

## NEWS AND NOTES

AUSTIN W. MORRILL, JR.

BEING A LITTLE SLOPPY ABOUT DEADLINES FINALLY CAUGHT UP WITH US. WE SENT IN A COUPLE OF ADD-ON'S A DAY OR SO LATE AND YE ED WAS MAGNIFICENTLY UNDERSTANDING . . . not so the Post Office. They sent the last one back THREE times, taking over a month to make the last circuit, because they couldn't find 20012-9608 and wouldn't believe that it was a correct address. And that's why you didn't get to hear about the annual meeting of the Ohio Mosquito Control Association last October. DON SOMMERS, Prexy of OMCA had hoped you could come.

YOU WOULD ALSO HAVE READ IN SEPTEMBER THAT DON NEWSON HAD WRITTEN TO GIVE US AN ADD-ON TO OUR MENTION OF THE MEETING OF THE MICHIGAN MCA. One of the participants was Dr. MORTEZA ZAIM, who is currently on the faculty of the School of Public Health of Teheran University. He was at Michigan State on a one-year sabbatical study leave. AMCA member Zaim studied under WOODY FOSTER at Ohio State, where he got his MA and he earned his PhD at Michigan State. His postgraduate studies in Iran have been concerned with malaria vectors, continuing his undergraduate work on mosquitoes. If the Persian Gulf thing hasn't disrupted the schedule, Dr. Zaim, we'd like to hear about your work in Iran . . . and here, as well.

THEN, YOU WOULD HAVE READ. . . . .

ED-EM BILL BICKLEY SENT US A NICE REPORT (WITH A PICTURE) of the goings on of the Rotary Club in San Juan, Puerto Rico, which consisted of a rousing educational campaign against dengue and FOR mosquito control. The club postered 60 city busses handsomely with a big picture of *Aedes aegypti* and the boldly lettered slogan, "Sin mosquitos no hay dengue" and in smaller letters below, "Combate el dengue hemorragico." Their educational campaign centers on spraying and the elimination of breeding sites.

Bick also sent along a report on the 1987 Biting Fly Workshop held 10-12 June in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Gary Mullen reported from Alabama his work on ceratopogonids and tabanids. You remember the old rhyme about "Big bugs have little bugs upon their backs to bite 'em?" Well, there are mites that make up the "smaller bugs" for the little bugs, in this case trombidids, mostly, on *Culicoides*. We don't know if it goes "so ad infinitum" or not. And Bill Grogan of Maryland reported that he and W. W. Wirth will have out a revision of the Tribe Ceratopogonini (with a key, diagnoses, illustrations and a list of species of each genus) pretty soon now and announced the finding of a new (fossil) species of *Culicoides* in upper Cretaceous amber in New Jersey. We read someplace that ceratopogonids are the most common insect found in amber. Is that true? They've been with us a long time.

BICK ALSO SENT US A TEARSHEET OF AN ARTICLE BY ALAN PISTORIUS which appeared in *USAIR* for

July, entitled, "Out for Blood." It starts off, "I wish I had a dollar for every summer's-eve dinner interrupted by that awful announcement: 'mosquito!' Chair backs clatter to the floor and the one-man, two-boy chase is on. 'It's headed for the den!' 'Don't lose sight of it!' 'Don't hit at it; wait till it lands!' The object of this devoted attention meanwhile drifts in the maddeningly slow, erratic way up near the ceiling, progressing from room to room as if considering house purchase." Mr. Pistorius then continues with a graphic description of human reaction to mosquitoes and mosquito biology and habits. "Mosquitoes have greeted mountainclimbers at 14,000 feet in Kashmir, and have flickered through miners' headlamp beams nearly 4,000 feet below sea level." (We didn't know that.) Well illustrated and well and accurately written and covering all aspects (including the existence of biological control agents down to the midgets that suck blood from engorged mosquito females), the article is certainly a pleasure to read after the inaccurate ones one so often finds in such publications. It ought to be in the Biblio, Ralph! No fooling.

