

NEWS AND NOTES

AUSTIN W. MORRILL, JR.

MARSHALL LAIRD MOURNS THE PASSING OF THE MONTHLY MAIL BOAT BETWEEN NEW ZEALAND AND US, seeing that his September JAMCA arrived on the next to the last day of NOVEMBER this year. Marshall's not old enough to remember... as we do... twice daily mail delivery and mail to the East Coast in only THREE days, the Orient in six. MARSHALL avers, incidentally, that Gulf Breeze is alive and well and living in Florida under the ZIP of 32561-3999, and shelters JOHN COUCH and EPA's Environmental Research Laboratory. He thinks the airplane aerosoling we mentioned, whatever it may have done to the ozone layer (and the "hole" HAS appeared in Antarctica, near lovely N.Z. -Ed.) may well have done SOME good. Anyway, "two months into the 10-yearly northern New Zealand mosquito survey... I've nothing more exciting to report other than occasional *Cx. quinquefasciatus* (a ship-bourne immigrant from long ago...) and still less frequent *Maorigoeldia argyropus* (our unique sabethine, properly a natural container utilizer, but nowadays infiltrating from the 'bush' into farmland artificial containers)."

Marshall was in India under a United Nations Industrial Development Organization invitation for several weeks in August and September, giving advice to the Government-owned Hindustan Insecticides Ltd., concerning coming field-testing of microbial insecticides, "notably one based upon *Bacillus sphaericus*, with particular potential against anophelines having high pollution tolerance as larvae, and of course to the major S/SE Asian filariasis vector, *Culex quinquefasciatus*."

"On a lighter note," he adds, "while re-reading after many years 'The Temple of Nature' (by Erasmus Darwin, the paternal grandfather of Charles—my copy's the 1804 New-York edition, the city so hyphenated on the title page), I've noticed these lines in Canto 1 of the lengthy poem—

'So from deep lakes the dread Musquito * springs,
Drinks the soft breeze, and dried his tender wings,
In twinkling squadrons cuts his airy way,
Dips his red trunk in blood, and man his prey.'
(* sic)

"Well, the American Mosquito Control Association was still far in the future, as was the greater part of our specialized literature, so Erasmus Darwin can be forgiven his assumptions about the sex of the biter and the depth of its larval habitat... The point of this digression is to suggest how amusing it was that so long ago, a year before the end of Aaron Burr's (Vice) Presidency, after all, Charles Darwin's grandad should then advise us on anti-mosquito action: by asserting that the pest 'may be driven away by smoke, especially that from inulahlelenium, elecampane; and by that of cannabis, hemp.'"

Marshall had several charming ideas about this, which we'll go into next time, for he also offers them as fuel for another of our Great Research Ideas series.

BILL BICKLEY SENT US SOME NOTES JU-U-ST TOO LATE FOR THE MARCH ISSUE—it's like those tapes you get on the phone that tell you the next available

operator will assist you in the order received; there were two other "just too late's" ahead of him. Anyway, the news was: ALAN STONE was elected to honorary membership in the Entomological Society of Washington of which there are among the thousands only FOUR honoraries. DAN STRICKMAN has left the WRBU at the Museum Support Center (Smithsonian) for a tour of duty in Thailand. And on 5 December, BRUCE ELDRIDGE presided at a meeting of the American Committee for Medical Entomology at which the Committee received a grant of \$5,000.00 from the Rockefeller Foundation and used the interest for the first year to buy HARRY HOOGSTRAAL medals, of which the first in 1987 was given to BILL REEVES. The 1988 medal was awarded to LLOYD ROZEBOOM. BOB GWADZ replaces Bruce as chairman of ACME for 1989 and other new Executive Committee members are SUSAN MCIVER, GARY CLARK and RALPH BARR. Bick also noted (as had GEORGE CRAIG) that *James and Harwood* and *Kettle* are both out of print and there is no Medical Entomology text currently available. (Those of you who belong to Section D of ESA will remember from the letter sent by the Chairman, that George and ANDY SPIELMAN also raised the point at the ESA meeting where it was estimated that 300 copies a year are needed although the publisher plans no reissue and the actual need could be double the number. WOODBRIDGE FOSTER and JOHN LLOYD are on the Committee to survey Section D members on this.) To continue with Bick, he pointed out that in both 1988 and 1989 the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene and the Entomological Society of America meetings were and are at the same time... though not in the same place.

