

NEWS AND NOTES

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IN NOVEMBER, THE CALIFORNIA MONTHLY, ALUMNI MAGAZINE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, HAD A MAJOR ARTICLE HAILING FORTY YEARS OF PUBLIC HEALTH and a major part of the article was concerning (who else?) Dr. WILLIAM C. REEVES. We quote a lead paragraph, "Professor of epidemiology William Reeves has survived 45 years in the field of mosquito-borne encephalitis. Although his research is never ending, he is currently writing up his findings through the year 1985. Professor Reeves and his lifelong work is the quintessential example of almost everything the School of Public Health represents: dedication, collaboration, and diversity. On the school's faculty since its inception, he is too humble to claim his unofficial title, Mr. Public Health. His international reputation began to build in 1941, when he identified the mosquito that transmits encephalitis virus, then epidemic in California." There's a lot more, laudatory and thoroughly well deserved. All they don't mention is his painstaking and thoroughgoing investigations which brought the Army and Navy on Guam out of a vale of darkness shortly after the War. (We pause also to remember that the foundations of mosquito control research and public health in California were laid by two other AMCA'ers: Drs. WM B. HERMS and STAN FREEBORN. To say nothing of the work of DICK PETERS and his merry crews.) There's a good picture of Bill smiling about his license plate CULEX T.

WE HAD A GOOD LETTER FROM DON PLETSCHE, TOO, BACK IN NOVEMBER. He was in Taipei, where he noted that Col. Sanders, McDonalds, Baskin Robbins and their cohorts are all there now and, without implying any connection, he adds that sanitation there is upgrading and is, in fact, now good. He says they are continuing to hold the line on their anti-malaria campaign, initiated in 1952 and certified by W.H.O. in 1965. He says that unfortunately but perhaps inevitably, the puffery about Taiwan's progress emphasizes almost exclusively the quite amazing and laudable economic progress but omits the equally laudable and, one can well say, amazing progress in public health. "C'est la vie!" he adds philosophically. He also sent a clip from the *China Post* which says, quoting the Brunei-based *Borneo Bulletin*, that malaria has been wiped out in Brunei and there have been no cases since 1969. The Brunei Government has applied to W.H.O. for certification. They quote a spokeswoman for the Brunei Public Health Department as saying that their extensive anti-malaria "programme included widespread spraying with anti-malaria detergents," which we'd like to hear more about.

FRED KNAPP RECEIVED NOT ONE BUT TWO AWARDS RECENTLY AND A SPECIAL WRITE-UP with a very good picture in the *ESA Newsletter*, as those of you who are members will have noted. The awards, also from ESA affiliates, were an Outstanding Entomologist award for medical and veterinary entomology, given by the American Registry of Professional Entomologists,

and the C.V. Riley Achievement Award at the 40th Annual Meeting of the North Central Branch.

We hope you ESA members also noted that CRAIG SANDOSKI received the John Henry Comstock Award from the Southeastern Branch (with a good picture of a very determined-looking researcher) for his work on *B.t.i. H-14* and its use as an ecologically-proper control of mosquitoes in ricelands.

MIKE SERVICE ALSO APPEARED IN THE BULLETIN OF THE ESA WITH A MIGHTY FINE ARTICLE ON *Anopheles gambiae*. If you didn't see it, go look, because it really belongs as a coda to the book on *Anopheles gambiae* in South America which we all bought and devoured so avidly during WWII. Mike's article gives an excellent up-date on the complex, as it is now known to be, which caused such alarm when it was (presumably) flown in military supply planes from Dakar to Brazil and secreted itself in the rain forest. Even if you DON'T remember WWII, you'll find it fascinating.

STAN HUSTED, WHILE WE'RE ON SUPPLY PLANES (AND SHIPS) has left the higher echelons of the Naval military medical establishment to give advice on control of many things in what are called "subsistence items" with the Defense Subsistence Pacific Region, based in Alameda (Calif.) and calling for the most alluring travel to all those wonderful Pacific Basin places. Unfortunately, while SOME may be able to fat cat on these kinds of trips, we entomologists seem seldom to be able to. Alas. Too wrapped up in our bugs, we gness.

WALTER BARRETT, WHO RETIRED FROM HEADING THE AIR FORCES' APPLIED BIOLOGY PROGRAM A WHILE BACK HAS NOW REPORTED ON his new incarnation in charge of mosquito control for the Fairfax County (Virginia) Health Department. Fairfax County, as those who have been in the Washington, D.C. area know, surrounds the other half of the District of Columbia, that was given back (sort of) to Virginia at the end of what our Grandmother called THE War . . . the War Between the States. They thought it would never be needed for the Federal City that then didn't even reach to Georgetown. It is now the richest county in Virginia but, except for Alexandria, is suspected of harboring Yankees. In addition, Walt points out that what in the 30's and 40's was rural woodlands and occasional clusters of settlement, having moved through the semi-rural stage, is now a burgeoning industrial/technical/business metropolis, with the "bedroom" aspects of a suburb. Well, you all know what THAT means. Good luck, Walt.

