

NEWS AND NOTES

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ONCE UPON A TIME WE RUSHED INTO PRINT WITH NOTES FROM THE ANNUAL MEETINGS IN TIME FOR THE JUNE ISSUE AND NO PROBLEM . . . DEADLINE WAS 30 DAYS BEFORE PUBLICATION. Later, we sometimes borrowed the typewriter behind the Registration Desk and pounded out hasty add-ons to serve as page 1 for our June copy with the tolerant permission of MARGARET and BICK and RON. But THIS time deadline was several days BEFORE the Meetings even started and though Ron, Ye-present-Ed, is still mighty tolerant of our sloppy ways, that was too much. So here we are, in September bringing you the scoop from last April.

We were met in our room by an In-House TV announcement welcoming us to the Regency and telling us what-all was available and ending with the cheery quote from a 1600-ish gent who wrote that Boston was "Very pleasant—not troubled with the three great annoyances of woolves, rattlesnakes and musketoos."

They assured us they still were. But welcome anyway.

The Ballroom carpet was a design of dragonflies . . . but, no, it wasn't done specially for us.

The plenary session started off well with a thoughtful and thought-provoking Presidential Address by BRUCE ELDRIDGE and we expect you can read Dr. Eldridge's words in this issue and we urge you to do so before you go any further. Genetic engineering and the Future are not a threat but a challenge and an opportunity to make the future start now. (We wish reporters would come to meetings like ours, to report but to *learn* so their future reporting could be more informed. UPI and the LA and New York Times could sure benefit.)

Along that line, J. KONDIG reported that artificial intelligence has already come to Ft. Detrick in their Expert System for identification of some species in *Aedes*, while G. FRITZ presented a paper proposing that genetic and electrophoretic analysis of *Anopheles freeborni* suggested a considerable division into *An. hermsi*. This was also worked on by S. NARANG and D. KLINE and blessed by R. WASHINO. (What's with all these initials?)

IN JUNE WE TOLD YOU ABOUT DR. ANDY SPIELMAN'S INVENTION FOR LURING MICE TO CARRY INSECTICIDE-IMPREGNATED COTTON TO THEIR NESTS TO KILL TICKS. . . . WELL, IT'S HERE! Young Brian Spielman, who had the booth for "Eco-Health" demonstrating them was passing out his personal card with a wee seed tick printed on it so realistically that people receiving them tried to brush it off! A real collector's item, that.

There were 554 delegates registered with 125 male and female companions, and we were joined by 71 diligent note-taking students (we should sign some of them up to take these notes . . . we've tried rusty shorthand and now a pocket voice-activated tape recorder and we still get things wrong. Sorry.) Anyway, it was a lively bunch and both sessions and lobbies were thronged, as were the booth areas of our 25 Loyal

Exhibitors. Some of the L.E.s also furnished us with coffee and REAL DANISH and doughnuts at the breaks . . . a godsend to some of us who had felt that breakfast was a bit beyond us.

We missed Pop Knowles, though. He's been a fixture of AMCA meetings ever since the War . . . a real L.E.

HAVE YOU BEEN WONDERING WHAT THE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE DEAL WAS THAT WE MENTIONED BACK THERE? Well, it may seem complex now, but it's probably the wave of the future. Most everything technical we don't understand very well these days seems to be. Anyway, complicated or not, this one seemed to work. A computer program, of course, isn't everything? You answer questions it feeds you and it rearranges values as it goes along and eliminates non-essentials and *voila* . . . here's your identification!

AND NO CONFUSION ABOUT SUPEREROGATORY SETAE, a complication MIKE SERVICE took a swipe at in his paper on a surfeit of species and a plethora of setae. He was talking about Africa where the number of described species has tripled and the books about identifying them were printed 50 years ago. Mike, as always, was witty and brisk but the problem is real, isn't it?

We should mention in passing that word also got around that there is a move (official) to "suppress" *Cx. peus* so we won't have THAT to kick around any more . . . is it "poons" or is it "Pee-us" or, maybe, "poyce"? Anyway, not being a systematist, as we said last issue, we got off the carousel with stigmats.

JIM KERWIN and BOB WASHINO presented a very stimulating paper on the pathogen *Lagenidium giganteum* and its optimization and also the problems with getting even a biological control registered with EPA, which stimulated a little bit of anger in us, having in mind the outcry from "environmentalists" who want natural control instead of "poisons" but are demanding the banning of *B.t.i.* because it may be found some day to cause some kind of *human* disease.

Dr. Kerwin sent us the brief outline of general requirements for EPA registration, as prepared by DON WOMELDORF who is the California Department of Health Services Environmental Management Branch. The submission is 40 CFR 158.170 (Subdivision M, Series 151A) which intimidates us right off, and includes confidential statement of formula, product analysis, toxicology data, residue data, nontarget organism testing and a proposed labeling, and runs 310 pages in 6 volumes. He said we could get more complete protocols by application to EPA but we'll let you do that.

