

## Pilot for Cousteau Stops in Brownsville

BROWNSVILLE — The pilot for the famous oceanographer Jacques Cousteau landed at Brownsville International Airport Wednesday for a few hours layover before continuing in his journey to rendezvous with Cousteau in Belen, Brazil.

Guy Gervais, the pilot, is a Canadian who makes his home in Peru, his wife's homeland. "I will be stopping about every two countries from here until I arrive — Mexico, Honduras, Costa Rica, Panama, Columbia, Peru and then onto Brazil by Monday," says Gervais, who left Tuesday from St. Paul, Minn.

Gervais will join Cousteau to begin a two-year study on the Amazon River. The expedition Cousteau has planned will involve studying the river from its source to determine the effects of pollution on it. "We will be working with the governments of Peru, Brazil and Ecuador to learn to protect the Amazon fresh water system, which is one fifth of the world's fresh water supply," says Gervais.

After Gervais meets Cousteau at the mouth of the Amazon, he will then fly

to Mato Grosso, Peru, and begin shooting aerial photographs of the river's source. Cousteau at the same time will travel up the river in his ship, the Calypso, while an amphibious truck travels down by land and a large raft floats down by water.

This is Gervais' first time to work with Cousteau. Formerly he had been a pilot for the international charity organization Wings of Hope and has logged more than 16,000 hours flight time with it.

He speaks French, English, Spanish, Portuguese and several Brazilian dialects. The plane he is flying now for Cousteau is a Cessna 206 Turbo-charge, which is equipped with Wipline amphibious floats for landing on water. He says he is very much looking forward to working with Cousteau, now 72, and describes him as "a man full of energy, full of wisdom, dedicated to the welfare and well being of the world."

Gervais' plane left at 11 a.m. today and will stop again in southern Mexico.



GOING TO NATIONAL — Juan Raul Lopez, a McAllen High School junior, qualified for national competition by winning the finance and credit series event at the state Marketing and Distributive Education Club of America state meet in Corpus Christi. He will compete in Chicago, Ill., in June. Lopez, who has been in MDE for two years, is employed in the Sears auditing department.

## Valley Boll Weevils Are Getting Harder to Kill

Boll weevils collected late in the summer and early in the fall of 1981 from cotton fields in the Lower Rio Grande Valley have been found to be harder to kill with a commonly-used insecticide.

Texas A & M researchers, Dr. Jim Cate, Dr. Bill Plapp and Tina Teague have shown in laboratory studies that "boll weevils collected from the Brownsville and Weslaco areas are seven times less susceptible to azinphosmethyl (Guthion®) than similar populations from the Brazos River Valley near College Station. The data suggests resistance may be developing in Valley populations. Insecticide applications directed at boll weevils should be carefully monitored to assure that control is being obtained."

The increased insecticide tolerance of Valley boll weevils was observed on individual insects seven to 10 days of age. Among boll weevils three days old and younger, no such increases were

observed.

This new information supports the contention of Valley cotton farmers that, in recent years, boll weevils have become more difficult to control with chemicals.

Experiences in 1981 in the Valley with boll weevil control using Guthion® has apparently improved boll weevil control. Therefore, Valley producers should not expect Guthion® to perform significantly different than recent years, researchers said.

Resistance in other insect species has occurred gradually over time in the past. Control of these insects was achieved by: 1) shortened spray intervals, 2) increased dosages, 3) changing insecticides, 4) improved crop management, 5) closer scouting and 6) increased utilization of existing technology in cultural control.

While chemical control of boll weevils may be less effective than in previous years, it remains a key part of

the Valley's cotton integrated pest management (IPM) program.

To improve chemical control of boll weevils growers can resort to methods which historically have been effective, Dr. Charles Allen, entomologist with the Texas Agriculture Extension Service, Weslaco, said. More thorough scouting, shortened spray intervals, increased dosages (subject to label restrictions) and changing insecticides are methods to be considered, he said.

Increased tolerance of boll weevils to insecticides makes even more critical the need for improved cultural practices, Allen added.

Specific strategies which should be considered in boll weevil management in the LRGV include such methods as early and thorough stalk destruction, use of rapidly maturing varieties and removal of vegetation around fields to deprive weevils of overwintering habitat, Allen said.

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