

## NEWS AND NOTES

AUSTIN W. MORRILL, Jr.

WE ARE INDEBTED TO MR. ROLFE PETERSON THE INIMITABLE AND REFRESHING FUN-MASTER OF OUR AMCA BANQUET AT SALT LAKE CITY for an original poem which he recited for us. We wish we could get his droll tone of voice into our type, but even without it, this engaging bit of verse certainly merits a deathless place in our literature. It's entitled, simply,

### The Mosquito

The mosquito is a funny bird,

It breeds in watery places.

Then when it hits maturity

For human flesh it races.

To golfers, gardeners, fishermen,

This bug will give their due . . .

Then when you slap and kill it,

It bleeds *your* blood on you.

It would be impossible to do justice, as many members asked us to do, in any tribute to Mr. Rolfe's masterful handling of the amenities of the banquet, or to the singing of the Edmunds Bros. barbershop quartet, or to the pleasant social hour provided by Willys, or to our old friend Mr. Schoenfeld and his many Utah cohorts who once again demonstrated the unsurpassed ability of the people of that amazing state to give a gracious welcome and a memorable stay to their visitors. AMCA made a small gesture toward Mr. Schoenfeld by presenting him with a pair of mosquito emblem cufflinks as a token of the title bestowed on him by DON REES, "Mr. Mosquito Control" of Utah.

Then Utah, past master at the art of One-upmanship when it comes to courtesy and generosity, presented AMCA with a gavel of Utah walnut and copper, and beautiful hammered copper bowls to retiring Prexy MO HIRST, President ARCHIE HESS, Executive Sec. TED RALEY and our Banker, LESTER SMITH. BOB VANNOTE presented a scroll to MO and there were short and pleasant speeches all round and Trustees and Board Members from Districts across the country were introduced, including OTTO McFEELEY, who is very nearly "Mr. AMCA," we should imagine. The speeches ranged from a fine address by the Mayor to a small resumé of *just what happened* in that stuck elevator, when HELEN LOUISE DURKEE spent about forty minutes trapped between floors with the inestimable PETERS BROS., but fortunately for her "rep" (!) also MRS. BOB PETERS and Nine Perfect Gentlemen. We refrain from telling what *We* know except that from somewhere behind us (we couldn't turn) an Editorial sort of voice asked after about 30 minutes if anyone had noticed any signs directing one to the Men's Room.

MEANWHILE, BACK AT THE TYPEWRITER . . .

WE ARE THINKING OF OPENING A NEW SECTION ENTITLED "WHERE'S WHO" or "NOBODY EVER

TELLS US ANYTHING." We are apparently always the Last to Know, so we hesitate to tell you things you heard way last winter, but nevertheless . . . here goes:

LEE HALL has left the San Joaquin Mosquito Abatement District, where he had been for the past four years, and has assumed the position of Manager and Entomologist for the newly-formed Fresno Westside Abatement District, the formation of which we noted last issue. His place as Entomologist and Assistant Manager of the San Joaquin MAD was taken by JIM MALLERS, who was previously entomologist for the Contra Costa MAD. *Ave atque vale* (or the other way 'round), LEE AND JIM.

HERB HERMS, moving even farther, has left California completely (How could he have done *that?*) to go to the South Cook County Mosquito Abatement District, Illinois, and they're getting a mighty fine man, though quiet. And ED WASHBURN is or is about to or is reported to be about to leave for Liberia, for ICA, any moment now. Wanderlust hit Ed late but it shore took a bite when it got him. He's gone about as far as he could go, as the song says. GEORGE BURTON used to write us some mighty interesting things from there; it sounded real fine and we know Ed will enjoy himself. Good luck!

HARRY STAGE has retired again (he swears) and will temporarily be located at Coos Bay, Oregon. He's just going to set and rock, he says. Sometimes he'll watch the waves and sometimes he'll fish, and then again he won't. Any bets on how long *THIS* retirement will last?

BOB DUCHANNOIS retired, too, from the Navy, at least, and a sad loss it was for the Navy, too. But the Navy's loss is Florida's gain, because Bob hated to leave Jacksonville last year and as soon as he could, he hot-footed it back. He's now with the Bureau of Entomology, Florida State Board of Health, P. O. Box 210, Jacksonville, Florida. Congratulations, JOHNNY, on a fine acquisition.

JOHNNY MULRENNAN may have gained a man from the Navy but he has given (well, anyway, *lent*) one back . . . ENSIGN MULRENNAN, MSC, USNR. Welcome aboard!

