: The women's husbands were all per-

ing a cabbage. "Look closely at that photo," says Cooper.

"Those cabbage leaves are dotted with holes, chewed out by a cabbage looper. My dad was carrying it home for his dinner. It was perfectly edible. Now, if people would accept food like that, it would mean a lot less pesticides. As it is, we leave half of the fresh produce in the field or at the packers. The housewife won't buy it."

That does not bother Cooper as much as did a recent survey, conducted by University of Miami researchers, that showed higher birth defect rates in parts of rural Dade than in the urban center. The researchers say the study was only preliminary; among other things, it revealed a total birth-defect rate that was only half the national average, implying that the survey had missed many reports, or that the reporting was complete. Still, Dr. John Davies suggested the possibility of pesticides.

"That," says Cooper, "is bull. You look at that thing. The most heavily farmed land in this area, historically, is east of the highway [U.S.], the old Glades land. We didn't move this far west till the early '50s. But the east, it has one of the lower birth defect rates, according to their own figures."

## The Dangerous Well

The whole area of epidemiology is as fascinating as it is inconclusive. The essential ingredient in the birth-defect survey, the one that neither Cooper nor anyone else can explain, is the fact that Southwest Dade, generally an area of middle-class whites living on former farmland, is having more birth defects than impoverished black areas, when it is well known that the poor usually have more malformed babies.

"There are considerable questions in South Dade," says Davies. "I just think the community is best served by an objective, cautious approach." In 1976, a bulldozer digging behind a labor camp unearthed drums of parathion, an extremely toxic pesticide that leaked a milky fluid into a nearby creek.

It is unknown how many other such sites farmers have used to bury chemicals, and as of now, there is only one report, given to epidemiologist Aldrich by a woman who claims to have information about the leukemias and Hodgkin's diseases appearing in a three-block stretch within a three-year period.

Aldrich is fascinated, but he is not rushing to investigate: A full report would include dozens of interviews with residents, checking their complete medical and family history, a search to find that the diseases were what the woman claims, blood samples, urine samples, water and soil samples. With the Love Canal, in New York, where hundreds upon hundreds of tons of toxic chemicals were buried, it still took researchers years to draw any health conclusions. Aldrich expects nothing so dramatic in Dade County.

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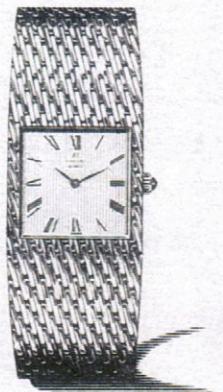


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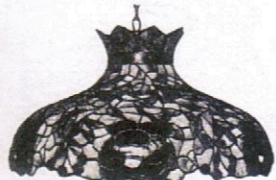
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**PROSTATE**

**The Deadly Sprays**



fectly healthy. "It turned out they were good ole boys — they drank beer. Hadn't drank water in two years."

It may sound like a cut-and-dried case, but not to scientists. Aldrich's paper on the case was rejected by the scientific journals. All he had proven was the result of one autopsy. That does not make for a scientific conclusion.

Aldrich is now busy investigating a "spectacular cluster" in Jacksonville, where there are five cases of a rare childhood tumor in an area so small that "the people can stand on their front porches and see each other's houses." He has been to the area four times; he has yet to discover a link.

"There's two ways to prove something in epidemiology. One is to be able to re-search one case absolutely completely. The other is get a direction from a lot of little cases."

But even eight cases do not make for a definite conclusion: "At this point, we

are not convinced of the connection, but it points in a certain direction."

**The Farmers' Dilemma**

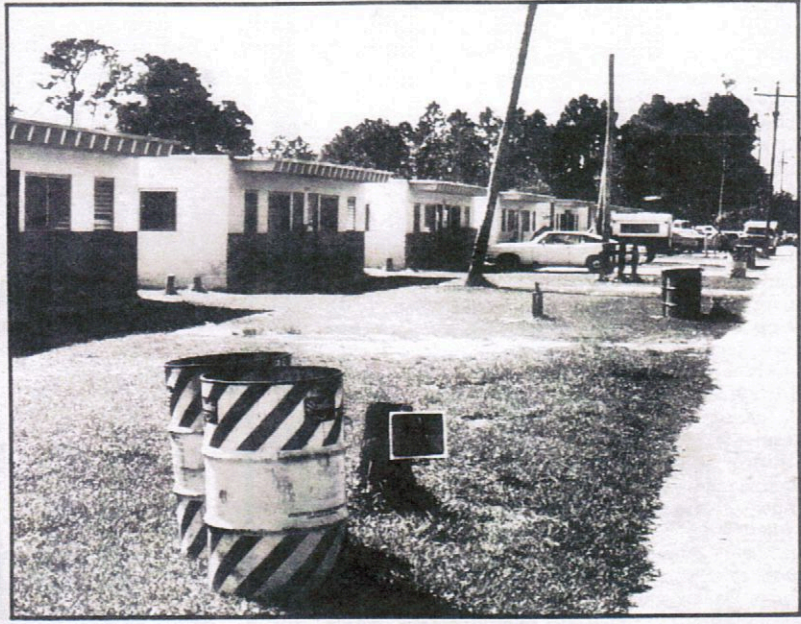
For a long-time South Dade farmers were caught in a Catch-22 if they wanted to dispose of pesticide containers. When they put the county, state and federal ordinances together, it turned out to be impossible to get rid of the potentially toxic containers. EPA might say bury them, but the county would say that's prohibited. The result: You can drive down isolated country roads and see containers tossed into ditches, empty fields and piled up by crop-duster shacks, all in violation of the law.

