

NEWS AND NOTES

AUSTIN W. MORRILL, JR.

IT SEEMS A BIT LIKE THE THEATRE OF THE ABSURD TO RUSH ON WITH "NEWS" OF THE MEETINGS, LAST APRIL F'EVVINS SAKE, BUT THEY WERE WELL WORTH REPORTING and those of you who couldn't be there may wish to hear about them, while those who *were* can enjoy having bright memories recalled to view. LOUISIANA MCA, as usual, turned out a real feast both scientifically and gastronomically, the weather cleared and became perfect and the River, the prospect of a dinner ride on which was somewhat alarming to some uncertain sailors, was smooth and majestic and just kept rolling along. A registration of over 800 turned out for all this, with 25 exhibitors, 33 students and 181 companions (no longer only "wives").

If you don't like raw oysters, skip to the next paragraph, but at the President's Reception there was, in addition to several tables of the usual hors d'oeuvres, a *whole tableful* of delicious oysters, swimming in their liquor on a bed of ice and palpitating for that drop of lemon or Tabasco which turned them into ambrosia.

There was also the most enthusiastic bunch of teenagers, forming a bugle and drum corps, that we ever heard in our life, even in New Orleans, leading a procession of Kings and Queens of the several Krewes, with attendants, and all in satin and cloth of gold costumes to knock your eye out. . . . and not cheap, either, as we could see at close range, covered with beautiful and real-looking gems and pearls, and gold and silver medallions. They went around three or four times and threw out handfuls of gold and silver metal medals with the Krewe names and various things embossed on them and strings of pearls and stuff and we all scrambled for them like eager countrymen and ate and chattered until they had to turn the lights out to tell us it was way past time to go.

AT THE PLENARY SESSION CONGRESSWOMAN LINDY BOGGS DEMONSTRATED THAT THE FLAME OF CONCERN FOR PROPER MOSQUITO CONTROL, so ably lighted by her late husband, still burns brightly. Dr. James Mason, Director of CDC, showing a reassuring and comprehensive grasp of the preventive aspects of vector-borne disease control, gave a thoroughgoing review of the viral diseases situation. OSCAR FULTZ (who was given a good play in the *Times-Picayune*, which called him "Mr. Thomas Fultz" . . . took us a minute to catch on . . .) pointed out in his Presidential Address (don't fail to read) that we need to share our failures as well as our successes if future success is to be assured; and RALPH BARR made us somewhat grudgingly admit that there IS something lively and interesting about systematics. Read that one, too! We knew you were going to anyway. Ralph, by the way, seems to be developing a Barr Mafia on the lines of the well-known HORSFALL Mafia, which was in evidence as always.

SPEAKING OF WHICH . . . OR WHOM . . . WE FOUND BILL HORSFALL'S paper on "What a Consultant Can Do for a Mosquito District," especially interesting, when he pointed out that an academic Ecologist may know all *about* the environment but often doesn't *know* it, as a mud-on-the-boots field-experienced person does.

DR. ROBERT SJOGREN REMINDED US OF THE FAMOUS HARVARD SOCIOLOGY PROFESSOR who said, "Don't marry for money but try to fall in love where the money is." According to Bob's Trustee, RANDY JOHNSON, who is also a County Commissioner, and who gave a clear, comprehensive and enthusiastic account of the success of Bob's program, a good deal of the support for the financial success of the District came from simply taking in the wealthy and burgeoning residential areas. Like the guy in the poem whose friend had shut him out, he found a way to win; he "drew a circle that took (them) in."

DR. ELIZABETH (PAT) MARKS and JOHN REID were jointly honored, JAY GRAHAM received the Medal of Honor and LAMAR MEEK one for his undoubtedly Meritorious Service.

AND AS YOU READ THIS, BRUCE ELDRIDGE, OUR NEW VICE PRESIDENT has left his long-time post as Chairman of the Department of Entomology at Oregon State to become COORDINATOR of the University of California Mosquito Research Program AND Professor of Entomology at the University at Davis. Adding one more luminary to a distinguished company. None too soon, either; we're seriously considering not letting in any further permanent settlers, Bruce. As the bumper sticker says, "California is Full—Go Home!" (Unfortunately, that's getting to be true everywhere, isn't it?)

