

NEWS AND NOTES

AUSTIN W. MORRILL, JR.

DR. BILL REEVES IS, AS WE PREDICTED, FAR FROM RETIRED IN HIS "RETIREMENT" AND SENT US A GOOD, INFORMATIVE LETTER TO PROVE IT, WHICH WE QUOTE, WITHOUT COMMENT ON ONE ASPECT.

"It seems newsworthy," he writes, "that the Arbovirus Research Laboratory at Bakersfield, California, which has been the site for our field research station since May 1945, is to be leveled by bulldozers in the near future. The space will be used for a parking lot for a new Juvenile Hall facility for Kern County. The Kern General Hospital and Kern County Board of Supervisors have generously provided the facilities rent and utilities free to us for over 40 years.

"Many research scientists have contributed to our knowledge of arboviruses and their vectors and hosts during their years of work in these adobe brick walls built by the WPA in the 1930s. A listing of present and former staff is impractical but has included such well-known AMCA members as Buck Bellamy, Barney Brookman, Dick Dow, Dick Hayes, Dick Meyer, Bob Nelson, Bill Reisen and Bob Washino. The walls stood up to earthquakes, earth-shaking scientific discoveries and the footsteps of hundreds of national and international visitors, including tours by members of AMCA and CMCVA as part of their annual meetings.

"Fortunately, the continued cooperation of the Kern County Mosquito Abatement District is allowing us to expand the facilities we had developed at their headquarters so that research can continue uninterrupted. A complete move should be completed by February 1989. The new address will be:

Arbovirus Field Station
4709 Allen Road
Bakersfield, CA 93312
(805) 589-0891

"We look forward to further years of productive field research based at Bakersfield and visitors to our new facilities."

Bill's own "new address" is a cryptic GI 29, at the University of California, Department of Biomedical and Environmental Health Sciences, School of Public Health, Earl Warren Hall, Berkeley, California 94720.

TWO OTHER NEW ADDRESSES COME TO HAND: DR. MILT FLEMINGS has retired to Austin, Texas, bypassing San Antonio, which we'd sort of expected because so many military *do* go there; his address is now 9203 Knoll Crest Loop, Austin, Texas 78759. And RALPH HARBACH is now at the Walter Reed Biosystematics Unit at Silver Hill.

WE MENTION ELSEWHERE RECEIVING NOTES FROM PERIPATETIC AMCAERS. One of the most—and one of the best reporters of it—is DON PLETSCHE as you may have noticed. Letters from him are a bit like the Cheshire Cat in *Alice* who would reappear, you'll remember, and continue a conversation as if it had not been interrupted by a disappearance. We sometimes get one from Don beginning, "As I was saying in my

last letter...." when the last was from Atlanta or Gainesville and the current one is from Taipei or Yucatan. This time, we have a newspaper clipping from Florida and a follow-up from Taipei. The newspaper quoted an APHA Bulletin article, and the *China News* (Taipei) article explained that a more serious form of dengue was being found in southern Taiwan and quoted Dr. Lien Jih-ching as saying that the really important thing was to keep the infection out of the monkey population, because if it got into *them* it would be uncontrollable and become endemic. WE'LL quote Don: "Dr. Lien Jih-ching, formerly on the NAMRU 2 staff in Taipei, and later a malaria advisor in Bolivia and now back in Taiwan as Chief, Medical Entomology Division of the National Institute of Preventive Medicine, collected *Aedes aegypti* in the Kaohsiung area, which is the most heavily affected. Cases have also occurred in the Taipei area (in northerly Taiwan) where the vectors appear to be less domestic in habits. I asked Dr. Lien where *Ae. albopictus* has been incriminated; he said that *albopictus* is all over the island (as we had noted during *aegypti* surveys back in the 1950s' malaria campaign), but confirmatory tests have not been made to date.

"During an October 18–November 7 stay in Taipei, I much enjoyed contacts with Dr. Lien and many other veterans of the successful malaria eradication campaign (certified by WHO in 1965)..."

