

my ranch, except Pearls," he said, and sat down amid a thunder of cheers.

The following letter to the Ohio Mink Breeders Association from Louis W. Harrod, D. V. M., Harrod, Ohio, explains the background of the situation:

"On September 21, 1956, I was called to the mink ranch of Mr. Francis Arnold, Lafayette, Ohio, to examine his herd of mink. The entire herd was sick which resulted in a final death loss of approximately 500 animals. From the history, symptoms, and autopsies, my tenta-

tion was that they had suffered irreparable damage to their body functions; consequently, it is my opinion that none of the surviving mink should be retained for breeding purposes. I believe that trying to breed them will result in disappointment as far as numbers and quality of kits are concerned."

Francis Arnold explains how he happened to give his mink the wrong drug.

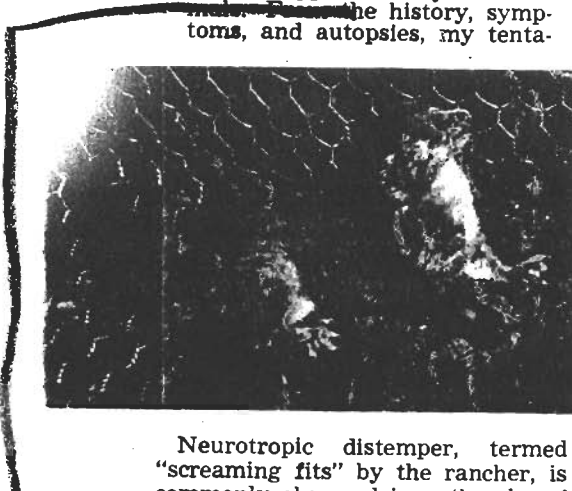
A few of his mink had a loose dropping condition. He called up Dr. G. R. Hartsough, who prescribed a proper dosage of sulfaguanadine. He ordered the drug from High Equity Exchange, Lima, Ohio. Not having the drug in

bellies. They bled from the eyes, nose, penis and rectum. Some were paralyzed in their hind quarters."

Francis Arnold today is practically out of business.

Dick Berry's appeal for help for him reaches across the nation. Ranchers everywhere, as well as those in Ohio, are asked to help. Types wanted are Aleutian, Sapphire and White. The proposed agreement is that Francis Arnold use the borrowed mink for a year. At the end of a year he will return them or buy them at current pet prices.

Here's your opportunity to give a helping hand to a fellow mink rancher who needs help.



NEUROTROPIC
Distemper
IN MINK

Neurotropic distemper, termed "screaming fits" by the rancher, is commonly observed in outbreaks of mink distemper. Nervous symptoms may appear during or after a course of catarrhal distemper; that is, animals showing eye, nose and feet signs. Frequently, however, normal appearing mink with a good appetite and no previous history of disease may die during a convulsion.

Mink affected with neurotropic distemper may go into a convulsion at minor disturbances such as feeding and watering. The animal first becomes rigid, with one or more limbs extended. As in the accompanying picture the head is thrown back. Violent spasms occur, with the animal twisting and rolling in the pen. The jaw muscles are fre-

quently affected, resulting in chattering teeth and foaming at the mouth. Short piercing screams which can be heard over the entire yard are not uncommon.

Many times the animal will die during these convulsions, in other cases there is a gradual or abrupt return to consciousness and in one or two minutes the animal appears normal. The convulsions may become more frequent, terminating in a long-continued coma until death.

Treatment is to no avail. Once the distemper virus attacks the nervous tissue of the mink's brain it causes damage that is irreparable. As in the case of distemper in general, the neurotropic form can be prevented by routine vaccination.

Graff Transferred to Purina's Special Industry Sales Dept.

Herbert A Graff, formerly manager of the Education Division in Ralston Purina's Public Relations Department, has transferred to the company's Special Industry Sales. according to an announcement by G. M. Philpott, vice president in charge of advertising and sales promotion. He will continue to headquarter in the company's general offices in St. Louis.

Graff joined Purina in September, 1949, in the Product Control Division. In October, 1953, he transferred to Public Relations. He holds a Masters degree in animal nutrition from the University of Missouri.

In announcing the transfer, Mr. Philpott pointed out that the move constitutes an expansion of the Special Industry Sales group, necessitated by the company's rapid growth in that field. Albert H. Leonard is the Special Industry Sales Manager. The group handles the sale of Purina Chows for mink, monkeys, guinea pigs, laboratory animals, game birds, pigeons, trout, goats and fox.