

Sorry, I just don't think it would go in our pages. Maybe a magazine could be interested.

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Bush Pilot Found Mosquitos Rough In Old Days

By

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There was a time when, to mention mosquitos, was considered in very bad taste, publicity-wise. Now, of course, we can refer to the little beasts with equanimity since the Navy has set up its mosquito control radar network at Cape Hatteras.

This radar mosquito net is only a sidelight to the main story, but you may doubt my veracity unless I fill in the background. Naturally, I will not use scientific phrases, for, a thing like this, to preserve its singular interest, deserves the most basic and fundamental expression. Sometimes I doubt if it even deserves that.

It seems that the mosquito has a very complete bag of tools with which to work. As standard equipment he has a high-speed drill, a punch press and a hypodermic needle. To go with these he carries an assortment of screwdrivers (Phillips-head and regular), beer can openers and, as if these weren't enough, a

little patented gadget called a do-awl, which allows him to drill around corners.

Now there used to be a technique of destroying these clever little workers which is now considered obsolete. This method, with which we are all familiar, employed an object such as a fly swatter. The tormented party got right in and "mixed it" with the insect. This was, as you know, a nip and tuck affair where sometimes one, and then the other, came out winner. Regardless, the house was usually a shambles. This was the hard way.

Now the Navy has stepped in. With great cunning, and armed with the results of endless research accumulated during wartime, they have made obsolete all the hitherto-employed extermination techniques, penetrating direct to the heart of the matter. They have contrived a secret method of crossing the mosquito with the common Lightning Bug, or Firefly.

On the face of it, this would seem to give the mosquito a terrific advantage, providing him electric tools to work with. But this is where the great intelligence level of the scientists proved too much for the pests, for, as everyone knows, Fireflies are wired up on Direct Current. When the mosquitos were crossed with the little Lightning Bugs, they, also, produced D.C. All the Navy had to do then was to install high-frequency transmitters, with oscillators causing the current to be broken up into surges. This is called Alternating Current, or A.C. This blew their little fuses and they didn't last long after that, but

this is not the main story: ----

---- In the days before this mosquito regulation, I used to park my airplane across the road from my office. Each night I would start the engine and taxi up the runway about a hundred yards and tie it down behind a big sandhill. One particular night I taxied the plane to its customary place, out of sight in the sandhill, and tied her down.

The next morning I looked out and there was the airplane, across the road in plain sight where she stayed during the daytime. Thinking this very odd I rushed to the sandhill to see, by light of day, what had happened.

You won't believe this, but I had taxied a mosquito up into that sandhill and tied him down.

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