ANOTHER PERIPATETIC FAITHFUL CORRESPONDENT IS GENE GERBERG who sends us the news we had asked for from attenders at the Vancouver meeting (International Congress of Entomology). Dr. Gerberg naively starts off, "By now you probably have information..." No, Gene, we didn't, and we thank you. Gene says, "I attended it, but also attended the workshop 'Global Working Group on Quality Control of Mass-reared Arthropods' sponsored by the International Organization for Biological Control of noxious animals and plants (how is that for a mouthful?) a week before the Congress, also in Vancouver.

"At the Congress, not too many vector-control types. Saw Ernie Bay, Peter Belton, Reinhart Brust, Rachel Galun, George Georghiou, Raj Gupta, Dan Haile, Cluff Hopla, Arden Lea, Dick Levy, Susan McIver, Chet Moore, Len Munstermann, Rajinder Pal, Paul Reiter, Lou Rutledge, Robin Todd and probably a number of others that I missed. In September, I was off to Amsterdam to attend the International Congress of Tropical Medicine and Malaria. Quite a few friends were there—Rudi Slooff, Raj Pal, David Gillette, Mike Service, Carl Schreck and their respective wives. Janet Hemingway, Graham White, Pushpah Herath (Sri Lanka), Samthas Malikul (Thailand), Charles Ravaonjanahary (Brazzaville), Suleiman El-Seghayer (Saudi Arabia), Wen Kilama (Tanzania), Nathan Kere (Solomon Islands), Mutuku Mutinga (Kenya) and Peter Jupp (S. Africa) are a few who showed up at a sushi party hosted by Sumitomo Chemical. Again, I probably missed a lot of others who were there." Wow. YOU should be writing N&N, Gene. Those names certainly show that our science can

transcend politics, and isn't it too bad it can't supercede them! Incidentally, if you saw the horrendous articles about sushi (which we love), you should also know, if you didn't, that the worms in fish are *quite* visible and are carefully picked out before sushi-ing by such as caterers for Sumitomo. Gene, by the by, got a good bit of publicity out of the *National Geographic* article on AIDS and also in *Business Journal* for raising mosquitoes, cockroaches and (ugh!) LICE for science.

AND EX-PERIPATETIC AND FAITHFUL CORRESPONDENT HARRY PRATT SETS US STRAIGHT ON THE INTRIGUINGLY-NAMED COCKROACH, *Blatella asahinai*. Turns out it's nothing to do with morning sun or lack thereof, but is named for eminent Japanese entomologist and cockroach specialist, S. Asahina, who has quite a long list of taxonomic papers to his credit, and it was named by another Japanese taxonomist, T. Mizukubo, receiving its American (and now ESA official) name from Drs. Brenner, Koehler and others at Gainesville. Harry has quite a long list of papers to his credit, too, including one in the *Annals* last November.

AND WHILE WE'RE IN JAPAN, ANOTHER CLIP FROM DON PLETSCH tells us that Japanese kids, who used to swarm into the insect departments of the big downtown department stores come vacation time, now are bitten by another bug. Kids who can't make it to the Great Big Outdoors, not to worry; they can stay indoors and work on "worms." Don remembers when every village had an insect museum, some really big ones; the trains carried cards advertising beetle-collecting tours to Fuji, and department stores sold \$380 to \$480 worth of specimens on a good Sunday to those who hadn't made out so well on the slopes. They used to roll out the red carpet, too, when they learned you were an entomologist. Malaria control types had *prestige!* Envious?

AND STILL IN THE ORIENT, the *China News*, along with its big spread on dengue, gave three columns of type to our sadly battered malaria program and network, quoting ED SMITH as calling it a classic Washington conflict between entrenched bureaucracy and an abrasive but effective whistle-blower and suggesting a review board of eminent scientists, of whom Ed might be one, we'd think. We're sure we all hope they're on track by now.

