

Fast on trigger, Lee snapped hummingbird approaching trumpet vine blossom.

Straight-shooting entomologist

By Vivian Hansbrough

LEE JENKINS is no gun-toter, but some of his shots would put Western TV actors to shame. This camera-packin' professor brings 'em back alive—on film—to enjoy long after the hunter has lost the thrill of killing one of Nature's creatures.

Perhaps the story might have been different if his teachers had not used photographs of insects to illustrate their lectures in entomology when Lee was a freshman in the College of Agriculture. Already a camera fan, he was impressed by the unlimited possibilities of combining photography and entomology. His life since then has been dedicated to showing the story of entomology through pictures.

Repeating the cycle, students now enrolled in the first course in entomology again receive a fascinating introduction to the drama of the insect world, but this time it is Lee Jenkins, associate professor of entomology, who is projecting his own colored movies on a screen. There in front of their eyes are close-up enlargements in true-to-life colors of the larva of a lady beetle feeding on aphids, a spider eating a honey-

bee, parasitic wasps attached to the back of a horn-worm, and a dragonfly laying eggs in water.

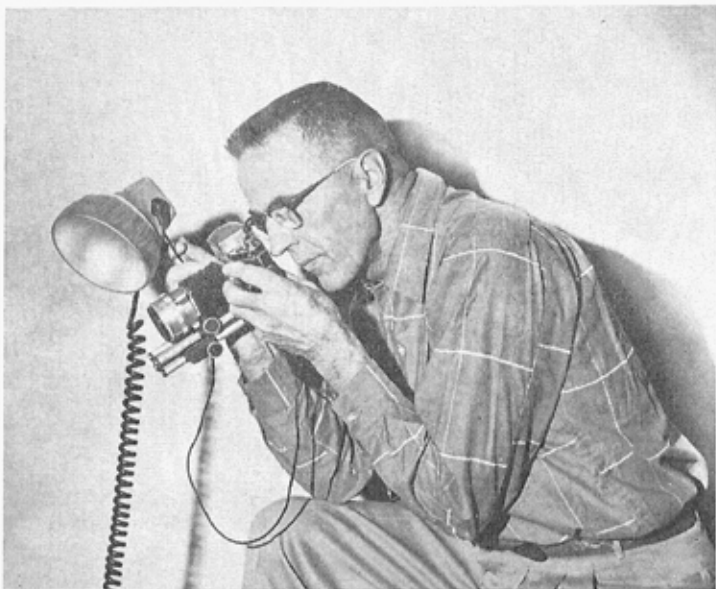
During the three decades he has been with the entomology department, Lee has built up a sizeable collection of colored slides of garden and orchard insects. County agents show duplicates of these slides to farm groups, so that farmers may learn to recognize common pests that infest crops. Lee also writes and illustrates bulletins on insect control, for distribution to farmers.

Nematodes, tiny threadworms which attack field and garden crops, are increasing to an alarming extent in the sandy soil of southeast Missouri. Lee Jenkins, one of the few nematologists in the United States, photographs the tiny nematodes under a microscopic lens to obtain slides for projection in the classroom and in farmers' meetings. He photographs roots of cotton, soybeans, and vegetables to show the type and the extent of damage.

All work and no play could make photography dull,

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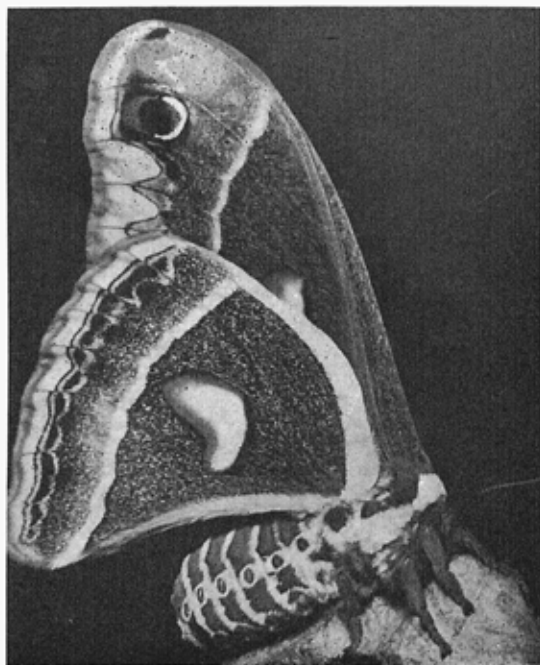
*Lee Jenkins, BS Agr. '30,
tracks his prey to its lair
to record its habits.
He'll wait patiently for hours,
if need be, before clicking
the shutter. Electronic
flash timed at 1/1000 second
assures instantaneous exposure.*



—Photo by Vivian Hansbrough. All other photos by Lee Jenkins.