HARVEY SCUDDER SHOWED SOME SAMPLES AND SOME 8 × 10 BLOWUPS OF DIPTERA 15,000,000 years old from the high desert (5,600 ft) somewhere in Utah and Nevada. (Dr. Scudder says the area is patrolled and protected but we have in mind that the off-the-road types are indignantly and probably ultimately

successfully, pressuring the Bureau of Land Management to open ALL the desert to motor bikes and such, so we ain't saying exactly where this is.) The matrix is a quartz shale that splits so delicately that the wing venation, wing *scales* . . . even the spermathecae in the female abdomens, important in identifying *Culiseta* . . . are clearly identifiable. Even coloration shows up . . . we saw a beautiful Syrphid. He has found fourteen orders of insects. Actually, they aren't all Diptera; but the Diptera range from tiny Cecidomyids and Ceratopogonids to the Syrphid we saw, and even 3 mm Psyllids and modern-looking Tipulidae.

HARVEY said that the overburden was light and the conditions of pressure, and heat from that pressure, were such that the shale formed provisionally delicately and without the crystallization which would have ruined them. The Feds have withdrawn mineral rights to 25 square miles, the Governments of the States, more susceptible to pressure from off-the-roads?, are stopped from reclaiming the lands from Uncle and all should go well with adding considerable numbers of new names to the rolls of paleoentomology. One problem: when the shale splits into these fragile sheets, there remains a mirror image of the insect on BOTH halves. Which, then, is the "type?" Aha. You can see all this from the air, by the way. No, not the insects. The area.

WE TOLD YOU SOME TIME BACK THAT MARSHALL LAIRD HAD AN INTERESTING SUGGESTION FOR FUTURE RESEARCH PROJECTS. He had said, and we had quoted, you may remember, that Charles Darwin's grandad, Erasmus, had advised us "on mosquito control action: by asserting that the pest 'may be driven away by smoke, especially that from inula helenium, eleancampane; and by that of cannabis, hemp.'" "Now," Marshall went on, "the roots of *Inula helenium* have long been used in wine-making and for flavouring spirits, while *Cannabis sativa* (the source of bhang, hashish, marijuana) was the chief source of fibre from which ropes, sails, etc. of the great navies of a couple of centuries ago were made. All of which opens an interesting window on the early history of experimentation (prisoners commonly plucked such fibres) towards mosquito repellency. Perhaps, for example, we could reverse the breath test? (All those of you on pot, *blow!*) and, unaerosoled in due respect to the ozone layer, provide the concentrates as a very possibly competitive alternative to pyrethrum-based mosquito coils?" Has anyone tried surveying pot smokers to see if there is a statistically significant repellency? Why not?

IN A MORE SERIOUS VEIN Marshall wrote to BILL BICKLEY in March to say that by April 2,000 larval habitats should have been sampled in his New Zealand Northern Mosquito Survey. "To date there's no evidence of any unwanted foreign species having slipped past. . . ."

MARILYN MILBY WROTE US RATHER TARTLY, "I don't know who proof-reads your column, but the new address of the Arbovirus Field Station somehow ended up being 4709 instead of 4705. BILL REEVES checked his copy of the original letter to you to be sure we had it right!" Gosh, we thought all along we were infallible.

Well, sorry. It's 4705, folks. (And we DO proofread copy, Marilyn. Not very well, though)

REVERTING TO THE MEETINGS FOR A MOMENT, YOU PROBABLY SAW THE NICE ARTICLE ON OUR NEW PREXY JUDY HANSEN in the March issue of *Pest Control*. DON JOHNSON, somewhat recovered from the after-effects of his bout with Lyme disease, handed them out as usual. DAN SPRENGER and SAK WUITHIRANYAGOO and BRUCE ELDRIDGE, plus an article on LYNN DUBOSE, rounded out the issue.

DON PLETSCHE who wrote us about the issue said he'd then "just passed the 10,000 mile mark on local road-biking. But no jogging!" He also added, "I'm looking forward to seeing OSCAR FULTZ and LYNN while joining MARGARET TIDWELL of the WEDGE in accompanying Latin American graduates from the latest WEDGE course as they visit the Chatham County program, the USDA Insects Affecting Man and Animals Research Laboratory in Gainesville, FL and the University of Florida's Medical Entomology Laboratory in Vero Beach." Hope to hear, Don.

WE MISSED SEEING PEG PARSONS AT THE MEETINGS BUT WE KNOW SHE'LL BE THERE NEXT YEAR. As you surely know, the meetings next spring (start making plans) are in Lexington, Kentucky, and they'll be hosted by the Kentucky Mosquito and Vector Control Association, the Indiana Vector Control Association and the OHIO Mosquito Control Association of which Peg was, as we wrote last issue, Prexy. The flack for next year handed out cute little racing horse lapel pins and apples and lots of brochures with color pix of the beautiful countryside covered by their associations. But no wee little bottle of Kentucky's most famous product (next to horses). We expect the Lexington Regency to do better.