WE MENTIONED THAT WE USED TO PRINT "WHO'S WHOS" BUT ONE RECENTLY CAME TO HAND WE HADN'T PRINTED. Our ex-Prexy, multilingual CLAUDE SCHMIDT was born in Geneva, Switzerland (and how come he didn't wind up in WHO?), came to live in San Francisco (showing his usual good judgment), served in both Europe and Japan during WWII, received his BA and MA from Stanford, was called back into the army during the Korean War (but not to Korea) and then earned his PhD at Iowa State, being awarded it in 1956. He joined the ARS in Orlando then, to work on repellents, served with the International Atomic Energy Commission in Vienna (Austria), where he was Chief Entomologist in the Department of Research and Isotopes and was also fortunate

to be able to travel extensively through the Mediterranean and Africa. He returned to ARS and worked variously at Fargo, North Dakota and Beltsville, Maryland, at the latter as Chief of Man and Animals Research and at the former as, among other duties, Director of the Metabolism and Radiation Research Laboratory. During part of this he was buffeted by the storms of reorganization, one of the many benefits of our bureaucratic form of Government, but always came out on top, fortunately for *them*. He's a fellow of the Washington Academy of Sciences and of the AAAS, as well as being a member of the Sigma Xi, of Gamma Sigma Delta, of ESA, ARPE, American Chemical Society and, of course, US. He is also the proud grandparent (as of last August) of a granddaughter, born to the wife of his son Jeff, who is about to be doctored by the University of Florida in Physical Chemistry. Some curriculum!

WE DON'T KNOW WHAT WE'D DO FOR FILLER WITH-OUT E. M. BOYD. Now he says that one ought to remember when picking out a bathing suit, that mosquitoes avoid yellows, oranges and whites. Gosh, and we never even noticed.

ANOTHER PAST PREXY, GEORGE CRAIG, WAS THE PRESENTER OF THE FOUNDERS' MEMORIAL AWARD LECTURE AT THE ESA ANNUAL MEETINGS. The lecture was dedicated to Harrison Gray Dyar, whom L. O. Howard called "probably the best posted man on the classification of mosquitoes of his time," 1866-1929. The *ESA News* had this to say about George, in case you missed it, "Craig is a medical entomologist with a primary interest in *Aedes* mosquitoes. 'Although the majority of his work (which includes more than 110 research papers, reports and comments) has been genetical, he has made significant contributions in physiology, ecology and disease relationships. He probably knows as much about the genus *Aedes* as anyone,' wrote James H. Oliver, Jr., Fuller E. Callaway Professor of Biology and director, Institute of Arthropodology and Parasitology," they quoted. "Craig and his associates have also made valuable contributions in the area of reproductive physiology of mosquitoes," they continued, "Of particular importance was the isolation of the first contact sexual pheromone in mosquitoes, caressone." Nice words, and isn't that word arthropodology a shiny one? We like caressone, too.

CLUFF HOPLA HAD A NICE WRITE-UP AND PHOTO IN THE SAME ISSUE, announcing his election as Fellow of the Society. Cluff received his BS and MS at Brigham Young and his PhD at Kansas, where he did postdoctoral work, and also at Tulane. "He has extensive expertise in the area of medical entomology in the Arctic," the *News* points out. "His research was directed to tularemia and plague in the Arctic and U.S.—regarded as the most definitive work of this nature published.

"An expert on laboratory animal resources, animal models and genetic stocks, Hopla is one of the very few entomologists in the world who has a profound knowledge and experience of almost all hematophagous arthropods and several groups of microorganisms vectored by them."

BILL WYMER AND GEORGE CRAIG WERE "HONORED" IN ANOTHER WAY. Bill moved up to "chair" the General Entomology section and George the Medical and Veterinary, of the Professional Maintenance and Certification Committee of ARPE. We got laughed to an abashed silence when we passionately advocated professional registration at an ESA meeting in 1944 (having been walked over in the military by the "professional" engineers), and we vividly remember a much later one when we were part of a forlorn band voted down on the issue, so we feel mighty good when we see professional entomology getting some real standards and see who's administering them. (JIMMY OLSON and BERT CLEGERN are the others on the Med/Vet team.) Hard work and noble, and little praise for it. Thanks, fellas.

NOT ALL THE NEWS IS GOOD, ALAS. We were saddened to learn from DON JOHNSON that Ken Quarterman had died of a brain tumor, in Savannah, last fall. Many who were associated with early mosquito work there will have fond memories of Ken and feel a pang of loss at his passing.