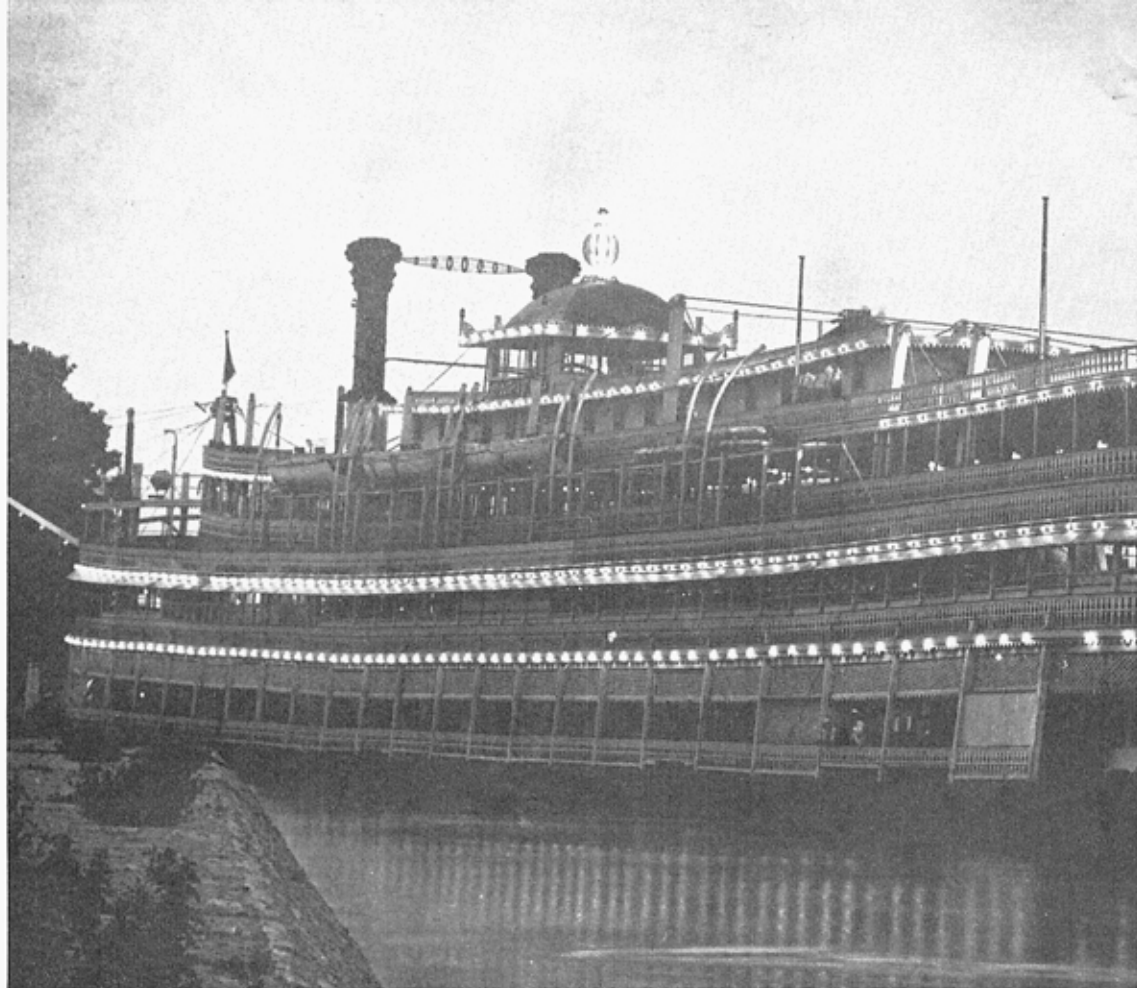
*"Look, mister, you stay back there
with your camera. These are MY eggs."*





Subject matter for Lee Jenkins photographs ranges from Missouri's state flower, the hawthorn, to newly-emerged cecropia moth, to farmboys in a hayloft. Lee sighted the boys descending from the loft early one morning and asked them to pose. He arranged their feet, suggested one put a straw in his mouth, and snapped a picture which rated publication in a national photography magazine.





Jenkins continued

but Lee Jenkins has fun with his camera by taking it along on outdoor excursions. Each summer he spends part of his vacation on an island in the Mississippi River, near Clarksville. There he has photographed birds in a heron rookery consisting of some 200 nests of American egrets, great blue herons, and black-crowned night herons. To reach a nest, he nailed sections of willow poles to the sides of trees for handholds and hauled up cameras on a line. He says the pictures thus obtained were ample reward for both time and trouble. His bird slides in color are in great demand for club programs.

A visit to the zoo yields portraits of a lumbering rhinoceros or a playful panda. A trip into the woods produces pictures of a frisky squirrel, a sleepy owl, or bird eggs in a nest. Flowers appeal to Lee, particularly if a colorful butterfly flutters nearby. He photographs the downy puff of a dandelion and the star-shaped bloom of a cactus.

Autumn is typified in his picture of pumpkins stacked against a cornshock; summer, by a close-up shot of a farmboy drinking cool water from an up-turned jug. Clouds fascinate him, and he has captured some beautiful ones. Using infrared film, he photographed the Student Union tower against a halo of clouds; the resulting picture has been admired in numerous photo exhibits.

His favorite camera for insect photography is a 35-millimeter single-lens reflex Exakta, equipped with an electronic flash which automatically times the exposure at one-thousandth of a second. For indoor photography, he also uses a $2\frac{1}{4}'' \times 3\frac{1}{4}''$ press camera and prefers to do his own darkroom processing and enlarging.

Thus Lee Jenkins makes a happy combination of his work and his hobby, for his own pleasure as well as the instruction and entertainment of others.



*As the lights came on at dusk,
Lee photographed old stern-wheeler on Mississippi
awaiting cargo of sightseeing passengers.
Covered bridge south of St. Joseph
recalls bygone days of leisurely transportation.*