THE ILLINOIS MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL ASSOCIATION changed its name last spring from IMCA to IMVCA wrote DON BAUMGARTNER, who is the Editor of the Newsletter and of the Proceedings which contains articles on Lyme disease, the status of *Ae. albopictus*, other tick-borne diseases, *Culex* oviposition frequency during drought, USAF vector control, regulations concerning tires and their disposal and much much more, as they say on TV.

MICHIGAN MOSQUITO CONTROL ASSOCIATION'S THIRD ANNUAL CONFERENCE was held last February in Ann Arbor. JUDY HANSEN gave an overview of the Cape May operations, DAN BROWN discussed aerial control of *Ae. vexans* by the Macon MAD, DICK MERRITT gave a presentation of the ecology of larval blackflies and GEORGE CRAIG reviewed *Ae. albopictus*. Beside the currently top-interest discussions of Lyme disease media communication and source reduction, there was an article on control of mosquito larvae in pickle vats, a source we'd never worried about.

NEIL PENNINGTON received their H. D. NEWSON Distinguished Service Award. TOM WILMOT is Prexy and said their banquet was enlivened by minstrelsy from BOB BLOENK and DAN BROWN among others. DOUG ALLEN took best-of-show in the photo contest

with his slide of a throne-shaped tree hole. (Is that printable in a family journal?)

THEY'RE REALLY SERIOUS ABOUT DENGUE OVER THERE IN TAIPEI as Don Pletsch's continuing clippings from the *Free China Journal* advise us. Principals in 48 . . . count'em . . . 48 schools got reprimanded for having ditches, ponds or water puddles on the school grounds in which Environmental and Public Health inspectors found larvae. Incidentally, the Executive Yuan has ordered the Council of Agriculture to breed dragonflies as part of a campaign to stamp out dengue fever. (See par. 4.)

THERE WAS A DISTURBING TABULATION IN THE VOL. 5, NO. 2 issue of *Parasitology Today* that we hope EPA read, marked and inwardly digested, now that the connection between DDT and cancer has been officially broken, as we reported in June. In this table the figures for 1986 are given and in the accompanying article the author discusses the factors and says in summary, "even with adequate anti-malarial treatment, the case fatality rate in endemic areas [of Africa] is at least 1%, which puts the annual malaria death toll at 2.5 million per year."

IN MARCH, DAVE REED ANNOUNCED HIS RETIREMENT AS MANAGER-ENTOMOLOGIST OF FRESNO WESTSIDE (CALIF.) MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT. The years saw many changes in both the locale and the methodology of mosquito control . . . and of agricultural practice, which improved, thanks to Dave. What're you up to now?

MEANWHILE BOB ALTMAN, OUR EX-PREX, WHO HAS RETIRED SEVERAL TIMES, has moved from Maryland to 3051 Pavilion Tower Circle in Columbia, South Carolina 29201, and we don't know any more about that except that there's a pretty good golf course (as well as Polo) in Aiken.

MOVING RIGHT ALONG, WE HAVE RECEIVED TWO BEAUTIFUL BROCHURES from our French friends in Montpellier, l'Entente Interdepartementale pour la Demoustication du Littoral Meditteranean. One bro-

chure is about preventive measures for public areas and the other is for private homes, both under the ensign of "*Culex pipiens*: the mosquito of urban waters." Filled with excellent color photos, there are also, prominently shown, photos of what appear to be tabletop models of the sort of areas under discussion: a collection of houses and representations of public buildings with drains to near-by holding ponds and a channel. The discussion centers on clean-up and clearing, on reduction of the number of openings giving access to water collections underground or under buildings and speeding up the flow of the effluent from source to final pond, stream or sewer, for public areas, and adds the clean-up of unused fish ponds, bird baths and other garden ornamental water holders, for homes.

IN OTHER NEWS AND SKIPPING SMARTLY BACK TO NEW JERSEY, their annual meeting, held just prior to ours, had as its keynote address a presentation on the radio-telemetry studies on bird behavior in New Jersey, and in the plenary session also a discussion of wetlands management, both of interest elsewhere.

TO CHEER US UP AFTER OUR FAILING TO PROOF-READ BILL REEVES' NEW ADDRESS, Ye Ed sent us a hot memo he received from an "Irate Reader" about a photo that didn't get proofread carefully enough. Citing the Fig., Vol. and Page, I.R. continues: "I've been meaning to call your attention to this for some time! The photo in question shows a worker applying Naled with gloves or appropriate clothing, and, if you look closely, the worker is smoking a cigarette! This photo could be used as an example of how *NOT* to apply insecticides!" Ye Ed says, "It was only a little cigarette."

I.R. softens his memo a little bit, which sort of destroys the fine indignant effect: "I am sure that no harm has been done, and I found it amusing that this apparently escaped the attention of reviewers and the Editor. Consequently, I couldn't resist this gentle dig. No offense intended!"

Well. . . watch it guys. Next time you smoke a cigarette . . . wear gloves!