BRUCE HARRISON SLIPPED US THE DOPE OF THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE WALTER REED BIOSYSTEMATICS UNIT, the Systematics of *Aedes* Mosquitoes Project and the Mosquito Information Management Project, which you may have been addressing at the Museum of Natural History. They are now out in Maryland at the Museum Support Center of the Smithsonian Institution (which is nevertheless Washington D.C. 20560). Besides Bruce, that includes YIAU-MIN HUANG, ELLEN V. ALERS, E. L. PEYTON, DAN STRICKMAN, RICHARD WILKERSON and BERNARD GEOFFREY. The phone numbers are: (202) 287-3165, 6 and 7, and they invite you to drop in when you're in Washington. And what happened to the other 4 ZIP numbers?

A LOT OF US TROOPED OUT TO GEORGE CARMICHAEL'S FINE MOSQUITO CONTROL SET-UP, WITH A WAY-STOP AT THE BUILDINGS HOUSING HIS *Toxorhynchites* Project, which is at the Department of Health to keep the Tox's and their food *Aedes aegypti* away from any insecticides. There STEVE SACKETT raises hordes of

aegypti on membrane feeders with slaughterhouse blood and casts them to the ferocious mercies of his *Toxorhynchites amboinensis*. Besides feeding voraciously and growing enormously (they go into a shark-like feeding frenzy on occasion), the Tox have the amazing ability to lie doggo when food is scarce and then have at it again as soon as the prey comes back. wow. Steve scatters them by plane and helicopter. One remarkable aspect, new to us, was the way the Tox fling their eggs, basketball-style, into the *Aedes* breeding container, even bottles with necks the size of a golf ball. Some sport.

AT THE MAIN OFFICE GEORGE HAS AN AMUSING ARRAY OF BLOWN-UP CARTOONS which appeared in the 18 months period prior to the establishment of his District, in which the artists of the *Times-Picayune* and the *States-Item* bewailed the plight of New Orleansians and lampooned the hesitancy of the political powers that then were, to make the financial layout to combat the problem. BUT besides the interesting but more usual array of aircraft for mosquito insecticide dispersal, George has a real arsenal we can all envy . . . his PR (read Public EDUCATION) Department. They have put together videos for use in schools and at meetings that are so good that they have been able to show them to rapt audiences in every school in New Orleans (Jefferson Parish). *Every* schoolchild up to middle school has seen one or more of them, public, private or parochial, and the high school level is at the ready. The ones we saw were informative and interesting at the same time and were neither too technical for young people nor too elementary for adult ones . . . a nice balance.

WHILE WE'RE ON BY-GONE MEETINGS ONE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE ATTENDED . . . HENRY RUPP slipped us a report on the Seventy-third Annual Meeting of the New Jersey MCA, our last year's hosts. Pulling themselves together, they managed to have a highly successful convocation with over 200 people attending, including JESSE B. LESLIE, who was in attendance as he has been at every meeting since the first, in 1913, with the exception of one he missed during World War II. In addition to the papers on salt marsh control, *B.t.i.* and *B. sphaericus*, tires as mosquito breeding sources, and EEE, Henry and WAYNE CRANS and a few other computer enthusiasts held a special session on their use. TOM SELLERS was elected President, HENRY vice-President, JUDY HANSEN (in whose home county the meetings were held) second vice-Pres. and BUNNIE HAJEK and Dr. KENNETH BRUDER are secretary and treasurer, respectively.

HENRY, BY THE WAY, GAVE A PAPER AT THE NEW JERSEY MEETINGS IN WHICH HE POINTED OUT THAT ENVIRONMENTALISTS MAY BE "RIGHT" BUT FOR THE WRONG REASONS. He pointed to the facts that without mosquito control we would be back to the days when yellow fever killed 29,000 of Napoleon's 35,000 troops in Haiti and 20,000 workers in the first (French) attempts to build the Panama Canal; when malaria caused more casualties than bullets in the South Pacific and in some cases we won only because the Japanese had more malaria than we did; when

the death tolls from malaria in India made the tragic deaths from insecticides in Bhopal pale into insignificance; when malaria took its toll even in the "temperate" areas of the United States (Connecticut and California were not exempt, remember). So Henry revived Jonathan Swift's "Modest Proposal" in which the Irish Dean looked at the overabundance of infants and the scarcity of food in Ireland and proposed turning the infants into food. In the same spirit Henry proposed letting the environmentalists HAVE an environment free of insect control pesticides and water management and bioalterations. . . . to reduce the twin evils of overpopulation and expanded agricultural production that we have wrought.