DON PLETSCH, still with the Oficina Sanitaria Panamericana, Mexico 6, D.F., Mexico, has moved from his old address (Roma 36-B) to: Havre 30, Piso 3. Still, as we said above, in Mexico 6, D.F., or Mexico City to us outlanders. (Once, years ago, on a trip to Mexico, we learned that *Mexico*, as used by Mexicans, meant The City; the Country is Los Estados Unidos de Mexico).

TOMMY MULHERN WENT UP TO OREGON IN MARCH AND EARLY APRIL as the guest of CDC and the Oregon State Board of Health to instruct a training course on mosquito control, sponsored by the Oregon body. His course emphasized, needless to say, the importance of source reduction and gave practical information on how to go about it.

MEANWHILE GORDON SMITH, California Mosquito Control Association prexy, sent out an all points invitation for his demonstration and seminar on airplane applications of insecticides, held at Modesto on the 18th of May.

AND MO HIRST BRUSHED THE DUST OF UFAH AND THE UNITED STATES FROM HIS NAVY BLUES by taking off on another round-the-circuit swing through Okinawa, Formosa, the Philippines, Korea, Japan and Guam. Would we were a bird.

"FRED L. SOPER, director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, Washington, D. C.," reports *Science* for 29 February 1959, "was honored upon his retirement on 1 February with the establishment of the Fred L. Soper Lectures in International Health. Bureau staff members will finance the lectures by donations to a special fund. The first lecture will be given this fall by Soper himself at Johns Hopkins University's School of Hygiene."

WHILE WE ARE NAME-DROPPING, A FELLOW NAMED ABRAHAM LINCOLN IS QUOTED IN *The Army Reservist* FOR FEBRUARY AS SAYING, on the floor of Congress, "By the way, Mr. Speaker, do you know I am a military hero? In the days of the Blackhawk War I fought, bled, and came away. I had a good many bloody struggles with the mosquitoes, and although I never fainted from loss of blood, I can truly say I was often hungry." End of quote.

BILL BICKLEY SPOTTED A DISPATCH FROM RAJKOT SENT OUT BY *The Evening News of India* which should be a warning to us all. It says:

"Three lions have been visiting the Collector's bungalow constantly for the last three days. They killed two donkeys on Monday.

"A strong guard has been posted outside the bungalow.

"Two lions were seen within the compound of the Bahauddin College on Monday.

"Harassed by mosquitoes in the Gir forest, the lions have presumably sought refuge in the city."

The *New Yorker* magazine, which bulletined Bick on this, added the comment, "Where DDT makes things good for everybody except people who are about to get eaten by a lion."

THE CALIFORNIA MOSQUITO CONTROL ASSOCIATION, THE CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA ARE JOINTLY SPONSORING A SEMINAR ON Management for Mosquito Control Administrators, to be held on 20 through 22 October, 1959, at

Asilomar, Pacific Grove, California. The fee is \$25.00, exclusive of housing and meals and the setting so Elysian that we have never known how conferences can get anyplace there. (In our youth the place was a YWCA camp. We were boots at the Presidio of Monterey. Now there was a proper sort of use for the place.) But back to the seminar. . . . The plans look mighty productive and the attendance is limited to 40. Don't crowd fellers! It's business!

THE ARMED FORCES PEST CONTROL BOARD HAS YIELDED TO THE CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE GENERATED BY THE GLOWING REPORTS OF THOSE OF US WHO ATTENDED LAST YEAR and announces the second presentation of a training course on military entomology, to be held during the period 3 to 14 August, 1959, at the National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Maryland. This splendid course on the specialty which is military entomology, is designed to provide advanced training for active duty, reserve and civilian entomologists of the three services; but it is also for individuals from universities and other civilian organizations, to whom it is intended to make known the contributions which the military services are making to the science of entomology and the control of pests and vectors, to present the problems which face the military (and thus to stimulate research on basic and applied problems) and to foster the continued sympathetic and cooperative assistance being given the military by universities and other civilian agencies. Attendance will be limited to 30 persons. Mosquito controllers who are Reserve Officers or civilian employees of the government are especially urged to take advantage of this course and others are also cordially invited. Inquiries should be addressed to The Executive Secretary, Armed Forces Pest Control Board, Forest Glen Section, Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington 12, D. C. (That's Col. Ralph Bunn, of course.)