ANOTHER LAY ARTICLE WHICH OUGHT TO RECEIVE ACCOLADES AND RECOGNITION FROM US "EXPERTS" is by Katie Leishman in the September 1987 issue of the *Atlantic Monthly*, entitled "AIDS and the Insects." It's well-written and it's factual and it ought to be the last word on the subject, we hope. Unfortunately, however, in a manner reminiscent of Rachel Carson, it ends on a note which, though quite true (that all facets of AIDS transmission should continue to be closely studied) will leave many people with the strong conviction that she HAS said it was an almost-sure likelihood. Nevertheless . . . She quotes a good many experts well known to us: BILL REEVES, JR. (of Gorgas) and BILL REEVES, SR. (then still of U.C.), LTC BRUCE HARRISON, CDC's Tom Monath, NIH's Mark Whiteside, UC's Peter Duesberg, AFIP's Shyh-Ching Lo, and P. G. JUPP of South Africa's Arbovirus Unit of the National Institute. She covers the research into transmission by lice, by ticks (whose African Swine Fever virus is a related one) and discusses the Pasteur Institute's work on introducing virus into insect cells in culture, in which they persist a while but do not replicate.

We particularly liked one quote and hope she won't mind our lifting it to quote to you (or hesitates to lift things from other people's work these days, even with attribution):

"Some who are interested in insect transmission betray a weird enthusiasm for the idea. Smith [Dr. C. Gordon] believes that people's interest in the question lies in the desire to avoid the real issue: the need to modify intimate behavior. 'It's like the good old toilet seat,' he says." (Crab lice, that is.)

WHICH BRINGS US IN A VAGUE SORT OF WAY TO THE OCTOBER ISSUE of *Consumer Reports*, where you may have noticed a short article on head lice, a hot topic among parents of school children as the year

commences. C.R. decries the use of a preparation containing lindane and advises use of those containing pyrethrum. Right after W.W.II, mosquito control types who were active then will remember that a good bit of mosquito control time was taken up passing out or applying lindane powder and ointment to various islanders for louse control. To say nothing of Korea, where we first ran head-on into resistance without knowing it.

DIPTERA RECORDING SCHEMES BULLETIN NO 23, OF AUGUST 1987, has a delightful article headed "AND NOW . . . . PRINCESS DIANA OPENS TROPICAL CRANEFly DISPLAY—"Many of you will be familiar with the butterfly houses that are opening up all over the place. There are now about 50 of these walk-in tropical 'aviaries,' receiving some 1 million visitors a year.

"We are thus pleased to see that on 28 July 1987 the first tropical crane fly house was officially opened in west London. No expense has been spared, indeed this show house cost some £4 million to build. Quite clearly refined ecological conditions are required, so there are mist sprayers, fans and heating all linked via computer so that the climate can be monitored and adjusted at 2 minute intervals. It is fitting that crane flies should receive this level of attention, far better than that for butterflies.

"Your scheme organizer was there for the grand opening. On arrival Princess Diana shook hands \*\*\* and, after a view through the crane fly house, unveiled a plaque pronouncing this to be known as the Princess of Wales Conservatory. Afterwards your scheme organizer duly admired the flight of tropical crane flies, in an area landscaped and tastefully planted by the staff at Kew Gardens. \*\*\* Now you don't need to go on a day trip to Papua New Guinea." Do you suppose a Mosquito Conservatory would go over well?

DON PLETSCH WROTE TO TELL US THAT HIS ADDRESS, WHICH IS HYPHENATED LIKE A TOKYO ONE, IS 8620 on N.W. 13th Street in Gainesville, because that is the street designation and the -238 is his lot no. in "lovely Turkey Creek Forest—an adult retirement community far above the state and/or national average." (We'd asked.) His "letterhead" was a xeroxed tourist-type postcard showing an elephant on whom two vacationing mosquitoes are vainly bending their beaks and captioned, "Don't want to bore you—but we're having fun in a *BIG WAY!*" He reported on his usual peripatocity, which this time was a "torrid week . . . in Guinea Bissau for the Disaster assistance unit of AID." His next jaunt was to be to "San Diego for a reunion of the Hotel de Gink WWII instructional staff at the Medical Administrative Corps/OCS at Camp Berkeley." And in that connection, he reported that GENE GERBERG had recently been in Gainesville. (En route. . . .?)