He pointed out that such a course, although a nuisance to the more developed countries would solve so many problems . . . the tropical Third World would be too preoccupied with death rates and food production to be so much trouble politically and we would be able to have endless Wilderness Areas at no further cost to ourselves and no need to police them to keep out intruders, either, as that would be done by Nature herself with viral and plasmodial enforcers more effective than any regulations devised by Man. A real modest proposal.

Henry wasn't surprised to hear a panelist say on TV that it is hubris for the U.S. to try to raise the world's food and that we should adopt the self-sufficient Amish-style farm and the "organic" approach as a model. "Let 'em eat stones." We should have told him about the similar panelist we heard on public TV say that malaria and other vector-borne diseases were Nature's way of controlling the population and shouldn't be interfered with. Of course, he'd HAD his shots.

SPEAKING OF HUBRIS . . . Can that be a MALE mosquito on the cover of GIL CHALLET's 1985 *Annual Report*? Flanked by a blowfly and topped by a rat. A ROOF rat. At year's end Gil still hadn't been served with any papers by the lady who said it was his fault her boy got what *she* diagnosed as SLE encephalitis. Actually, Gil's surveillance didn't turn up ANY signs of either SLE or EEE, though they did have some *tarsalis* in their big San Joaquin slough, and promptly treated it, no doubt to the horror of the "environmentalists."

AND ANOTHER "UPDATE" AS THE TV NEWS CALLS THEM: the recipient of the "Silly Grant" singled out by Jack Anderson and mentioned last time was likely Y. ZHOU, et. als., who in 1985 published in *Systematic Zoology* (34(3):346-358) a paper entitled, "Automatic description of the venation of mosquito wings from digitalized images."

THE SECRETARIAT DE LA FAUNE ET DE LA FLORE IS PUBLISHING IN PARIS A TREATISE by ODILE MOUSSIEGT of the Entente Interdepartementale pour la Demoustication du Littoral Mediterranee, entitled "Mosquitoes de France—Bibliographie et Repartition." The announcement asks excitedly, "Is *Culiseta fumipennis* present in France?" and answers proudly, "A single glance at the maps of distribution will tell you." (This

is true. They are excellent and show by Departments blackened in a map of the entire country, including Corsica.) There are also thoroughgoing indices . . . four of them, including one on life cycle, parasites and predators, diseases, habitat preferences; one on geographical distributions and one on species. All this for "60F + 15 F de port" but you'd better check. Address: Societe pour l'Inventaire de la Faune et de la Flore, 57, rue Cuvier, 75231 Paris Cedex 05."

DR. A. B. WEATHERSBY WAS THE RECIPIENT IN APRIL OF THE MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD from the Southeastern Society of Parasitologists at their annual meeting. He's emeritus professor of Entomology at the University of Georgia, as we all know, and has received a good number of other awards including ESA's 1983 Distinguished Award in Teaching. He's also a baseball fan and the Athens (Ga.) *Banner-Herald/Daily News* reported that the field at Clarke Central School is now "Weathersby Field" after he spearheaded a drive to put it into top playing shape.

A MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD WAS PRESENTED TO RUSS FONTAINE, TOO, BY THE SOCIETY OF VECTOR ECOLOGISTS, of which he was prexy in 1982. Dr. Fontaine was also credited with nearly doubling the membership rolls, what with his worldwide connections and all, which has led to the new 35-member European Branch reported by MIKE SERVICE. Russ has also been made an Honorary Member of California MVCA.

SOUTH COOK COUNTY'S (ILL.) ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1985 WAS THEIR THIRTY-FIRST and was a sort of primer in mosquito control, with good pictures of activities and equipment and neat, non-environment-contaminating depots and run-through of mosquito biology and self-help backyard activities. Their 340 square miles include borders on Chicago, Indiana, Lake Michigan, 46 square miles of Forest Preserve and assorted urban situations. We hope the Trustees gave KHIAN LIEM's good PR a wide, wide distribution.

WE HEAR ARPE IS ABOUT TO RE-ENFOLD US RETIRED TYPES INTO THE RANKS OF THE ELECT if the membership approves a change in the bylaws. As one who beat the drums for registration ever since experiencing discrimination in the Military during WW II, when Engineers WERE Registered, we would welcome being welcomed back into the fold, though we're not too sure we could pass the tests for knowledge of recombinant DNA and all, or even pink eye, an autosomal recessive on chromosome three, things our very own *Journal* has tried to educate us on.