GEORGE BURTON, whom we mentioned earlier in connection with Liberia, writes from his TCA laboratory in Delhi, that he has put together some 275 8x10 photographs of Filariasis in all its aspects and is working on 4 color film strips to be used in training. He says that he attended the 3rd WHO malaria conference in Delhi and saw a number of AMCA'ers, including DON JOHNSON. So that's the sort of "work" that made Don give up his committee work! Trips to India! Hmmm.

SPEAKING OF FAR CLIMES . . . we have just received a copy of the Proceedings of the Tenth International Congress of Entomology, published in 1958, which contains a considerable and illuminating article by one HARRY H. STAGE ON *Malaria-Control Problems in Vietnam*. On the first page it says in a footnote, (and we quote), "Retired Nov. 1, 1956." Again, if we may say so, Hmmm.

WE SAW VIRGIL MILES AWHILE BACK and he passed on some info about his new area which we thought you'd all be interested in. His new address is Toxicology Laboratory, P.O. Box 73, Wenatchee, Washington, and his principal area of study is the Columbia River Basin where some additional 60,000 acres are being developed for irrigation yearly. Portions of the Basin irrigated since 1952 are already showing high levels of transmission for both western and St. Louis viruses, as indicated by chicken serum surveys. Virgil says they plan to determine the antibody rates of sera from farm poultry raised each year, along with studies of mosquito populations and differing environments. (Many of the newer farms, for instance, have few buildings and no trees.) They'll also cover irrigated areas in Oregon, Idaho and Montana. Virgil reported that granular dieldrin was again effective in Montana last year, even at  $\frac{1}{4}$  pound of toxicant per acre.

ERNESTINE THURMAN HAD A TABLE AT THE MEETINGS for those who are or want to be or *should* be members of the Good Neighbor Club. It had some very encouraging lists of Good Neighbors and gave us a solid idea of what a great lot of good the Club is doing for us and for others. Also at her booth were two new forms, *Application for Employment and Help Wanted*. These forms are a start toward a sort of clearing house to help our members find the man for the job.

ONE OF THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE VIRGINIA MOSQUITO CONTROL ASSOCIATION'S HIGHLY LIGHTED MEETINGS on 24 February at Suffolk, was a talk by CHUCK GERHARDT of CDC. *Sheeter* commented, "Some mosquito control field men may think of Entomology as a 'dirty word' that is too technical to be understood by a layman . . . but no one is likely to forget his informal and down-to-earth treatment of this often misunderstood subject." Other notables programmed were CLYDE FEHN, BOB VANNOTE, JOHN FLENO, ART LINDQUIST and CHARLIE WHITE.

FLASH! CHET ROBINSON FINDS NON-RESISTANT MOSQUITOES IN CALIFORNIA!! Chet reported recently that during one month his Alameda County (California) Mosquito Abatement District had "treated 4,500 tree holes with DDT," making a total of 22,936 tree holes treated during the winter season. So not all is gloomy in the resistance picture, after all. *Aedes sierrensis*, at least, is not yet able to withstand parathion, (we hope).

THREE FINE ANNUAL REPORTS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED FROM DISTRICTS WHICH ARE WIDELY SEPARATED, BUT UNITED IN EMPHASIZING SURVEY AND SOURCE REDUCTION. IN ORDER OF AGE, ST. LUCIE COUNTY (FLORIDA) SANITARY DISTRICT TAKES THE LEAD. This District, located at Ft. Pierce, made its 32nd annual report this year, and their analysis of the results of light trap and biting count surveys makes mighty interesting

reading. Treading close upon their tale . . . as the mockturtle said . . . comes the DESPLAINES VALLEY MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT, of Lyons, Illinois, who present their 31st annual report. It, too, contains meaty analyses of breeding places, source reduction, and surveys. These annual reports contain so much, in fact, that we can't hope to summarize them and can only mention highlights such as that Desplaines caught some very rare species in their light traps: *Aedes sollicitans* (the third since 1928), *Aedes mitchellae*, *Aedes nigromaculis* (this is rare? what a heavenly place!), *Culex erraticus*, and 17 *Pterophora confinis*. We know quite a few folks who'd like to have these species be rare where *they* are. The third Annual Report mentioned above, is that of San Mateo County (California), MAD, a relative newcomer. They kept some fine records, such as a breakdown on manhours spent on each type of activity and analyses of light trap catches. Of especial interest to Westerners is the report of their continuing studies on the biting black gnat, *Leptoconops torrens*.