DON'S REAL REASON FOR WRITING WAS THE 1987 YORK DISTINGUISHED LECTURER DR. ROBERT L. METCALF, who spoke on "Benefit/Risk Considerations in the Use of Pesticides." The elegant program for the lecture had a good photo of Bob and a fine and complete résumé raisonné which we couldn't summarize if we devoted the whole of this issue to it. The

lecture was met, naturally, with enthusiasm and thereafter Bob and his wife met with professors, students, local clubs and researchers on campus, including GARY MOUNT, JIM GAHAN, MARTIN YOUNG and the cohorts of these distinguished Dr's. He also delivered a lecture at Epcot, a signal honor for THEM, and (the program says) the award enables him and the University to "establish a continuing relationship with the University as a visiting professor."

ALSO IN GAINESVILLE, THE *SUN* REPORTED ON JAMES TOMLINSON'S acceptance of the Burdick and Jackson International Award for his research. His work in chemistry, to trick insects with laboratory versions of the chemicals they use in communication, has opened up a field we'll be hearing a lot more of.

PAUL J. HUNT RETIRED IN JUNE AFTER TWENTY-EIGHT YEARS AS DIRECTOR OF THE EAST VOLUSIA MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT, (Daytona Beach, Florida) and JONAS STEWART, the new Director, sent us a nice, full account. "A retirement banquet was given in his honor," wrote Jonas, "which featured a 'roast' by fellow mosquito control directors, family, co-workers and the past assistant mosquito control director, embellishing past events in Mr. Hunt's career as Mosquito Control Director. \*\*\* Mr. Hunt is now spending his time with grandchildren and other family members in his cabin in North Carolina."

Paul's career after he received his degree from the University of Florida in 1948, included an eleven year service as Assistant Director of the State Bureau of Health's Bureau of Entomology, being President of the FAMA and a Director as well as President of AMCA, from whom he received a Meritorious Award. He was on a Committee that went to the Grand Caymans on a survey mission, he was Chairman of the Scholarship Committee of the FAMA and we all know of his distinguished and valuable service to US. We didn't know he sang in the Ormond Beach Methodist Church choir and he modestly refrained from mentioning it in the days when CAPT MO HIRST and TONY BROWN were harmonizing at meetings, so far as we can recall. We hope he's harmonizing on some good ole hillbilly music up in those beautiful North Carolina mountains.

JOHNNY MULRENNAN, in writing to felicitate Paul on his retirement, was glad that Paul had consented to remain on the Florida Coordinating Council on Mosquito Control, that sort-of Master Group we told you about in June. He said, "You have been a cornerstone in the foundation of the mosquito control programs in Florida and in the nation." Governor Martinez and the head of the Office of Budget and Planning, Rick Smith, also sent him personal letters. Mr. Smith remembered, with pleasure, having a baptism by rain in the Tomoka marshes, from osprey eye-level following a rotary ditcher winding its way into the marsh. When you get a budget-and-analysis type to praise you, you've arrived! Best wishes and long life and happiness, Paul.

MARY GALLOWAY ANSWERED OUR QUERY PROMPTLY AND DEPOSES THAT "Yes, some of the mosquitoes do come equipped with the natural anti-

freeze," about which we had been interested if a bit incredulous. "Several 'cryoprotective agents' are identified for northern arthropods:" she continues, "glycerol is the most common; in some species, fatty acids are also involved. Overwintering in severely cold habitats is achieved by cold hardiness (supercooling and tolerance to freezing) as well as morphological and behavioral adaptations (e.g., selection of oviposition sites, selection of optimum temperatures within breeding sites). Most species overwinter as cold- and desiccation-resistant eggs; some, as supercooled adults. Cold-hardy *Wyeomyia* overwinter as larvae—encased in ice for as long as seven months. Survival requires a good snow cover to insulate from the cold ambient air. The system is successful. Population abundance of northern species, *Aedes hexodontus*, for example, has been estimated at 12+ million per hectare. Abundance is limited by available blood sources . . . . come and see our polar bears!"

Do you sometimes get the feeling that the Lord doesn't WANT us to control mosquitoes? One almost feels we SHOULD'N'T.