YE ED WISHES US TO REITERATE SOMETHING HE'S SENDING OUT TO ALL AUTHORS: After you have corrected the proof, please send it to:

Redactory
Waverly Press
Mt. Royal and Guilford Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21202

No, we don't know what "Redactory" means but, as President Hoover once unhappily tried to say, we want to iterate and reiterate it. That's where you send corrected proofs... not back to RON.

WE HAVE BEEN CONTEMPLATING THE JOYS OF TRAVEL TO ENGLAND AND FRANCE AND SUCH and have received from the International Association for Medical Assistance to Travellers and from Ye Ed and other globe-trotters, a pamphlet touting the unparalleled virtues of *La Mosquette*®, a light-weight (5 pounds) folding-framed net with ample tuck-in and said to be impenetrable to mosquitoes, assassin bugs, ticks et. al. And non, "mosquette" is not French for mosquito and the *Academie* may take after them for this *nouvelle Francaise*. IMAT is offering them at cost, which ain't hay... \$75.00 plus S&H... but, of course, chloroquine, primaquine and a month in the hospital ain't cheap, either.

EX-PREXY JIMMY K. OLSON HAS BEEN NAMED THE 1988 ARPE Distinguished Entomologist and, if you don't belong, you may wish to learn that those who nominated him said, in part: "Dr. Olson is a well-known national and international leader in the area of riceland mosquito biology and control . . . Olson is one of those rare individuals who is not only a 'can do' leader, but is also willing to do a major portion of the work himself. Olson's ability to get others to work at their peak is responsible for much of the progress made in riceland mosquito research . . . Olson has published more than 50 papers . . .

"Dr. Olson has made numerous significant contributions not only to his research area, but also to improving the organizational structure and efficiency of his specialty. His contributions are the essence of the purpose and history of the ARPE Awards for Outstanding Entomologists." (Applause)

ANOTHER AWARD, well merited: SHARON COLVIN our faithful and efficient Executive Assistant is now Business Administrator. She has a FAX and a Computer number, but we ain't saying. Worms in the Apple. (IBM, too.) But, using the *old* technology . . . congratulations!

DON JOHNSON, who continues on the Advisory Board of *Pest Control Magazine* was in Lindsborg, Kansas, last summer to attend an Elderhostel seminar on Swedes in America and visited the Birger Sandzén Memorial Gallery, an art gallery associated with Bethany College. In it is a very nice bronze entitled "Hunter in Trouble" by Kent Ullberg, which appears in the photo to be a stag shaking off an attacker. Its plaque reads, "Given to the gallery in remembrance of the 50th wedding anniversary of Dr. and Mrs. A. W. Lindquist, 1979, by Dr. and Mrs. Donald A. Lindquist and Mr. and Mrs. Roger A. Lindquist." Don phoned NITA, who, he said, sounded great and *said* she was and was enjoying life, no longer camper-ing but still active at Bethany Home, 321 N. Chestnut, Lindsborg.

Later, alas, Don came down with Lyme disease, which he agrees is a most unpleasant disease. As often happens, local doctors were puzzled, but Don talked to the Georgia State Epidemiologist and convinced them it was Lyme. Tetracycline and Naprosyn eventually cleared up the problem, but there was still occasional residual arthritis, especially in the knees. Unfortunately, the Naprosyn also caused a bleeding ulcer and anemia. He's better, but it's slow.

