Oldest Daily In the West

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UNION

The Sacramento

It's Tuesday, September 28, 1

Foods Poisoned By Containers In Recycling

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) said Monday that it has found a persistent and poisonous chemical called PCBs in seven packaged food products, apparently the result of contamination from containers made of recycled cardboard.

The agency said it found the DDT-like chemical in one sample of Sunshine shredded wheat at a level 43 times the federal action guideline. It said it found the chemical at levels up to four times the federal standard in shredded wheat, spaghetti dinner, corn meal, mixed baby cereal, grits, noodle dinner and pancake mix.

The agency has seized none of the products. It is making a survey of 15 grocery products for contamination.

PCBs were first discovered in the agency's "market basket survey" completed four months ago, traced to the Sunshine shredded wheat and ultimately to the containers, which harbored up to 433 parts per million of the chemical. The brand names of the other products were not available immediately.

PCBs already have forced the seizure or destruction of chickens, turkeys, eggs and catfish food this year.

IT HAS been blamed for an outbreak of liver and skin ailments in Japan and has caused a 100 per cent mortality rate among chick embryos in laboratory tests.

The agency publicly revealed the discovery of the PCBs — polychlorinated biphenyls — in response to a story in the Evening Star of Washington reporting the 15-product survey is under way.

Donald A. Berreth, FDA press officer called the contamination level in food very, very low. He said the agency recently set a level — above which the agency would act — of five-tenths parts per million PCBs for eggs and five parts per million for poultry. Levels are set, he said, on a case-by-case basis.

THE FIGURES on PCB levels in the shredded wheat packages was contained in a letter to Rep. William F. Ryan, D-N.Y., from M. J. Ryan, director of legislative services for FDA.

The letter said the 15-product survey started Sept. 8. The agency has also met with industry to discuss the problem, the letter added.

Rep. Ryan described the agency's action as "typical of the FDA's failure to notify consumers of potentially serious

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Defendant Flees From Courthouse

Although handcuffed and guarded by two sheriff's deputies, Autar Edward Nauton, 38, escaped from the Sacramento County Courthouse Monday.

He made the escape at about 10 a.m. while being led to court for the sixth day of his trial on seven counts of armed robbery and one count of auto theft.

It was the first successful escape by a felony defendant since the courthouse opened nearly six years ago.

THE SUPERIOR court jury of 11 women and one man, who were not told why Nauton was missing from his place at the counsel table, were excused until 10 a.m. today when Judge Stanley Reckers must decide whether to continue the trial without him.

Court bailiff George Karlovich and deputy Charles Shiflett said the escape came while they were in the process of moving Nauton from a fourth floor holding tank via a little used public stairway to the rear of Judge Reckers' courtroom on the fifth floor.

KARLOVICH SAID as they got to the stairway, intended primarily as a fire escape route, Nauton bolted and started down instead of up.

Shiflett managed to catch him and push him against the wall, but Nauton pulled away and began running again.

"I took a shot at him from the fourth floor landing," said Karlovich. The bullet apparently missed and Nauton ran the rest of the way down to the first floor where the stairs lead out onto the 8th Street side of the courthouse.

Karlovich said he chased after the handcuffed prisoner but never had a chance to fire again. He said he lost sight of Nauton at 9th Street and the K Street Mall. That was the last official sighting of him.

NORMALLY, PRISONERS have their



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Lady

Golda Accuses U.S. Of Undermining Peace

By HAL McCLURE

THE WITHHOLDING of American Phantom fighter planes is thought by

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