

NEWS AND NOTES

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WHEN *News and Notes* WAS BEING PREPARED FOR LAST ISSUE OUR EYE FELL ON A NEWS ITEM FROM FORMOSA WHICH WE THOUGHT OUGHT TO BE RECORDED IN OUR COLUMNS. Unfortunately, limitations of space prevented it, but we still think it's of interest, so here goes: In Taipeh the Buddhist priests have been conducting a prayer session for the souls of all the mosquitoes and other living things which have been sacrificed in the course of American experiments in control, by the U. S. Navy Preventive Medicine Unit No. 2. The prayers were reported to be lengthy,—a compliment to the effectiveness of our control, "numberswise," as the Americans say.

AND SPEAKING OF THE NAVY . . . ENSIGN JOHN A. MULRENNAN, JR., USNR, reported on board at the U. S. Navy Disease Vector Control Center, Naval Air Station, Alameda, California, in early August, and mighty happy we all are to have him, too. He arrived fresh from an indoctrination course at Newport, R. I., and freshly married, too, and if he was disappointed not to be assigned to the Center at NAS Jacksonville, Florida, near his famous and much-respected Dad, he has been polite enough to conceal it. What with the California Bureau of Vector Control and all these Mosquito Abatement Districts around him, if he had any idea of getting *away* from mosquitoes, he might just as well abandon it! Anyway, as we said when we first heard he was now in the Navy . . . Welcome Aboard!

ANOTHER NAVY MAN, OUR EX-PREX "Mo" HIRST IS JUST ABOUT AS HARD TO KEEP TRACK OF AS UNCLE HARRY STAGE, but we managed to catch hold of his coat-tails momentarily as he went with his family through San Francisco en route to his new station. After a short visit to old home towns, he reported in at the U. S. Naval Medical School, National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Maryland, which is right across the road from the National Institutes of Health, as many of you know, and right in the hub of things entomological and culicidological. "Mo" is busily whipping up activity in the Nominating Committee, and very efficiently, we might add, with the expectation that a comprehensive slate representing a wide sampling of choices will be presented in the issue of *Mosquito News* appearing just before the 1960 meeting.

AND IN THE NO-ONE-EVER-TELLS-US-ANYTHING DEPARTMENT we had word via "Mo" that STEPHEN M. K. HU had slipped through San Francisco a while back on a brief visit to his children here on the mainland. Dr. and Mrs. Hu, after a stop in Honolulu to see their old haunts and friends (these are not the same and

no old joke is intended, so watch it, boy), were on this continent for a two-week stay and then returned to the Naval Medical Research Unit No. 2, on Formosa.

SPEAKING OF OUR CONSTANT PLEAS FOR PEOPLE TO SEND US NEWS AND NOTES, we *do* appreciate the time you-all take from your busy schedules to send us these items. We are deeply grateful and we most devoutly hope that our failure to acknowledge these gems, other than to run them in this column, will not deter any of our good, kind, generous correspondents from making further contributions. WE KNOW that the way to get letters is to write them, but . . . Anyway, please don't think your letters have just dropped in a well. And do keep us on your list!!

ONE DEVOTED CORRESPONDENT IS BILL BICKLEY WHO SPOTTED THE FOLLOWING DISPATCH IN THE WASHINGTON POST:

N. J. Mosquitoes Win

Trenton, N. J., Sept. 1 (AP)—Okay, you pesky New Jersey mosquitoes, they're throwing in the towel. You win.

State Sen. Charles W. Sandman, bowing to the inevitable, yesterday introduced a bill to change the title of County Mosquito Extermination Commissions to Mosquito Control Commissions.

End of quote. Never mind, New Jersey, we all have problems!

SPEAKING OF NEWSPAPERS, THE WRITE-UP LES BRUMBAUGH GOT IN THE STOCKTON (CALIF.) RECORD, which we reported here last time, and several he has had since, all sounded so good, we decided to visit him ourselves. Les has what is undoubtedly the most elaborate and well-equipped set of offices, laboratories and shops in our entire experience, military or otherwise. His program, coming up from scratch in four short years, is a testament to the value of having the right tools to work with and we were also impressed with the completeness of his records. He has a field data sheet for just about everything you usually wish later you'd kept a record of, and this really awed us; because in the military, of course, you have to have almost-perfect records, lest some Big Brass come around some fine day and demand to know what in Tunket mosquito abatement is *for* and why have it when there aren't any mosquitoes? Les feels it's equally important for waving in front of political Brass and his trustees have shown an enthusiastic appreciation. Incidentally, while county taxes rose in his area this year, Les cannily reduced his bite (a *little*) and this won him no really dedicated critics. He has a number of pamphlets and things, too, and samples of these are all available, if you are interested.