MARGARET PARSONS RETIRED LAST NOVEMBER FROM THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH and HARRY PRATT sent us a letter in which she outlined her "retirement" plans. We trust the 69 days a year she avows to give to the ODPH will include some work on the *Ohio Vector News* that she has edited so outstandingly. Peg says that the 150-mile commute every day for 23 years was enough, especially as she sees more and more people reading books or talking on cellular phones while they are "driving," and she counted 89 cars off the road in a December ice-storm and the bumper-to-bumper stuff that used to end about ten miles north of Columbus now reaches past her turn-off and goes clear to Cleveland and Akron. As for the future, we'll let her tell it:

"I have a lot of irons in the fire . . . I am currently President of the Ohio Mosquito Control Association,

Chairperson of the *Aedes albopictus* Committee of the AMCA, Regional Director of the Society of Vector Ecology and on their Bylaws Committee, and on two working committees for the American Registry of Professional Entomologists." (When Peg says "working" she means WORKING.) "In addition, I'm trying to get back to work on the Mallophaga of swifts, a project that has been on hold for about 20 years and is long overdue. I'm also working on the ticks of Ohio and plan to do a lot of bird-banding here on the farmlette.

"To accomplish all this I am the proud owner of 'LEE,' a Leading Edge computer and Epson printer system. I am also reworking the basement into laboratory, office, relaxation, exercise and workshop areas, complete with 225 feet of bookshelves and fluorescent lighting." She also has two horses and two dogs and on her field trips photographs (very well, if you remember her work at our salons) the multitudinous birds she also watches as a member of Cornell U's ornithology lab's "Feeder Watch."

Harry also sent us a clipping of *Perla 8* which noted with sadness the passing of two whom it identified as having contributed greatly to information on Plecoptera and to encouragement of budding plecopterists: DON DENNING and GEORGE KNOWLTON, known to us for their associations with mosquito control and controllers.

DON PLETSCH, WHO MUST SUBSCRIBE TO THE *FREE CHINA JOURNAL*. . . HE CAN'T BE GETTING OUT THERE THAT OFTEN, sends us some more clips about the increasing interest in and support for control of *Ae. albopictus* and concern for the spread of dengue. In December, it announced the establishment of a national dengue fever prevention center. They plan to educate the public, monitor the spread of the disease, help with the clean-up of breeding areas and control of mosquitoes and advise city and county personnel, with programs to upgrade the training for *doctors* in diagnosis and treatment.

AMONG OTHERS WHO GET AROUND, GENE GERBERG WAS RECENTLY IN SAN FRANCISCO to visit the Letterman Army Research Unit and specifically, of course, LOU RUTLEDGE. Gene was also meeting with research-minded reps of Sumitomo Chemicals, whose beautiful year-end bulletin we have admiringly commented on.

AND MOVING MORE PERMANENTLY, CDR JOHN ZIMMERMAN "relinquished command" the *ESA Newsletter* noted, of the 1st Medical Battalion at Camp Pendleton and assumed command of the Navy DVECC at Jacksonville, Florida. Changing Smogville for Jacksonville shouldn't have been too hard to "relinquish." MAJOR TOM LILLIE has left Brooks AFB in Taixus and is now with the HQ Space Division IDEV, with which we are not familiar, Tom . . . tell us! His address is P.O. Box 92960 Los Angeles AFB, Calif., 90009-2960. Can that address be right? An AFB in LA? Anyway, although not assigned as an entomologist, he says the work is extremely interesting and challenging. If it's not Classified, we'd like to hear some about it.

ED LOOMIS, long a luminary in California mosquito control and who had an assignment for a period in

Indonesia, died a year ago in Woodland, California, his obituary by JOHN ANDERSON and BOB WASHINO for ESA, reminded us sadly. He had received many awards, particularly for work in veterinary entomology, but was best known among us for his early work in surveillance for WEE and St. Louis encephalitis.

WE MENTIONED EARLIER THAT GEORGE CRAIG AND ANDY SPIELMAN had brought up the subject of lack of Medical Entomology texts; they also raised the issue of a lack of Medical Entomology in NIH reviews and NIH-sponsored programs dealing with vector biology and control and specifically current efforts in Lyme Disease research. ESA approved a resolution asking NIH to reevaluate their position and increase their support.