THE FIRST SUBJECT FOR WHO'S WHO THIS TIME IS A MAN WHOM MANY AMCA'ers have known well for his fine work in several parts of the country although he is a relative newcomer to mosquito control. He is so unassuming and "natural" with everyone that we once walked into a hotel in Tokyo and found him sitting in the dining room and proceeded to talk to him for about five minutes, with only a casual hello to start with, before it suddenly dawned on us that we hadn't seen him for about five years instead of having just seen him yesterday! He hadn't changed a bit from when we knew him in Orlando, Florida, during the war, and what's more he didn't act a bit offended that we just started up a five-year-old conversation again without any fanfare. Well, maybe we'd better start at the beginning. He was born in 1913 in Warner, Oklahoma, and received his BS from Oklahoma State in 1938 and his MS in 1940 and then did some two more years' work at Iowa State College. He worked for the U. S. Department of Agriculture on lice and scabies control, at the famed Orlando Laboratory, and on U. S. Army assignments (that's how he happened to be in Tokyo, on his way back from Korea), and is now in charge of the laboratory on Insects Affecting Man and Animals, at Corvallis, Oregon. His name . . . GAINES EDDY. You guessed? Aw . . .

CHARLES S. WILSON has been an AMCA member quite a bit longer and has worked on mosquitoes even longer yet, starting at the Beltsville, Md., research center in 1938. Before that he had been born, of course, in 1904 at Yakima, Washington, and graduated from the University of California in 1933. In 1935 he received his M.S. degree there also and did further graduate work in insect physiology for nearly three years. When the World War II broke out he left Beltsville for Bethesda and the Naval Medical Research Insti-

tute and later served with NAMRU #2 in the South Pacific. Something about that decided him to seek colder climes . . . or maybe it was the greater abundance of mosquitoes . . . but since then he's been in Alaska, where his address is Arctic Health Research Center, U. S. Public Health Service, Box 5, Anchorage. Drop in you tourists to our next-to-the-newest State.

T. A. SCHOENFELD, whom we mentioned in talking about the wonderful Utah meetings he has sponsored, is 77 years old and sets a high mark for youngsters in their fifties and sixties to shoot for, with his activity in city planning, and above all that part of it which has to do with mosquito control. After 50 years with the Crown Zellerback Co., Mr. Schoenfeld "retired" in 1951 and thereupon turned his full attention to the abovementioned activities. He has been a member of the Salt Lake Mosquito Board for nearly twenty years, twice as President, and has also been

a prime mover in the organization and subsequent active member and president of the Utah Mosquito Control Association and one of the organizers of the Salt Lake City and County Mosquito Abatement Districts. He was chairman of arrangements for the AMCA meetings in 1952 and again was active, as we mentioned earlier, in the excellent arrangements this year. He has been always and indefatigably on hand to make us feel at home when we have attended the vigorous and stimulating meetings of the Utah Mosquito Control Association. A little known project of his was the National Peace Gardens in Salt Lake City and some years ago he received an accolade in the Salt Lake Tribune in a half page spread on his industry in improving the neglected West Side with parks and playgrounds until the area had been turned from a blighted one into one of the City's many assets. He's certainly been one of AMCA's major assets and we hope he continues in that role for a long time to come.

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As we went to press the last lines of the editorial on page 104 were reviewed with extreme sadness. The proofs of Sam Minnich's paper were returned on June 6 by Mrs. Minnich with the brief note, "Mr. Minnich passed away very suddenly last Sunday . . ."

Sam was a most loyal member of AMCA, a vigorous and articulate advocate of everything that seemed to be good for the organization as a whole, and for its members individually. The editor, being trained more in the academic tradition, especially appreciated the wise counsel and friendly support of this very practical and down-to-earth man, and until a more fitting tribute can be written by one of his colleagues, wishes to express his sorrow at Sam's passing.

At this time, further, we have the sad duty to record the sudden death of another well-known AMCA member, who was also a frequent contributor to *Mosquito News*. Under date of June 12 we received the following letter from Gordon Smith:

"I'm sure that you and the readers of *Mosquito News* will be as shocked and saddened, as we were, to learn that Dr. Willis E. Snow died in London, England, at 4:30 a.m. today from heat prostration. He was a key member of our staff and was on his way back to TVA via Egypt and London after spending eight months at the East African Trypanosomiasis Research Laboratory, Entebbe, Uganda, on a Fulbright Scholarship. His wife, Rosemary Simpkins Snow, and 5-year old daughter, Laurie, were with him. His death is a great loss to Entomology and his multitude of friends."

It is expected that by the next issue of *Mosquito News* we will have more space and more information on Sam Minnich and Will Snow, together with tributes to Professor Matheson and Clell Wiscup, both of whom died during the past year.—D.L.C.