ROLLIE DORER'S AND THE VIRGINIA MOSQUITO CONTROL ASSOCIATION'S fine little news-sheet, *The Skeeter*, announces in its July-and-August issue that Mr. John Lamb, entomologist of the Virginia Bureau of Insect and Rodent Control, is commencing a study of sewage oxidation ponds in their relation to mosquito breeding. The method of oxidizing and digesting sewage in ponds has become more and more widely adopted and with its use has come the inevitable question of its effect on pest and vector populations. The results of this study will be of great interest to many of us and we shall await their publication with impatience.

ACCORDING TO OUR SAME DEPENDABLE LITTLE SOURCE, the new-style revival of paris green larvicide, which was developed in Florida and on which CLYDE FEHN of the USPHS Savannah lab reported at the VMCA meetings last year, is showing very promising results in Virginia and has a number of practical advantages in application. It reaches well into obstructed or overgrown water collections, can be applied when or where oil would be unsuitable, is inexpensive, long-lasting in hard-bottom situations, such as boats and tires, and is simple to apply.

DR. A. W. A. BROWN RECENTLY SENT US A ROUNDUP OF SOME OF HIS VARIED ACTIVITIES AND 'THEY SOUND MIGHTY INTERESTING, NOT TO SAY FASCINATING'. In late May and June, he visited Czechoslovakia, Poland, Roumania, Bulgaria and Yugoslavia as a WHO consultant and put out a mimeographed report, "WHO/Insecticides/59," available in mimeographed form from WHO, Palais des Nations, Geneva. He says that while pest control programs are mainly restricted to Hodonin and Bratislava, Czechoslovakia; to Szczecin in Poland; and to islands in the Danube in Roumania, anti-anopheline measures are still necessary and are vigorously prosecuted in Southern Roumania, Bulgaria and Yugoslavia. Public health insect control is undertaken in all these countries by the system of Sanepid units in each district. Tony also went on to Australia, where among other things he took part in a seminar on resistance, similar to one with which he assisted in Cairo in May. (We imagine this is a modest way of saying Tony taught a class in resistance! Very few of us are as comprehensively informed as Tony is.)

ANOTHER WHO'ER FROM WHOM WE HEAR ALL TOO SELDOM IS DON PLETSCHE and now we have a letter from him, too! He writes, "Things have been humming in the Mexican malaria eradication program. The third year of total spraying operational coverage will end in December, 1959, with one year of spraying operations left to go. More than 3.3 million houses are receiving intradomestic treatment with DDT (some with dieldrin) in the malarious area, so

there are more than 6 million house-spraying operations being done each year (DDT areas are being treated twice)." (That word "intradomestic" is just how Doctors talk; us folks say "inside the house," but don't be thrown off by that, because Don is really a do-er as most of you know.) Dr. Pletsch goes on to say, "Spraying operations are really well organized. More than 2,500 spraymen are working full time under excellent supervision. Epidemiological evaluation is assuming increasing importance and Dr. LUIS VARGAS' Office of Evaluation is of more and more importance as the 'score' starts to roll in from more than 70,000 localities. There are definitely some tough foci," he concludes, "but I'm very optimistic about attaining the eradication objective here."

ANOTHER WHO PROJECT IN MALARIA ERADICATION, as reported in the University of Minnesota's *Newletter*, is a Malaria Pilot Project in the Sudan, headed by a Dr. A. A. Soliman, whose headquarters is in Sennar, a small town on the Blue Nile about 150 miles south of Khartoum. The principal vector is *A. gambiae*, but eight other species also prevail in the area, among which *A. funestus* has also been implicated as a vector.

ONE OF OUR OWN INTERNATIONAL TYPES HERE AT HOME IS DR. ERNESTINE THURMAN, who we thought was about as busy as she could be, what with the Good Neighbor Club and all, but she has written a delightful chapter giving an evaluation of Dr. R. E. Snodgrass' great work and a most interesting account of his life, which became part of a volume published by the Smithsonian Institution in honor of Dr. Snodgrass' 84th birthday. *Science*, in its review, took occasion to single Ernestine's chapter out for especial praise, mentioning that she found to illustrate it, a number of cartoons and nonentomological drawings by Snodgrass and closed the chapter with a very characteristic personal note by the artist. The review in *Science* is by ALAN STONE, a not-unknown AMCA'er himself.

THE CALIFORNIA MOSQUITO CONTROL ASSOCIATION'S YEAR BOOK for 1959, now available, lists among the interesting and valuable data in the several tables, the tax rates enjoyed by the several Districts. These range from .005 to .40, the lowest rates being usually, but not always, from the most metropolitan areas with the highest property evaluations. There is also a wealth of material on source reduction and insecticiding.

THE ILLINOIS MOSQUITO CONTROL ASSOCIATION CELEBRATED ITS FIFTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE this year and the program included papers on the vital question of the often-assumed conflict between the use of insecticides and the conservation of wild life, a matter on which a good deal of actual, on-the-ground observation and counting have been done in this state.

