

# A Band On Fragile Wings Aids Study Of Butterflies

By Margaret Koch

The little boy saw the butterfly first. It lay dead and dry, its brilliant colors faded, its tissue wings frayed along their delicate edges.

Not much to wonder at, surely. But his sharp eyes picked out something different about the insect. It had a miniscule piece of paper attached to one wing.

He picked up the insect — curious. Then he took it to show to a man who was working nearby on a telephone line.

And the butterfly with the banded wing came this way into the possession of Mrs. Richard Dunham of 110 Mott avenue, because the man was her husband.

He, too, was curious — and interested. So he bought the insect home with him from Carmel hill where he had been working.

The paper tag said: Send to Zoology, University of Toronto, Canada. The number 592 was penciled below the printed address.

A picture was taken and the insect was mailed to Toronto by Mrs. Dunham.

Information on butterfly banding is not easy to come by. If anyone is doing the work locally we could not find him. However, a phone call to Vern Yadon, natural history curator of Pacific Grove museum, revealed that butterfly banding is being done in that area on a small scale.

Yadon also informed The Sentinel that although the butterfly tags originate in Toronto with Dr. F. A. Urquhardt, they have

been sent by him to banders all over the United States. So this particular butterfly could have been banded almost anywhere. The penciled number will reveal where the insect got tagged when it is compared with Toronto records. Dr. Urquhardt is an international authority on Monarchs and has conducted much experimental work.

Yadon also indicated that this particular butterfly would probably be from the local over-wintering population.

The ocean-hopping Monarch actually is a parasite on the milkweed plant. The adult female lays her eggs on the plant and the larvae hatch and eat the plant. Wherever milkweed grows, the great butterfly can live.

It has migrated — or been carried — naturalists are not positive which, to Hawaii, the East Indies, Australia, New Caledonia, New Zealand and the Marquesas.

Monarchs have been observed flying over the ocean many miles from land at elevations of 400 feet; they also have been observed resting on the surface of the ocean and arising again from the water, according to several authorities.

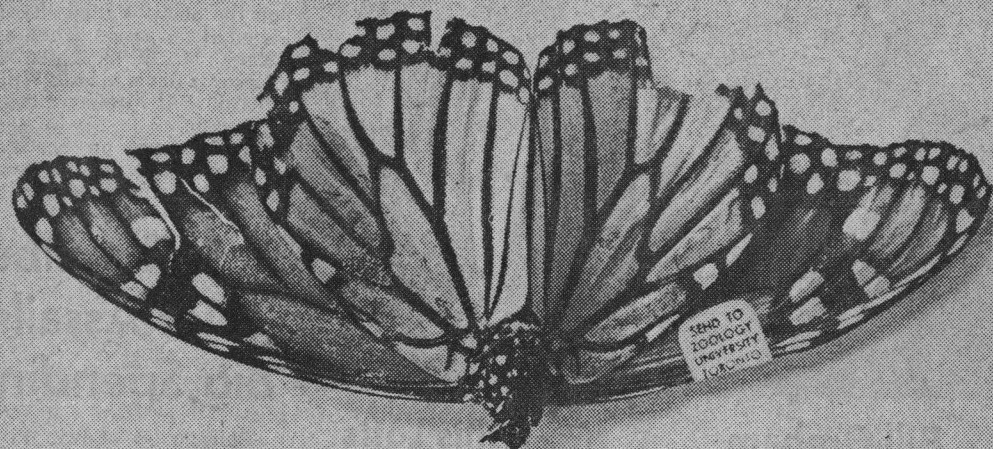
It also has been established that the orange and black insects fly 2000 miles or more for sure, coming here from Alaska and Canada.

But the same butterfly does not "remember" and make the trip twice, and that is one of

the many wonders of the Monarch's story. A brand new generation comes along to fly the same old migration routes, according to Yadon. How do they know where to go?

In temperate climates such as ours, there may be as many as four succeeding generations in one year. In colder climes there is only one generation per year. These factors all complicate

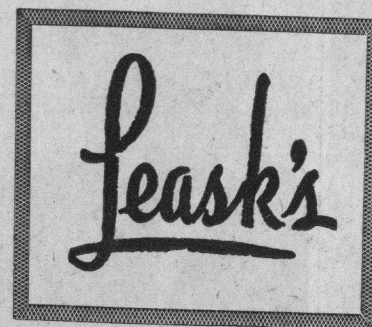
the Monarch butterfly's life story. But someday naturalists will know the whole of it. In the meantime — Mrs. Dunham and a curious little boy are waiting for word from Toronto University.



The banded Monarch butterfly, above, was sent this week to Toronto University by Mrs. Richard Dunham of 110 Mott avenue. Butterfly banding is

being conducted through the Canadian university to determine migration patterns of the great orange and black butterfly. ♦ ♦ ♦

flies which arrive in the Monterey Bay area each fall in great clouds. Some of the winged insects fly here from Alaska and Canada.



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