THE FIFTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE FLORIDA ANTI-MOSQUITO ASSOCIATION was held in May, 4 to 7, at Jacksonville and was dedicated to JOHNNY MULRENNAN, SR., with the words, "Most of the citizens of Florida will never realize how fortunate (the change from an interest in citrus to one in public health entomology) was for the future of this state. It was through his efforts that malaria finally was eradicated, murine typhus was controlled, the vector

of St. Louis encephalitis was identified and salt-marsh mosquitoes were controlled in Florida. The latter made possible the development of the multi-billion dollar tourist industry in the state."

The John A. Mulrennan, Sr., Scholarship Fund is now established under the University of Florida Foundation, Inc., at Gainesville (32611), and the "Sr." is a tribute to the not-inconsiderable attainments of his son, JOHNNY MULRENNAN, JR.

PRESIDENT DON SUTHERLAND in his first regional visit, addressed the Floridians on AMCA's Second Fifty Years, which you will remember begin now, under Don's guidance, as our FIRST was the organizational one we celebrated with New Jersey last year. There were a good number of papers on salt marsh, dyked marsh and storm water problems and on water management and water quality control. And there was a SECTION called clerical and fiscal, which should have been mighty meaty, what with the rise of the computer culture, the continuing need for Environmental Impact Studies and Accomplishment (Activity) Reports and Budget Management Studies and what-all else.

The traditional Briquet Tossing (Briquet??) Competition, sponsored by Vector Supply of Orlando (oh, *those* briquets) was won by erudite Dr. DON WEIDHAAS. (In California briquets are charcoal . . . as in barbecue.)

STILL IN FLORIDA, the *Gainesville Sun* had an article in the Sunday sporting section on fishing and scenery in the Upper Suwannee above Live Oak, which featured a fishing trip for such exotics as redbellies, stumpknocker and perch, as well as a water moccasin or two. The bait were "sand maggots" a term that stumped the reporter but not, when he later got to him, Dr. G. B. FAIRCHILD. They were the larvae of a non-biting horse fly, which live in the sandy bottoms of lakes in west Florida and to the north. Dr. Fairchild grew up in Tallahassee and remarked that the "worms" were much prized for bass bait.

DR. JIMMY OLSON MODESTLY DIDN'T TELL US AT NEW ORLEANS but Dr. ROGER MEOLA later wrote that Jimmy had received the Texas A & M Chapter of the Order of the Sigma Xi's Distinguished Member Award for research achievement. This was "in recognition of his superior record of research" at that distinguished University. Huzza, Jimmy!

WE MENTIONED LAST ISSUE THAT GIL CHALLET WAS HAVING A PROBLEM WITH OPOSSUM DISEASE AND WE PROMISED TO BRING YOU MORE ON IT AS SOON AS WE COULD FIND OUT. It turns out that it wasn't a problem so much as a very clever solution. RUDY GECK, Gil's Vector Ecologist, put two and two together and decided that the approximately 750 calls the District gets a year about opossums might fit nicely into their survey program for murine typhus. Gil agreed, because, as he pointed out to the directors in proposing his surveillance program, although Orange County (Calif.) had only one typhus case in 1985, Los Angeles County had five; murine typhus is carried by

fleas which, in turn, are carried by rats and possums and the two populations interface in the foothill areas, now increasingly populated by humans. Voila! The argument was persuasive, the study should be highly productive. Gil wisely pointed out, forestalling knee-jerk environmentalists, that the possum is NOT a native species in California a finesse which should work well for we are getting very big on promoting our endangered Native Species here in Wonderland. The Park Service is even chopping down 100-year-old eucalyptus trees.

JOYCE EVEN, WHO IS NOW WITH ST. CHARLES PARISH (LA.) MCD, AND WAS A BIG HIT AS A VENTRILOQUIST WITH HER "BIG SKEET" at the New Orleans Meetings, had a full page write-up devoted to her in the *Times-Picayune* a month later. With a good picture of Joyce and her dummy pal and another of a child peering with rapt concentration at a Dewar flask of mosquito larvae Joyce had brought, the article detailed Joyce's visits to schools and her use of Skeet (dressed as an MAD inspector) to quiz the kids as to what they have learned. She told them that if they didn't look for the mosquitoes, the mosquitoes would look for them. And one child was galvanized by the knowledge that mosquito-borne disease can affect *pets*, too, and vowed to go right home and get Grandpa to help him pick up the trash.