DR. FRED C. BISHOPP'S NEW ADDRESS will be E. River Drive and Edgewood Avenue, Ft. Meyers, Florida. MAJOR R. M. ALTMAN is now at the University of Maryland, College Park, studying with BILL BICKLEY (we're going to have to put the professor in uniform, the way he's handling the education of the Armed Forces for us!), and FRED MORTON is now at the Engineer Office, HQ USARCARIB, Ft. Amador, Canal Zone. MAJOR TED BLAKESLEE has left the Army Environmental Health Laboratory for the 6th U. S. Army Medical Laboratory at Ft. Baker, California, while MAJOR BOB STAPP has left the A.E.H.L. for the 5th U. S. Army Medical Laboratory at 12th and Spruce Sts. in St. Louis (2), Missouri. RUSSEL D. ANDERSON, making perhaps the best move of all, has traded beautiful (but cold in the winter) Salt Lake City for beautiful and warm Laie, Oahu, Hawaii, P.O. Box 59. We guess even a box, if it's in Hawaii, is pretty good to live in. Steig to the contrary notwithstanding.

FRANCISCO DY, OF THE WHO REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE WESTERN PACIFIC IN MANILA, has sent us a reprint from the *Acta Medica Philippina* which concerns work he did on malaria eradication in 1956; it was a little delayed in being published by *Acta*, but is nevertheless still interesting. In it, Dr. (and also Col.) Dy tells of the need to convince people that spraying the insides of houses against a supposedly "wild" species would break the chain of transmission even if it did not eradicate the species, a problem he had had previously when we had a military malaria prevention program in the Philippines. It reminds us that this is our never-ending need in mosquito control, to convince Our Public, which often includes our potentially staunchest friends among the Medics and the Engineers, that mosquito control *does work*.

FOR WHO'S WHO THIS MONTH WE HAVE ONE OF OUR OLDEST (LONGEST, THAT IS) AND ONE OF OUR YOUNGEST MEMBERS:

JONATHAN S. GIBSON of the Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Co., Newport News, Virginia has been a member for 13 years and involved in mosquito control since 1932. This doesn't tell the whole story by a long shot, though. He was born in County Antrim, in Northern Ireland in 1901 of American parentage, grandparentage and great-grandparentage and was one of 6 brothers and 2 sisters, who now live, in addition to Northern Ireland, in Canada, Australia, Singapore, England and here. He was educated in Belfast and went to the College of Technology there, graduating as an honor student and medal winner in Naval Architecture and Sanitary Engineering, and then going on to Queens Uni-

versity to receive a degree there in Naval Architecture also. He arrived in the United States in 1927 and has been in Newport News ever since. It didn't take him long to become interested in mosquito control and since no one else was doing so, he sought out Rollie Dorer and began beating the drums to whip up some interest. He was highly successful, as the present-day control thereabouts testifies, and was President of the VMCA in 1951. Married in 1934, he has a daughter who graduated from the University of North Carolina with a B.Sc. this past June and a son who entered Duke this year.

NOT TO BE OUTDONE BY ITS OLDER AND MORE EXPERIENCED COMPATRIOTS, THE LOUISIANA MOSQUITO CONTROL ASSOCIATION has got out a number of very fine information bulletins on the costs of mosquito control, the methods employed, the actions which can be taken by citizens to assist, and other vital factors in establishing a sound program. More elaborate and of much interest and value to technical people in laboratory and field work, is the LMCA Technical Bulletin No. 1, entitled, "Distribution and Relative Abundance of Mosquito Species in Louisiana," by E. B. JOHNSON, which was kindly sent to us by Professor E. S. HATHAWAY. This slim bulletin gives extensive catch data for each parish and a fine and concise summary of the characteristics of each species in Louisiana. For a group which claims modestly it is still not "off the ground," the LMCA shows a lot of git up and git. They have no paid officials but they must by now have a lot of convinced admirers. In addition to all the above, they also got out mimeographed training material, such as an "Introduction to the Study of Mosquitoes," for use in colleges and high schools.

OUR YOUNG MEMBER, or at least one of our newest, was born in 1934 in Tallahassee, Florida, and received his schooling in that state, culminating in a B.S. and M.S. at the University of Florida. Despite his youth, he has had quite a bit of experience, having spent about 1 year with the Florida State Board of Health, Bureau of Entomology, doing mosquito identification, 6 months with the U. S. Department of Agriculture laboratory at Orlando, 9 months with the State Plant Board and another 9 months with the University's Department of Entomology as a Graduate Assistant. After a tour in the Navy's indoctrination course, he married a pretty lady from Albany, Georgia, and came to California to the Disease Vector Control Center. We guess that about gives it away, if you've read the first part of this column. It's ENSIGN JOHN A. MULRENNAN, JR., we're talking about, and welcome aboard AMCA, too, Johnny!