WE DON'T IMAGINE VERY MANY OF YOU ARE TRULY WORRIED ABOUT WHETHER DDT CAUSES CANCER OR NOT AT THIS LATE DATE (you may remember that one long-term study found the recipients of the DDT had FEWER cancers than the recipients of the placebos) but, anyway, a new study published in the prestigious *American Journal of Public Health* avers that "it is concluded that the evidence does not support the opinion that DDT is a human carcinogen." You may now breathe easier . . . except that they found that there was a very bare possibility that "the issue of whether or not DDT is a weak lung carcinogen, or is associated with an increased risk of cancer of some rare site, can be resolved only in a study much larger than the present one.

"There is no consistent positive trend in cancer mortality according to serum DDT. The adjusted mean of the logarithm of serum DDT is very slightly lower among persons who died of cancer than it is among those who did not (mean difference = -0.01.95 per cent CI = -0.08.0.07)."

Well, it's nice to know but a little late to un-ban DDT, so those countries with the rising malaria rates could go back to their once-hopeful eradication campaigns.

WE HOPE THERE'LL BE NO MOVE TO BAN A DEVICE THAT DR. ANDY SPIELMAN HAS DEVELOPED AT THE HARVARD SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH against ticks carrying Lyme disease. It's pretty dangerous because it has an INSECTICIDE in it . . . soaked in cotton balls, and you know how dangerous THOSE are. They're in a cardboard tube, scattered around where mice like to roam. The mice take them home to make nests, thus starting a food chain but killing resident ticks.

FRESNO WESTSIDE MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT (CALIF.) is celebrating its THIRTIETH anniversary, which may not sound aged to you New Jersey and Florida types but seems so if you consider that its location was a total desert less than half a century ago. Irrigation brought agricultural bounty to feed and clothe the World and also brought mosquitoes, which

DAVE REED is still, but successfully, combatting. The Manager is also on some very worthwhile Committees, such as the Central California Vector Control Joint Powers Agency and its parent VCJPA and various California Mosquito and Vector Control Association committees on Lyme Disease and dog heartworm. Remember when other vectors than mosquitoes were considered *infra dig* for us mosquito types? Spreading urbanization (urbanization in *Firebaugh*? You could look it up.) and intrusion of urbanites into nature sure has changed things, hasn't it?

YOU COULD ASK GIL CHALLET WHOSE ORANGE COUNTY (CALIF.) VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT reports having to worry now about a recent immigrant: the sculptured scorpion, *Centruroides exilicauda* which = *C. sculpturatus* (those taxonomists!) They've taken to running around on people's carpets.

WHEN NAMES GOT AROUND TO WHERE WE CAME IN ON THEM, WE GOT OFF (*fatigans*, anyone?), but Illinois MCA is concerned about the blurring of *common* names, because the Asian tiger is really the *forest day mosquito* . . . can this be true? . . . and *Ae. vexans* is really the *vexans* mosquito, not the floodwater mosquito which is what *Ae. sticticus* IS.

DONALD BAUMGARTNER AND DR. DICK BERRY ARE ATTEMPTING to improve this situation because, strangely enough, there is NO common name for *Ae. triseriatus* or *Ae. hendersoni* and they'd like suggestions. We sort of favor trying to get the media to use a short form of the proper scientific name, the way flower lovers do, except that THEY don't always get the right one, either, and sometimes common names are more stable. Can we have some discussion? ESA is the Supreme Court on this one, of course, BUT OF 167 SPECIES OF MOSQUITOES only 14 HAVE COMMON NAMES! (We're not talking slang here.)

LOUISIANA MCA'S ANNUAL MEETING LAST OCTOBER INCLUDED SOME INTERESTING INVITATIONAL PAPERS. Among them, one title, "Thinking Like a Mosquito" which brings to mind Kipling's *Captains Courageous* and that Captain's "thinking like a cod." Another was "How Public Agencies Can Compete with the Private Sector" which sounds a little daring in this hand-it-all-back-to-private-agencies age. The others were on hazardous waste management and we'd like to hear if they had some answers to that.

AND AS WE WRITE THIS on the 22nd of February, which used to be Washington's Birthday, we are reminded by JUDY HANSEN's New Jersey MCA *Newsletter* that JOHN KUSCHKE pointed out it's also the 87th anniversary of the publication of MAJOR WALTER REED's and DR. JAMES CARROLL's report that announced that yellow fever was indeed carried by *Aedes aegypti*.