

NEWS AND NOTES

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AMONG THE NEW MEMBERS LISTED ON THE OCCASIONAL INFORMATION SHEET TED RALEY SENDS AROUND we note several who have long been known to mosquito control workers, among them MAJOR MILTON B. FLEMINGS of the First Army Medical Laboratory, FRED J. DANOS of the First Naval District and G. C. LABRECQUE of the Orlando Laboratory of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Welcome Aboard! And Welcome, too, to you new members whom we don't happen to know but hope to!

Incidentally, we find it of interest, and think you may also, that the list of libraries and schools which find MOSQUITO NEWS essential to maintaining adequate files of scientific periodicals, now stretches around the world, from Australia to Hong Kong to Delhi, India, to Uganda, and even to Moscow and Leningrad. (We were fascinated to discover from these latter listings that the Russian cities run to not less than 164 and 219 postal zones, respectively. Better watch it, New York and Tokyo!)

ALAMEDA COUNTY (CALIF.) STARTED OFF THE NEW YEAR RIGHT according to an article in the San Francisco Chronicle which commenced, "A pretty young Hayward mother showed the Alameda County Board of Supervisors a solution to a sticky housefly problem yesterday." The trouble had started a month earlier, according to the newspaper, when housewives became embattled over hordes of flies invading their homes. They blamed the chicken farmers. The farmers claimed they were innocent. There is no one as innocent as a chicken farmer, particularly one who doesn't clean out from under his cages once in a blue moon and doesn't wash often enough to get the mess wet so the *Hermetia* and rat-tailed maggots can clean it out. Oh . . . the solution the young housewife had? Call in the Mosquito Abatement District. (That's our CHET ROBINSON.)

WHEN DR. STAN FREEBORN RETIRED AS CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT DAVIS last July, we thought that by now we would be able to bring you news of his leisurely trip around the world with stopovers at mosquito-important places like Indonesia (where EVERYONE goes) and Africa. However, far from "retiring" as Emeritus Chancellor, Stan has dived back into the academic world of research and teaching from which duty had increasingly called him. In addition to continuing his advisory functions, working with President Kerr of the University on relationships of the University to higher education throughout the state, serving on numerous committees of professional and scientific societies, and all that, Stan has launched a major project to study the flight habits of the western encephalitis mosquito, *Culex tarsalis*.

IN LINE WITH THE RISING INTEREST IN ENCEPHALITIS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, A SYMPOSIUM ON EASTERN EQUINE ENCEPHALITIS WAS HELD BY THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND ON 18 November. The symposium included discussion by medical men, veterinarians, epidemiologists, virologists and entomologists, who pointed out that the mortality among humans is between 65 percent and 75 percent. As with other types, the reservoir is thought to be birds, in which the densest incidence of virus occurs, and the likeliest mosquito vector for the Eastern virus is *Aedes sollicitans*, but this remains to be proved.

ROLLIE DORER AND THE VMCA's news sheet *Skæter* report that the color film the Virginia Association and the Virginia State Health Department produced, which is entitled, "Mosquito Control in Virginia," was shown on TV as a program for a Fifth Grade science class, beamed for the Norfolk city schools but also received in nearby counties. Audience reaction was good and Rollie hopes that similar use may be made of the film in the future. It will also be shown at the CDC-IMCA short course in mosquito control to be held at the Des Plaines Mosquito Abatement District (Illinois) headquarters, 1-5 February, 1960.

RALPH BARR SENDS US WORD OF A REVIEW OF THE GENUS *Culiseta* being undertaken by Dr. N. V. Dobrotworsky of the Zoology Department of the University of Melbourne. Dr. Dobrotworsky would like to receive mosquitoes of this genus in any stage of development and Ralph comments that if all culicidologists (meaning mosquito control types) would cooperate in securing material for projects such as this, it would do much to settle nomenclatural questions and to stabilize the names of mosquitoes. Eggs, larvae of all stages, pupae, and adults in alcohol and pinned, are all wanted. They should, of course, be carefully packed. The address of the University of Melbourne is Carleton N.3, Victoria, Australia.

DON PLETSCH, WHO TOLD US ABOUT THE PROGRESS OF THE MALARIA ERADICATION PROGRAM IN MEXICO, as reported in the last issue, sent us a comic book for a New Year's card. It's entitled "Las Aventuras de Pillin" with a subtitle, "Contra el paludismo," and a mighty cute and eye-catching affair it is. Besides Pillin's adventures against malaria, the booklet includes a puzzle maze with sideline lessons in malaria control and a crossword puzzle of the same sort. Don used to be on Taiwan, as you all know, and he adds, "It may be of interest to Mosquito News readers to know that the malaria eradication program in Taiwan has been carried out with such enthusiasm and effectiveness that the final goal is definitely in

sight. In an area with 5,500,000 of the 11,000,000 inhabitants formerly exposed to malaria, the only cases now found (127 in the first semester of 1959) are now limited to 9 small foci with 10,000 inhabitants in total. Extraordinarily active measures are being taken by the national specialists, with WHO and ICA support, to clean up these foci. . . . I am sure they will succeed in the near future."