To get around that, a "temporary" solution has been reached: Farmers are permitted to burn one day's supply of containers in the field where they were used, as long as they were a quarter-mile from the nearest road or house.

The long-range solution is a \$5.2-million incinerator being built by the county in South Dade. The unit is designed so that it will roast each molecule for two seconds at 2,600 degrees Fahrenheit — long enough and hot enough to break down even the most poisonous of chemicals. But there is a cost. Normal trash can be burned for \$12 a ton. These pesticides will cost \$2,000 a ton to get rid of, and the taxpayer will probably bear the cost. Tom Henderson, a county waste official, says: "You probably can't even charge him [the farmer] a nominal fee, or he'll get rid of them illegally."

If a grower does violate the law, chances of being caught are almost nil. Dade County, which has jurisdiction

*Continued on page 38*



*In Immokalee, the heart of vegetable country, pesticides are so common many residents think nothing of using the containers as trash barrels in their yards.*



## Announcing Our New Success In The War Against Fat!

NEW PERMATHENE-12

# Once-A-Day

continuous-action capsule reducing plan\* —gradually



# TRIMS AWAY FAT

Helps pounds and inches disappear!



JUST FOLLOW THE TRIM BEDD DAY—HELPS TRIM FAT AWAY SO YOUR CURVE MAKES GUESTS OWN—AND THINNESS BEGINS—GRADUALLY—FROM LIGHT!

Yes, it's true—NOW lose pound, after pound, after pound depending on how overweight you are

- without crash diets
- without torturous exercise
- without even giving up sensible snacks or desserts!
- just read and follow important Permathene low calorie reducing plan booklet enclosed in every package

Wondrous Permalthene-12 once-a-day continuous-action capsule reducing plan\*

**WORKS ALL DAY TO HELP YOU GET THINNER**

Newly Developed Time Release Capsule Contains:

**ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL REDUCING AIDS EVER RELEASED DIRECT TO THE PUBLIC.**

Think of it. You take just one of these amazing time-release capsules each morning... then for the rest of the day, tiny doses of one of the most powerful reducing aids ever approved for public use are gradually released into your system to constantly curb your appetite, calm your desire for food. But that's only your first giant step on this exciting new journey to slimmness.

**CONTINUOUS ACTION ATTACKS—THE MAJOR CAUSE OF OVERWEIGHT—OVEREATING—THE MAJOR CAUSE OF FAT BUILD-UP**

Because thanks to Permalthene-12's "miss-no-meals" eating program, not only do you eat more wisely than ever before... but do so in such a way that your body actually breaks down those bulging pockets of fat and flab... starting in just days!

In other words, when you follow the Permalthene-12 diet, a continuous action capsule reducing plan, with this once-a-day time release capsule, you actually help your body consume less calories... naturally, you eat less, you weigh less, so you...

**TURN FOOD INTO ENERGY INSTEAD OF OVERWEIGHT**

Yes with PERMATHENE-12 here's what happens when you take this great new ALL-DAY time-release formula... and launch yourself on this wondrous new capsule reducing plan.

- Gnawing hunger pangs are suppressed, so it takes less food to satisfy you, meaning you resist your calorie intake.
- Fat build-up, that up to now you've found impossible to budge, is burned away by your own body chemistry and gradually disappears.
- Gentle diuretic action can help eliminate excess water and bloot.

\*Not a crash diet — but the most satisfying, fully balanced reduced calorie eating program you've ever seen. Read and follow label directions carefully.

**WORKS ALL DAY**

In fact, so fast you start growing slimmer in just days!  
Yes, continuous action attacks overeating.

• And even though you may lose pound, after pound, after pound with the reduced calorie eating program in every package... you never miss a meal... never deny yourself sensible snacks or desserts... never for a moment starve yourself one iota!

**CURBING THE APPETITE—ONE OF THE MOST EFFECTIVE WEIGHT-LOSS METHODS KNOWN**

That's because with the PERMATHENE-12 way to slimmness you arm yourself with one of the most modern and effective ways to weight control, reduced appetite and a diet plan that conquers overeating... the basic cause of overweight. And because the PERMATHENE-12 ONCE-A-DAY "slim-down capsule program" is working all the time to control your appetite. Following the Permalthene Diet plan is by far the easiest way ever developed to achieve that slim, trim body of your dreams.