PROFESSOR DOUGLAS BERTRAM, well known to many of us and especially to those who had visited at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, died last October in Watford. Prior to his years at the London School, he was at the Liverpool School, the Army School of Hygiene (as a Major), and before the War had been at the Liverpool School (where he established the first insectary for insect colonies at the school) and before that had been a demonstrator at the University of Glasgow, where he had received his education, Dr. Raja Varma, who was his first Doctoral student and a later colleague at the London School, wrote of him, "He had a gift of identifying areas of interest and importance in insect-borne disease control and supervised, among others, research projects on chemosterilants for mosquito control and the effect of juvenile hormones. He established the Electron Microscopy Laboratory at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and initiated research on mosquito-borne viruses there as early as 1955. Towards the end of his active scientific life, he developed an interest in wasps which parasitise bugs transmitting Chagas disease in humans in Central and South America, and he continued with this work well after retiring. He had a great understanding of the problems, both personal and professional, facing overseas students in this country [England] and a genuine affection for them, and this was reciprocated by the many students who kept in touch with him or enquired after his welfare long after their departure from the U.K."

AS YOU READ THIS, WE HOPE YOU ARE ALSO IN THE PLANNING STAGES, AS THEY SAY NOW, FOR COMING

TO THE MEETINGS. We are, as we write, in December of last year (does that tense seem a wee bit odd? That's what these air fare changes do to you.) We'd like to ask you to take your courage in both hands, and bust up to us, and tell us all about yourselves. If we don't seem to know you, remember the old not-really-funny joke—"my friends have changed so much they no longer recognize me." And please, you younger types who *haven't* changed, remember we haven't seen you for a whole year and our short-term memory is fading. And please overlook it if we ask, sweetly, "And what is it that you do?" when everybody KNOWS you're the eminent authority on DNA transversions in the XO gene of *Leptoparnips esoterans*. OK? And if shyness overcomes you, WRITE AS SOON AS YOU GET HOME. Maybe you'd better write a short reminder anyway...the short-term memory, you know. And our shorthand's getting worse, too.

CHAPPIE, OUR EMINENT EXEC-DIRECTOR WRITES (YES!!!), "I recently attended two meetings sponsored by WHO's Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (TDR) held at the Vector Control Research Centre (VCRC) in Pondicherry, India (Informal Consultation on Bacterial Formulations for Cost Effective Vector Control in Endemic Areas 19-21 October and the 22nd meeting of the Steering Committee of the Scientific Working Group on Biological Control of Vectors 24-28 October). The informal consultation pointed out the need for tailor-made formulations, particularly sustained-release kinds, for *Bti* and eventually *Bacillus sphaericus* when it is registered for mosquito control.

"The Director of VCRC, Dr. P. K. Rajagopalan, is an AMCAer and he and his staff contributed greatly to the success of both meetings. Other AMCAers attending only the informal consultation were Dr. Jun Akiyama (WHO, New Delhi), Dr. Christoph Aly (West Germany), Dr. Christine Dahl (Uppsala, Sweden), Dr. Larry Lacey (VBC Project, Virginia) and Dr. Bala Devisetty (Abbott Laboratories, Illinois). Our SWG/BCV Steering Committee contains two long-time AMCAers, Dr. Mir Mulla (UC Riverside) and Dr. H. H. Yap (Universiti Sains Malaysia, Penang). Two other SC members, Dr. Peter Lüthy from Switzerland and Dr. Banpot Napompeth from Thailand, are welcomed into AMCA as new members for 1989. Peter is a famous microbiologist and is also involved with controlling mosquitoes on a contract basis in Switzerland. Banpot is Executive Director of the National Biological Control Research Center in Bangkok.

"Because of elephants, bicycles, motorbikes, motorcycles, lorries, buses, cars, people, water buffalo and other animals, my white knuckles are *slowly* returning to their normal color (yellow)."

AND SHARON COLVIN IS NOW (SALUTE!) "BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR." We knew you had it in you, Sharon!