TRAVIS MCNEEL HAS RETIRED AFTER "THIRTY-SIX YEARS OF MOST PLEASANT WORK" which included five years of foreign service in places as far as Manila and as near as Mexico City. Mac and his wife have built a house and settled in Tallulah, Louisiana, where they have long had many friends and kinfolk, and their ranch-type house looks mighty pretty. Alarmingly, Mac said he'd had a heart attack, but adds he's all right now and sent along a picture looking his old, changeless self, to prove it. Happy days, Mac!

THOSE WHO ARE INTERESTED IN THE NEW PLASTIC FILM DITCH LINERS so often mentioned lately by weed control people, will find an excellent and thorough-going article in the December issue *California Vector Views*. Details of preparation of the ditch and laying the 4 mil thick film, are discussed, the rate of installation being given as 80 feet per man-hour. The film is said to last three years.

FOR THOSE OF OUR READERS WHO DON'T RECEIVE *Vector Views* REGULARLY, we think we should note also the excellent article by our DICK PETERS in the October, 1959, issue of that publication. His subject is "Public Health Vector Control—a Career Opportunity for Entomologists" and, frankly, we didn't know we had it so good, but it sure ought to bring out the neophytes. His conclusion must have sustained CHET ROBINSON'S fainting spirits when he was handed the fly problem so blithely, as we mentioned above. Dick feels, and backs it up, that controllers must move onward to meet the challenge, for the goal is attainable. "Faint heart, say not the way be long. . . ."

COMMANDER DON MURRAY SPENT HIS TWO WEEKS ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY WITH THE NAVY DISEASE VECTOR CONTROL CENTER and made himself mighty useful to CAPT. DICK HOLWAY and to yours truly, Ye Ed of N and N being in an Allied part of the Navy. Don said that his District (Delta MAD, in Visalia, California) had the driest year in the last 81, which, unfortunately meant *lots* of irrigation, *lots* of catch-basin puddles, and *lots* of backyard headaches.

THE VIRGINIA MOSQUITO CONTROL ASSOCIATION'S *Skeeter* HAS ALSO ANNOUNCED two other notable events. The first, the appointment of Rollie Dorer as project Director for a recently approved

National Institutes of Health grant for a survey of Rocky Mountain spotted fever in Virginia, which is planned to determine existing and potential infection in man, animals and environment; and their ecological relationships. The second event: the Annual Meeting of the Association on 23 February, 1960, at the Moose Hall on Rt. 17 south of Portsmouth.

GEORGE THOMPSON REPORTS ON HIS LATE SEASON MOSQUITO POPULATIONS with a shift from outdoor wild populations to artificial container breeders, mostly *C. quinquefasciatus*, but a reduced *C. salinarius* population staying on. He adds, "In the event some ecologist should read this—does anyone have any idea as to why we have almost no *Anopheles punctipennis* in this area?" Any answers?

CALIFORNIA SUFFERED A LATE FALL AND EARLY WINTER DROUGHT WHICH DID MORE THAN GIVE ULCERS TO THE WINTER OLYMPICS COMMITTEE. It also brought sorrow to the already greyed heads of the Mosquito Abatement Districts all over, and especially in the Northern areas where a single torrent in the middle of September compounded the trouble by washing away all residuals, scooping out new potholes and then leaving behind innumerable puddles and catchbasins for the mosquitoes to enjoy the unseasonably balmy weather which thereupon prevailed for 90 days, until the coming of 1960. From CHET ROBINSON'S Alameda District to JOHN BRAWLEY'S Kings County District and DON MURRAY'S Delta District in the south central valley, Managers had a wild scramble trying to carry on control measures normally discontinued by the end of September and still encompass vacation schedules designed to coincide with a "minimum" activity period. It looked downright funny, all these Californians praying for snow!

