

'Additives necessary for quality food'

Despite recent consumer concern, food additives are necessary to furnish the entire nation quality food, according to one authority.

She's Mrs. Mary K. Sweeten, foods and nutrition specialist with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, TAMU System.

"Before a processor can use an additive, he must present information to the Food and Drug Administration," says Sweeten. "As such, he shows a particular additive will accomplish its intended effect in food — and that the

amount used doesn't exceed what's reasonably necessary."

Spices, natural and synthetic flavors, such as liquid derivatives of onion, garlic, cloves and pepperment, make up the largest group of additives — flavors and flavoring agents, she says.

"Stabilizers, on the other hand, prevent oxidation and spoilage of food.

"For years, people have used salt, sugar, vinegar, heat, freez-

ing, smoke and spices to prevent or delay spoilage. Modern developments brought preservatives such as antioxidants, mold inhibitors and fungicides on the scene.

"Without such antioxidants as BHA and BHT, baked goods — and other foods using oils and fats — would turn rancid in a short time."

Another group of additives, non-nutritive sweeteners, are sug-

ar substitutes, Mrs. Sweeten said. They're used in foods intended for people who can't tolerate sugar.

Certain additives actually alter food quality.

"For example, bleaching and maturing agents speed up the aging process of wheat — improving bread-making quality of flour.

"Freshly milled flour," she explained, "is yellowish in color and makes poor quality bread." Although they don't improve

eating quality, colors play very important roles.

"People become accustomed to a food being a certain color — and refuse to eat it if it looks too pale."

Additives have other uses besides those mentioned, the specialist added.

"These include hardening, drying, firming, crisping, anti-sticking, whipping, creaming and sterilizing"

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Canned research firms in law suit

Two alleged term-paper firms have been taken to court by the U. S. Postal Service in an attempt to revoke the companies' privilege of receiving mail.

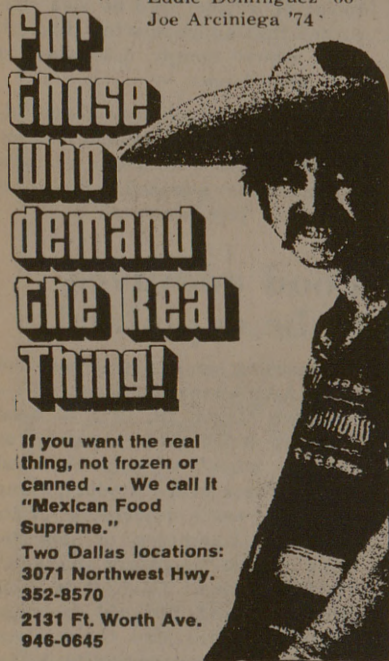
In non-criminal administrative hearings, Termpaper Library, Inc. of Washington, D. C. and Research Associates, Inc. of Los Angeles have been accused of violating postal regulations. After attorneys for both sides submit briefs, a judge will rule on the cases. If the companies lose the decisions, and any subsequent appeals, their incoming mail will be intercepted and returned to the sender, effectively putting the operations out of business.

"They're advertising research but actually supplying virtually finished term-papers which only need to be re-typed," says a government attorney working on the cases. A federal law prohibiting the seeking or receiving of money through the mails by means of false representations is the basis of the government's legal theory in the cases. In the alleged term-paper cases, the law is not being used in the traditional manner, as in the case of an advertiser cheating the customer, says the attorney, since the students presumably know what they are getting. The companies "seek money through the mails for a product by which their customers are enabled to falsely represent to the schools that this is their own work products. We used that same theory, by the way, in Boston last year. We had four cases against four companies and won with a resounding victory which is why we decided to use our new-found power," says the postal attorney.

Spokesmen for alleged term-paper companies contend that their products are sold for research and the government must prove that they knowingly supply them for other purposes. This proof is sometimes difficult to establish, admits the government attorney. "Our case is a little stronger against the Washington-based company because they advertise that they never sell the same paper twice on the same campus. This is pretty good evidence that they know what the papers are being used for," he says.

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