Mary continues with an addition to our note on K. C. Kim and R. W. Merritt and their work as editors of *Black Flies: Ecology, Population Management and Annotated World List*. "This opus has contributions by Canadians," she adds, "M. H. Colbo, G. Cortney, D. A. Craig, D. Currie, D. M. Davies, F. J. H. Fredeen, M. M. Galloway, V. Golini, M. Laird, S. McIver, the late K. Rothfels, and J. Sutcliffe; as well as other U.S. and International experts: P. Adler, D. Baldry, B. Beck, K. Cibulski, R. W. Crosskey, K. Cummins, J. Davis, R. Fusio, R. Garvis, J. Grunewald, D. Hart, H. Knutti, D. Kurtak, L. Lacey, B. Malin, S. Meredith, D. Molloy, B. Philippan, T. Raybould, D. Ross, K. Simmons, T. Susuki, H. Tonson, M. Trpis, A. Undeen, R. Wotton, P. Wenk, and others. . . . "A cloud of witnesses surround. . . (Thank you, v. much, Mary!)"

We hope the computer got those names right and didn't syllabify in odd places. Computers can't syllabify, as we all can see daily in our newspapers. Not worth shux. So Col. John Reinert became Re-inert in our last, and we apologize for he sure isn't. Inert.

IN AUGUST, the *Sunday Telegraph* of London, ran an article by a Celia Haddon about an exhibit of works of Lord Rothschild which was then at the Natural History Museum next to the Victoria and Albert in Kensington. Lord Rothschild, who died in 1937, gave the museum a large collection of stuffed animals and birds, which included a box containing two dressed fleas; Ms. Haddon said the male flea was wearing a white suit and a sombrero, while the female flea had a white frock with a red stripe around the hem. They seemed to be wearing boots and the lady carried what looked like an outside handbag. She went on to bemoan the passing of the flea circus, so ubiquitous in our childhood, where fleas dressed in tutus and clown suits pushed wheelbarrows across tight wires. Modern children will never have the delightful experience of seeing such a thing, she says, for flea circuses have died out. She quotes Dr. John Maunder of the Medical Entomology Center at Cambridge as saying *Pulex irritans* itself is all but gone because it "hates central heating." Among other things. Sad. Perhaps that *Toxorhyn-*

*chites* that shoots her eggs one at a time into a coke bottle might be brought in.

MEANWHILE A REPORT FROM CORNELL HEADLINES A STORY "ARTIFICIAL DOG' BREEDS FLEAS FOR VETERINARY COLLEGE RESEARCH with an accompanying photo of an obviously alarmed cat inspecting a row of glass laboratory set-ups. The "dog" turns out to be LOU RUTLEDGE's mosquito feeder reported by him and DOUG GOULD and RON WARD (Ye Ed) in MN in 1964. It's an interlocking world. In Merida, Mexico, an international conference on dengue discusses studies in Kuala Lumpur of an epidemiological study of children to attempt to assess risk factors and one in Cuba studying asthma, diabetes, sickle-cell anemia and such things, even possibly a racial factor, in relation to risk, and the difficulties in developing a vaccine against all four serotypes of dengue viruses.

Dr. Scott Halstead of the Rockefeller Foundation, who pointed out the fact years ago that antibodies against one of the four serotypes might actually *increase* the likelihood of acquiring dengue hemorrhagic fever/dengue shock syndrome, recommended that attention be concentrated on cleaning up mosquito breeding sites. "I think that's where we really need to try to push," he says, as quoted in the article on the conference, "It's crazy to have human beings breeding a dangerous vector mosquito in the drinking water and the rainwater around their property."

AND FURTHER ALONG THE INTERDISCIPLINARY ROAD IS AN ARTICLE IN the *Washington Post* last September, relating a scheme devised by Dr. ANDREW SPIELMAN and his colleagues at the Harvard School of Public Health. Because exterminating deer to eradicate the ticks that carry Lyme disease would be unacceptable, they turned to the reservoir host and prey of the seed tick, the field mouse. The article quotes Dr. Spielman, "We reasoned that if mice are the main reservoir host for the disease agent, and we know that mice take cotton to their nests, and scan an area about 20 yards across each night, that if we put out cotton at 10-yard intervals, there's an excellent chance the mouse will encounter the cotton." So they impregnated the cotton with permethrin, put it around in tubes, the mice made nests of it and voila! An environment that's decidedly deleterious to ticks, early on.

BUT AN ANTI-INTERDISCIPLINARY TREND WAS TRIED IN NEBRASKA, ACCORDING TO the *Omaha World-Herald*, last July when a professor doing field work near the Cedar Point Biological Station charged in the press that *Gambusia affinis* drives out local minnows and native fish of all types. Not so, said minnow watchers and bait fish sellers and the State fish and game types. It's being studied.