**JUST THINK! YOU MISS NO MEALS—YOU EVEN EAT SENSIBLE SNACKS AND DESSERTS—AND STILL LOSE WEIGHT LIKE NEVER BEFORE!**

Yes, with the PERMATHENE-12 low calorie reducing plan you are not asked to constantly battle your appetite. You simply take one of these new ALL-DAY time-release capsules each morning... then following the PERMATHENE-12 satisfying eating program... still shed pounds and inches like never before... and all without ravishing hunger.

So, no matter what your goal may be—10... 20... 30 pounds thinner... here at last is the no-hunger way to LOSE WEIGHT with the finest ALL-DAY ONCE-A-DAY reducing product in America. PERMATHENE-12.

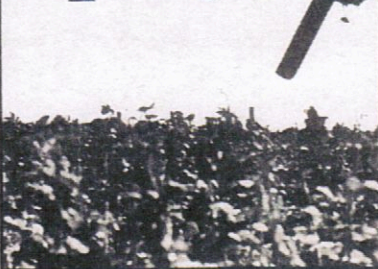
Remember... you must lose weight starting the very first day... see results the very first week... results you can measure on your scale and in the smaller trimmer size of your clothing... or money back from manufacturer.

Not to be used in cases of high blood pressure, heart, kidney, diabetes, thyroid, or where other disease is present.

# Walgreens THE DIET CENTER



# The Deadly Sprays



Continued from page 20

over containers through its pollution-control ordinance, issued only six citations last year. The state Department of Agriculture, which enforces federal laws, has only six inspectors statewide, and none in South Florida. In a three-month period last year, they examined only 19 cases.

What's more, there are only four state inspectors to see that the produce we buy in the supermarkets contains less than the threshold levels of pesticides. They go into stores and packing houses at random, and as a practical matter, there is absolutely no guarantee about what our lettuce, tomatoes and peppers contain.

## Fancier Tools, But No Answers

When the controversy about DDT was at its peak, scientists were measuring it in, say, 200 or 300 parts per million. That's with an "m." They found it everywhere — in the penguins in Antarctica, in dust in the air of Miami homes. DDT became so prevalent in air and water that some scientists suggest that even those who eat only organic vegetables still risk exposure.

But what does this mean? Scientists are now able to measure in parts per billion, per trillion, even per quadrillion. The differences are considerable. For example, .2 parts per billion is the equivalent of looking for one person on the face of the earth. And .2 parts per trillion is like looking for one hair on the head of that one person.

In Broward County, in 1978, the U.S. Geological Survey found silvex in minuscule traces — about one part per billion — in the water supplies of Tamarac, Sunrise and Collier Estates. Silvex is related to the Agent Orange used in Vietnam, but the amount — the equivalent of a pinch of salt in 10 tons of potato chips — was considered well below the acceptable limits.

In Dade, NOAA personnel have discovered tiny traces of PCB — a dangerous pesticide found in the Love Canal —

in the soils near the Everglades National Park. But the quantities were so low that researchers found no danger.

And in Dade's water, a survey conducted by the University of Miami and the Environmental Protection Agency found a few parts per trillion of pentachlorophenol, a substance suspected of causing leukemia. Again, the limits are safe.

Or are they? "There is one theory," says Joe Podgor, of Friends of the Everglades, "that says there is no threshold, no safe level. This idea that you're safe until that last little part per trillion that makes you sick — some say that's wrong, that you are slowly getting worse with each little bit."

"We're entering a difficult era," says Dr. John Davies, a University of Miami pesticide specialist whose reports are read around the world. "There are no longer the sensational reports of DDT. Acute poisonings and deaths are relatively rare. We're now into the 'maybes' and the 'possibles,' and that's much more difficult to talk about." Davies was one of the main sources for National Geographic's year-long investigation into pesticides. The report, which ran 40 pages, ended with a series of questions.

There does, however, appear to be one answer that almost everyone agrees on: fewer pesticides. Homeowners should be willing to accept more weeds in their lawn. Housewives should learn that worm holes don't necessarily spoil the lettuce. And farmers are already exploring new techniques.

The prime hope for the future is Integrated Pest Management. The idea is to use less pesticides, relying more on natural methods, such as having "good bugs" eat the "bad bugs."

Nevertheless, says Richard Lipsey, pesticide coordinator at the University of Florida, "pesticide use is still growing by leaps and bounds. The reason is IPM, because growers are told to inspect their fields before they spray. If they have no pests, then they shouldn't use pesticides. But they are usually finding that they have more fungus, insects and worms than they thought — so it has initially resulted in an increase in pesticide use."

That, it is hoped, is only a temporary phenomenon. Several weeks ago, for example, chemists at North Carolina State found an insecticide that appears naturally in wild tomatoes. It was a small but encouraging sign.

One more time: What are we to do? Consider Jack Griffith, now a visiting professor here, a man who for years has studied the dangers of pesticides, a researcher who is playing a central role in one part of the Agent Orange controversy, who is being grilled by Dow Chemical attorneys who doubt his conclusions. Listen:

"I buy my fruits and vegetables at the supermarket, just like everyone else.

"But I insist that they be washed carefully."

JOHN DORSCHNER is a Tropic staff writer.