THE MANY FRIENDS OF ROBERT T. TAYLOR, RETIRED CDC ENTOMOLOGIST, will be saddened to learn of his untimely death on 9 January 1986 in Atlanta, Georgia, the result of an auto crash. According to DON JOHNSON, who sent the news, burial took place on 16 January in Oklahoma, Bob's native State.

HERB CAEN OF THE SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE REPORTED AT THE END OF THE VACATION SEASON that the Forest Service at Silver Lake in Lassen had erected a sign saying, "Because of the prolonged snow melt and runoff, mosquitoes should be given special consideration," to which one Frank Cady, a local wit, had appended, "What are we supposed to do—dry them out?"

IT WAS DURING WWII THAT WE FIRST KNEW JOHNNY MULRENNAN (Sr.), who was "Mr. Public Health" in Florida during and after his long tenure. We have a clear and lasting memory of Johnny standing and teetering slowly heel-and-toe at the curb waiting for us in Jacksonville in 1943. (We were not *late*, you understand, but Johnny was always ahead of you.) It was he, in his mild Southern-accented voice and his quiet country-boy way of speaking . . . he used to say you could take the boy out of the country but you couldn't take the country out of the boy . . . it was he who took us around Florida, where such a large proportion of the troops were being trained, and told us what was really where. The conventional and the Chamber of Commerce wisdom said one thing but Johnny told us another and with further help from GEORGE BRADLEY and "Tom" McNEEL we got our malaria rate just about down to nothing, and none too soon. Over the years that "country boy" wisdom turned the trick in a few AMCA crises, too, we recall.

THE VMCA IS DOING SOMETHING POSITIVE TO MAKE SURE THE COMING GENERATION GETS PROPER ENTOMOLOGICAL EDUCATIONS IN THE MANY RAMIFICATIONS THEREOF. They presented five textbooks to three State colleges at their annual meeting last April. The recipients were: Longwood, Old Dominion University, and Mary Washington. They didn't say which one got three or which two got two but any way you divide it, it was a mighty fine and positive move, we think.

ANOTHER MR. PUBLIC HEALTH IS ALSO MR. MOSQUITO CONTROL, ROLLIE DORER, and VMCA has established the R. E. Dorer Award to commemorate that fact. The criteria for the award are: Outstanding contributions beyond the normal call of duty. Continuing outstanding service over a period of years. High moral character. General recognition of outstanding achievement by his peers. These seem like a good, though partial, summing-up of the characteristics which make the honoree outstanding; we hope they have no difficulty in finding others to follow in his footsteps and receive the award for so doing.

BETTINA ROSAY SENT US THE PROGRAM OF THE 38TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE UTAH MOSQUITO ABATEMENT ASSOCIATION, held in Park City at the end of September. There was a panel on grasshopper control, which you may remember was added to the duties of mosquito control people there last year. But there were also meaty papers on black fly control, biological control agents and methods and a couple on that new and looming concern for MAD's . . . INSURANCE against suits by the growing segment of Americans who rush to sue anyone for anything that happens in their vicinity. Seeing the difficulty there is nowadays to get people to serve on Boards of Direc-

tors who may now be held individually financially liable for suits against their organization (Deep Pocket theory) we've sort of wondered if there was beginning to be a difficulty in securing Trustees for MAD's. Anyone care to write an Operational Paper for our Journal?

Another part of the meetings which was pretty impressive, Bettina wrote, though perhaps useful only in surveillance, was hot-air balloon rides, and the hanging gondola trip to the top of 10,000-foot Treasure Mountain. AND there was a tour of an old silver mine.

CLAUDE SCHMIDT SENT US A HANDFUL OF CARTOONS WHICH WE WISH WE COULD REPRODUCE BUT WILL HAVE TO JUST DESCRIBE. Culled from the *Minnesota Monthly* and done by various artists, some in color, they range from a husky football-looking type with his little aerosol can suddenly realizing that the enormous thing looming over his shoulder is a MOSQUITO! to one showing a hammock-resting summer vacation type being roused not-at-all gently by Great Dane-sized mosquitoes demolishing an exposed ankle. There is also a somewhat macabre full-color one of a close-up "Bloody Mary" being enjoyed by a mosquito. Plus another poring over a "Humenu" in a restaurant. Claude said their mosquito problem was real bad this (last) year, with lots of moisture, but that luckily they had no encephalitis. They must have been doing something right.

BILL FITZWATER HAS DEVISED A FEW WAYS OF GETTING PROPERTY OWNERS TO RETURN PHONE CALLS ABOUT ACCESS which was received via HARVEY SHULTZ: "We're on the way to his house. Where does he want us to dump the 20 yards of concrete . . . front or back?"