THE ARRIVAL OF *Aedes albopictus* THAT WE HAVE ALL BEEN MUTTERING ABOUT SINCE LAST SPRING HAS FINALLY HIT THE BIG TIME WITH A LONG ARTICLE LAST JUNE IN THE NEW YORK TIMES. By-lined by an Erik Eckholm, who calls *albopictus* the "Asian Tiger Mosquito" which we think is rather colorful, the article quotes a number of AMCA'ers, notably DAN SPRENGER, CHET MOORE, WAYNE CRANS and BRUCE HARRISON. Mr. Eckholm listened well and got his facts straight about the potential for carriage of dengue fever, arboreal yellow fever and other viral diseases and painted these possibilities with grim seriousness, as is certainly only fitting, without getting alarmist. Planned studies on the transmission of EEE are mentioned and the seriousness of the threat to Central America (in the carrying of the aforementioned yellow fever particularly) was discussed. Drs. Crans, Harrison, Moore and Sprenger had been at a conference held at Rutgers under the sponsorship of NJMCA and the Rutgers Mosquito Control and Research Unit in response to the threat of *albopictus* establishment and spurred on by the fact that in addition to the original finding in Houston, our friend has been found in Dallas, Memphis, New Orleans, Baton Rouge and Jackson (Miss.). We were glad to see that some prominence was given to the role of discarded TIRES in both the transmission and establishment of the "Tiger." We can't say that too often. Discarding tires ought to be put right up there with toxic waste and smoking by our environmentalist colleagues. . . . and the daily press on the 6 o'clock news. Hold that Tiger!

NOW THAT THE WORLD IS LEARNING THAT THE ORIGINAL VICTIMS OF AIDS WERE NOT UNIQUE BUT ONLY THE MOST SUSCEPTIBLE, THERE KEEPS POPPING UP THE IDEA THAT IT MAY BE SPREAD BY MOSQUITOES. While it might be good for our public support in some ways, this notion is a hysteria-producer, as one can readily imagine, and the *British Medical Journal* (292, of 26 April 1986) addressed it briskly and authoritatively. Quoting statistics from Africa, where it has been common for some time, Dr. Arie Zuckerman, the author of the article, points out that it is a disease predominantly urban, that it is rare in children and that it has a close analogy to hepatitis B. This sort of points toward promiscuity and the use of needles, as for tattooing, ritual scarification, ear piercing, etc., and away from mosquitoes which are commoner in the wild and bite children far more frequently than adults. "Nevertheless," he adds, "research is needed and. . . this work is in progress at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine."

FLEAS, ON THE OTHER HAND, DO TRANSMIT DISEASES AND HAVE BECOME INCREASINGLY IMMUNE TO INSECTICIDES. But not to WOIFY. OUR OWN DICK PATTERSON at the Gainesville Lab has produced synthetic IGR's for fleas and one is already commercially available. Alas, with a Public Service Patent, no doubt, though it's the accomplishment and not the money that's the reward, eh?

AND CAPT. LEWIS BOOBAR OF USAMBRDL HAS DEVELOPED AN ACCESSORY FOR AIMS THAT WILL MONITOR DROPLET SIZE AT THE POINT OR ULTIMATE ARRIVAL and not just an intermediate point where the cloud of ULV is visible. It can be placed inside the cage with the test insects, it's so compact. We know you knew all along that USAMBRDL is U.S. Army Medical Bioengineering Research and Development Laboratory at Ft. Detrick, Md., and AIMS is Army Insecticide Measuring System.

More news Army-wise: CAPT. JOHN BEIER has left WRAIR (Walter Reed Army Institute of Research) for assignment to USAMRU-K (U.S. Army Medical Research Unit Kenya) where he will continue his work on mosquitoes. And about now, in the same organization, MAJOR PHILIP LAWYER will arrive from WRAIR to switch assignments with MAJOR PETER PERKINS in connection with their research on sandflies and leishmaniasis. MAJOR GARY CLARK is in line for congratulations to major at USAMRIID (guess what that is). By the time you read this, Gary will have transferred to the CDC Laboratories (San Juan, PR) as a U.S. Public Health Service officer.

WE ARE IN LINE FOR CONGRATULATIONS OURSELVES BECAUSE WHEN DR. BICKLEY RETIRES AGAIN, this time from the Bibliography treadmill, his place will be taken by DR. RALPH BARR. Bick is hanging up his gloves in April of next year and we hope Ralph has a handy-dandy home computer, because the lists of publications grow ever longer. At any rate, ave atque vale, as well as ave ave ave. (Welcome Ralph, that means.)