OUR FIRST PERSON IN WHO'S WHO IN THE AMCA THIS MONTH IS ONE OF OUR EARLY MEMBERS, LT. COL. JOSEPH E. WEBB, JR., whose Army career has taken him to a great many places on both sides of both oceans. After graduating from Clemson College, South Carolina, Joe remained a student of fruit insects in the land of peaches, until 1941 when the war ended his nearly ten years of quiet agricultural life and shook him out of the Georgia Department of Entomology and into the middle of a mess of mosquitoes at Camp Blanding, Fla. When the Pacific War began to roar through the Islands, he went out as Chief of the Entomology Section of the 18th Medical General Laboratory and then was brought back at the war's end to be an instructor at the Medical Field Service School, at Ft. Sam Houston in Texas. A tour as consultant to the Far East Command occupation forces in Japan and headquarters in the Philippines, Okinawa & Korea impressed his hosts so much with Joe (and perhaps impressed Joe so much with Japan) that he and his charming

family soon found themselves living in Yokohama where Joe became entomologist for the Headquarters, Eighth Army, until the spring of 1950. A tour at the School at Ft. Sam and then at the Fourth Army Medical Laboratory took up the next three years and was followed by five years in the European theatre, in Germany. Last July, Joe came back to these shores (it's a wonder he recognized them) and has spent the past months at the School at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D. C., before moving on to the Office of the Surgeon General, where he is replacing Col. S. C. Dews upon Sam's retirement from active military duty. Welcome back, Joe!

JOHN R. ARNOLD SAYS HE ISN'T SURE HE STILL QUALIFIES AS A MOSQUITO TYPE BUT WE THINK HE IS. Jack graduated from Fresno State College in 1932 and before that we had seen him energetically chasing down dried fruit and fig insects summertimes at the USDA laboratory there. In 1934 he received his MA from the University of California and in 1938 his Ph.D. was awarded him by Cornell for work in ornithology and economic entomology. From 1938 to 1942 he taught at Stockton Junior College and from 1946 to the present has been a professor, the U. S. Army having taken its customary bite out of his life in the missing interval. He is now Dean of Instruction and pretty busy at it but maintains his connection with the College of the Pacific and as consultant to Les Brumbaugh's North San Joaquin Mosquito Abatement District.

OUR NEXT THREE WHO'S WHO'S WERE BORN AT SUCH RECENT DATES THAT I DIDN'T BELIEVE TOM LAURET when he said he was once a member of the Army Air Corps. Couldn't be old enough, sez I. Anyway . . . Tom was born in 1927 in Cleveland, Ohio, but grew up in California and went to High School at Fremont High, in Sunnyvale, not far from his present base of operations. In an effort to prove his authentic age he claims this was a pretty rural area then, but shux, so was most of California until about 10 years ago. Tom graduated from San Jose State College after finishing his durance in what is now the Air Force, and although he was stationed at Biloxi, Mississippi, where the Army had one of its worst problems, he was unimpressed. After graduating from college, however, and putting in a year with the Coachella Valley MAD, Tom decided that This was It. He has since been the Assistant Manager of the San Mateo County MAD, under Don Grant's leadership, and is concurrently entomologist of the Mataderos MAD, just to the south.

ERNEST E. LUSK was born in Chico, California, in 1926 and had his collegiate training at Chico State College, receiving his BA in 1951. (He had gone into the Navy upon finishing High School and spent his time as First Class Seaman on a

destroyer, no snap.) After graduation from college, Ernie was manager-entomologist of the Los Molinos and Corning MAD's in Tehama County (California) and then spent some time with Chipman Chemical Co. and as a biology teacher in Sacramento. About a year ago the Bureau of Vector Control pirated him from the Department of Education to take Don Green's place (Don, you remember, is in Brazil) in the BVC Sacramento office.

LEON L. HALL, who was entomologist with Les Brumbaugh at the San Joaquin Mosquito Abatement District (California), and is now the entomologist-manager of the new Fresno West-side MAD, was born 35 years ago in Wellsville, Utah. He graduated from Utah State University, where he studied under George Knowlton, and had a most fascinating military career, having entered France and England as a Staff Sergeant in the U. S. Corps of Engineers and emerged as a Lieutenant . . . in the Air Force. This grub to butterfly sort of thing isn't perhaps too astonishing in an entomologist. Afterward, in civilian life, Leon stayed on the ground teaching high school biology and then working on insects connected with alfalfa seed production but soon took to the air with crop spraying and thence into mosquito control. Three years as entomologist for Butte County (California) led to the aforementioned activity in the commencement of the San Joaquin MAD and then to the present District, which is in the lower part of the same valley. Leon is active in the CMCA and helped to originate the annual entomology seminars held by the Association. He was chairman of the entomology committee when the excellent "Guide to the Mosquitoes of California" was published and is presently Chairman of the Insecticide Committee, which is revising "A Guide to the Use of Insecticides in California Mosquito Control."