WE WERE SAD TO LEARN FROM DON DEMMING OF THE DEATH LAST FEBRUARY OF DR. ERNEST TINKHAM, from a massive heart attack which he suffered in India. Many AMCA'ers knew and respected Dr. Tinkham; many of us worked with him on mosquito control during WWII. Tink always had an assortment of fascinating studies in the air at once, when he was young (and he always caught 'em) and from what

we've heard from time to time ever since he never lost that enthusiasm.

ON 20 AUGUST, GIL CHALLET'S ORANGE COUNTY VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT CELEBRATED ITS FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY WITH AN OPEN HOUSE FOR 100 INVITED GUESTS, Trustees, Staff and Press. Gil is also active on the CMVCA and the Vector Control Joint Powers Agency of Lake Tahoe, of which Wayne Stringer of West Valley (Calif.) Vector Control District and Roland Finley of San Mateo Mosquito Abatement District are members. Gil then took off for the meeting of the Expert Committee on Vector Control in Urban Areas of WHO, meeting in Geneva. Inasmuch as Lake Tahoe is sort of a National Treasure (we think) and both California and Nevada are too scared of the gamblers and real estate developers to protect it, we're glad the people who go there to gamble and drink beer instead of looking at the Lake are at least going to be protected from mosquitoes.

KELLIE ETHERSON IS IN CHARGE OF THE GAINESVILLE FLORIDA MUNICIPAL MOSQUITO CONTROL PROGRAM (and how would YOU like to have that job with all those experts looking over your shoulder?) Since last January, there has been a charge of \$1.50 a month added to the bills of Regional Utilities for accounts inside the city area and in July Kellie wrote a fine bit of PR to accompany them. Titled, "Most Mosquito Control Efforts are Unseen," her first paragraph is, "Good mosquito control requires a year round effort. Many residents believe that mosquito control consists only of chemical spraying of the flying adult mosquito. In fact, spraying is only a part of mosquito control and is used only when other techniques have not been effective." She goes on to enumerate the facts of mosquito breeding and control. Bravo!

HARRY PRATT, WHO USED TO BE SO PERIPATETIC, NOW HAS PEOPLE COMING TO HIM and . . . the reward of retirement . . . this includes his family. Last June on Father's Day, his son George, now a Lt. Col. in the Air Force at Clark Field in the Philippines, his other son, his daughter, their spouses and FOUR grandchildren were all there.

AND ONE LAST THING . . . have you sent for your info on the XVIII INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF ENTOMOLOGY at the University of Vancouver in British Columbia? It's next July and don't think for a minute that that is very far away. For that matter . . . . begin thinking DENVER!

AND NOW FOR A QUICK SPIN THROUGH THE LIVES OF THE RICH AND FAMOUS . . . otherwise known as AMCA'ers who have Made the Big Time. ANDY SPIELMAN became a *Time* celeb when he was pictured in the 28 September 1987 issue as a "Harvard researcher sweeping for ticks in Nantucket, Mass." In living color? There has been a call for reprints, Andy. The article: "Big Trouble with Tiny Ticks" was on p. 49.

ROGER NASCI made an appearance in the *Washington Post* on 2 September in an attribution we'll quote in full:

"Those who might be inspired to plop down as much as \$120 for an electronic 'bug-zapping' device after reading 'Zapped Into Oblivion' should take note. Research such as the Notre Dame study by Roger Nasci, mentioned in the article, has shown that these devices have no appreciable affect on the insects that really bother us, such as female mosquitoes. In fact, predominantly innocuous and even beneficial insects (predators and parasites of other insects) are destroyed by these devices. One would be far better off spending an hour or two in the yard eliminating the water-filled containers in which mosquitoes breed.

"A colleague of mine, who was feeling growing peer pressure from being the only one on his block without a blue death beam hanging in the yard, found a solution by tacking a copy of Mr. Nasci's paper (protected with plastic) on a pole. He swears that since it's been up, his insect problem has diminished."

It's signed by a Mr. Ben P. Pagac, Jr., of Laurel (Md.) and was a letter to the Editor, headed by a delightful drawing of a bug by Katie Kelly. A very cheerful bug, with six legs, too. Roger's now at McNeese State University in Lake Charles . . . and you know where THAT is.