"We're leaving in five minutes to fumigate the house; remind him he can't come home for three days."

"I'm calling from the fur shop. We need an OK on his wife's check for \$45,000."

No comment. (We wonder if they work, though).

SOME OF YOU MAY HAVE MISSED JACK ANDERSON'S COLUMN WHICH APPEARED IN THE *WASHINGTON POST* ON 10 DECEMBER of last year. Entitled, "A Sampler of Silly Grants," it listed among them, "The National Science Foundation gave scientists \$57,770 to catch mosquitoes and study their wing shape. "This might possibly contribute to understanding their aerodynamic design," said a spokesman."

TROPICAL MEDICINE AND HYGIENE NEWS LAST OCTOBER RAN AN IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT about a new fellowship program for minorities established by the Ford Foundation and to be administered by the National Research Council. "The program will award 120 three-year fellowships over a five-year period. Each fellowship will provide an annual stipend of \$10,000 and \$6,000 per year for tuition and fees. The program also will award ten \$18,000 grants each year to minority Ph.D. candidates who have completed all degree requirements and need approximately one year to complete their dissertations."

Those of you who are "minorities" and HAVE your Ph.D.'s will want to direct the attention of some you know who haven't, we imagine, and the address is Ford Foundation Doctoral Fellowships, Fellowship Programs Office, National Research Council, 2101 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington DC 20418. Their telephone is (202) 334-2872.

FRIENDS OF FORREST ST. AUBIN WILL BE INTERESTED TO KNOW that he has been assigned to command the 180th Medical Detachment, U.S. Army Reserve, in Chicago.

THE NEWS FROM THE MIDDLE EAST SELDOM SEEMS PEACEFUL AND OFTEN IS DOWNRIGHT ALARMING SO WE'RE GLAD TO REPORT ON ONE BIT OF GOOD NEWS (courtesy of *Tropical Medicine and Hygiene News*, which many of you will have seen). In May of last year, U.S., Egyptian and Israeli scientists under the sponsorship of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, met at the Kuvin Center for the Study of Infectious and Tropical Diseases at Hebrew University in Jerusalem. Diseases being studied in the 5-year-old project have been such arthropod-borne diseases as malaria, Rift Valley fever and leishmaniasis; it is hoped that the studies can be expanded to include filariasis, tick-borne rickettsial diseases and others of that sort. Prominent in the assembly were Drs. SHERIF EL-SAID, RACHEL GALUN and ROBERT GWADZ, who was reported as saying that the historic meeting ended on a "note of optimism and enthusiasm," with "all scientists looking forward to continued and increased cooperation in areas of research that are of such vital importance to the Near East." If only Arafat could be as interested in working things out together.

AN INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON ECOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT OF WETLANDS has been announced for 16 to 20 June, 1986, to be held in Charleston, South Carolina. There will be pre- and post-Conference tours and field trips. While the prospectus lists symposia which seem more concerned with the physical

aspects of wetlands, there will be some discussion of estuarine fish and wildlife, which, we suppose, could include mosquitoes . . . Information may be obtained from Donal D. Hook, Southeastern Forest Experiment Station, 2730 Savannah Highway, Charleston, SC 29407.

LOUISIANA MOSQUITO CONTROL ASSOCIATION'S 28th ANNUAL MEETING LAST OCTOBER had symposiums on ricelands, wetlands, *B.t.t.*, and a whole lot more. Invited speakers included one talk on FAA regulations affecting agricultural aircraft operations, by a Mr. Lou Mays, and one by Dr. JAMES NELSON of the U.S. Army Medical Bioengineering Research and Development Laboratory at Ft. Detrick.

THE GULF COAST RESEARCH LABORATORY ON MOSQUITOES WHICH WAS AT LAKE CHARLES, LOUISIANA, has been relocated to Gainesville to join the Insects Affecting Man and Animals Laboratory at Box 14565.

THOSE OF YOU WHO KNEW DAVID P. LEWIS AND HIS HUDSON SPRAYERS, and many of us did, of course, will like to know that that Company honored him on his 90th birthday last August, as well they should have. He had 55 years continuous service with them at the time of his retirement in 1971.

NEW JERSEY VECTOR SURVEILLANCE REPORTED IN SEPTEMBER that a combination of tides and heavy thunderstorms triggered above-average broods of *Ae. sollicitans* in coastal areas of New Jersey over the Labor Day weekend (what timing!) and that they emerged during the period that EEE virus was being amplified by *Cs. melanura*; thus special efforts were necessary to control the brood. Despite their efforts, the landing rates exceeded 100 per minute at many stations and physiological age dissections showed that populations reached 100% parity by 10 September. Fortunately, there was little evidence that the populations made contact with EEE virus and there were no equine cases reported from the coastal areas.