STUDENTS OF POLITICAL SCIENCE HAVE BEEN POINTING OUT FOR SOME TIME that the reason the countries of West Africa are gaining independence so much faster than those of East Africa is that Europeans can't live in West Africa very comfortably. Now, according to *SCAN*, the Shell Oil Company's Agricultural Newsletter, "The exaltation of the lowly little mosquito to a national symbol has been suggested in Nigeria. Letters to a Lagos newspaper urged Nigeria to put the mosquito in the national flag on the grounds that, without it, independence from Great Britain might not be in the offing in 1960." This calls for an agonizing reappraisal.

IN LINE WITH THE INCREASING AWARENESS OF MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICTS THAT THEIR PURVIEW EXTENDS BEYOND MERE CONTROL, the San Mateo Mosquito Abatement District and the Lake Mosquito Abatement District (California) have voted funds to match a \$20,000 grant from the

State for research on their respective problems with gnats. At the same time, the Southeast Mosquito Abatement District, in the same state, has been selected as the seat for an \$8,000 research project by the University of California at Riverside, on a grant from the Los Angeles Flood Control District, for studying tendipedids. The University has also a \$15,000 project on *Hippelates*.

THE SOUTH COOK COUNTY MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT has brought out a small leaflet entitled, "Mosquito Control and Insecticides," which we are sure must be most enlightening and reassuring to the citizens of their District. Among other things, it meets head on the vague fears which have been raised in so many uninformed people's breasts by "popular" magazine articles, so often quoted to us. After laying the facts unemotionally on the line, the questions is asked, "Finally, what is being done to reduce the use of insecticides here—and can I help?" The answer is given: "The SCCMAD has undertaken a 'source reduction' program of water management whereby mosquito producing sites are made unsuited to 'breeding' of these insects." There follows a short discussion of the types of source reduction and the leaflet goes on to describe the actions an ordinary citizen can take to help in water conservation and management and in the maintenance of good ditches and adequate drainage.

ERNESTINE THURMAN GRACED HER OLD HAUNTS AND DELIGHTED HER OLD FRIENDS IN BERKELEY (CALIFORNIA!) back in January, when she visited the Bureau of Vector Control, the Hooper Foundation, the University of California, and others in the Bay Area. She also visited DR. STAN FREEBORN, who has been ill and will have to take a slight raincheck on all those activities we told you about at the start of this column. (He'd appreciate a note from all his friends, we'll bet.) Dr. Thurman interviewed National Institutes of Health

grantees, too, and was most pleased and gratified at the condition of all the research projects embraced by that wide program. California was pleased and gratified, too, but sad that Ernestine couldn't stay a bit.

IF WE SEEM TO LEAN HEAVILY ON CALIFORNIA THIS ISSUE IT'S BECAUSE THEY'RE CLOSEST AND OUR DEADLINE GOT MOVED UP but anyway, here are two more little bits. According to our spies, RUSS FONTAINE is due back in this country in mid-April, after a leisurely trip home via Asia Minor and Europe. We'll nail him for news of *that*. And "BUCK" BUCHANAN has been called to the ICA School in Jamaica, a school which sounds better and better and we wish we could go take a course there at least. (You wonder why THIS is news from California? Well, we got it in California.)

ONE LAST REMARK ABOUT CALIFORNIA AND WE'RE THROUGH: COPIES OF THE FIELD GUIDE TO THE COMMON MOSQUITOES OF CALIFORNIA are still available at \$1.00 per copy. Copies may be secured by contacting the Secretary of the California Mosquito Control Association, DON MURRAY, at the Delta Mosquito Abatement District, Visalia, California. The *Field Guide* has a well-illustrated adult and larval key with all characters clearly pointed to aid the beginning as well as the advanced students in mosquito taxonomy. A distribution chart is included to list the species as to the counties in which they have been collected. Each term used is defined in a simple glossary. There is also a brief biological description of each species, of which there are twenty-five. Sectionalism aside (and we know NO one can accuse us of sectionalism), this little *Guide* is a very handy thing, even for those of other regions who will find it useful on busy, busy days in making quick determinations of genera with which they may not have frequent contact.

In the June, 1959, number of *Mosquito News* we recorded the deaths that same month of Sam Minnich and Will Snow, and mentioned also the deaths of Robert Matheson and Clell Wisecup. In the meantime, friends of these valued members of AMCA have contributed material on them for more detailed notices of their careers and achievements. We have already included articles on Dr. Matheson and Sam Minnich. In the paragraphs below are in-

cluded appreciative remarks by Gordon Smith for Will Snow, and by Fred Bishopp for Clell Wisecup. Dr. Bishopp has also contributed the information on William I. Fee which follows his remarks about Mr. Wisecup. The present date, March, 1960, may seem a long time to wait to publish a note about Mr. Fee, but his work was of such a pioneering nature that it has a timelessness that renders it appropriate to review it even more than a year late.