

NEWS AND NOTES

AUSTIN W. MORRILL, Jr.

OUR EARLY DEADLINE OF LAST ISSUE MEANS THAT SOME OF THE NEWS YOU'RE ABOUT TO GET ISN'T REALLY THE LATEST FLASH BUT WE THINK YOU'LL STILL BE INTERESTED TO KNOW THAT ARCHIE HESS HAS BEEN TO BRAZIL TO ATTEND A MALARIA ERADICATION CONFERENCE (peace, Harold Gray . . . Malaria Control Conference) in the little city of Petropolis, near Rio de Janiero. Besides working to map out international programs, the conference also worked on a standardization and simplification of terms, a welcome thing certainly, but a hard task. From Rio, Archie came back by way of San Juan, Puerto Rico, and Trinidad. We bet Archie got a swell lot of pictures en route, along with all else he did, including, no doubt, some of Brasilia before opening day.

ON 25, 6 and 7 January, just too late for the above mentioned deadline, the California Mosquito Control Association held its annual meeting in Marysville, California, with T. M. Sperbeck as host and enlivened by some of the most provocative and stimulating discussions we've listened to in a long time. From afar, came AMCA'ers GLENN COLLETT, H. C. CHAPMAN, J. E. GRAHAM, C. M. GJULLIN, GAINES W. EDDY, LOUIS OGDEN, and from far off Minneapolis, AL BUZICKY headed a *delegation* which included the Chairman of his Board! RALPH BARR and his associates presented reports on some excitingly new attacks on old, old problems, including such things as a workable trap for larvae, to supplement dipping and plain observations; a method of spraying things onto aëdine egg-laying grounds to make the eggs hatch prematurely or delay them fatally; the discovery of new mosquito diseases, particularly a horrible-looking *Microsporidium* and what may be the world's first discovery of a bacterial disease of mosquitoes; and finally a paper by BETTINA ROSAY on morphological changes in adult mosquito females which will give us clues to how long they've been emerged and by inference how far they could have come from.

There was also a wealth of papers on practical problems of equipment and abatement district management among which one by DAVE REED was particularly noticeable as aiding those of us who try to sell proper irrigation water management to people that aren't particularly interested in whether or not they cause mosquitoes. Dave showed the dollars and cents improvement in the farmer's crop and cattle yields which ought to make that old pocket-book nerve vibrate like a violin string. All these fascinating papers will be available in the Proceedings. DR. STAN FREEBORN, recuperating from a rather serious operation, was unable to attend but was voted honorary membership, hitherto uniquely held by HAROLD GRAY, the vote receiving a resounding ovation. (Stan says he's fine now, but holding

the line for a while; no extras.) DR. GARDNER MCFARLAND was elected President, LES BRUMBAUGH, President-elect, JOHN BRAWLEY, Vice-President, and DR. DON MURRAY, Secretary. Oh, yes, . . . VMCA's super-excellent film on Mosquito Control in Virginia, applicable anywhere, was shown to a large and enthusiastic audience and it received a real ovation, too. This film has a real professional finish and would make a wonderful color presentation on our local educational TV or school circuit.

VIRGINIA MOSQUITO CONTROL ASSOCIATION'S meeting was held on 23 February, in Craddock, Virginia. VMCA has no dues and no registration fee and all interested mosquito control types are cordially invited. (Remember this for next year!) We remember how good their meetings always are. On the program this year were BOB VANNOTE, DR. BILL BICKLEY, DR. DAN JOBBINS, DR. RICHARD HAYES and DR. CHUCK GERHARDT. Among the other interesting practical discussions was one on Television as a Training Medium, which is becoming more and more pertinent to mosquito control people. (See previous paragraph.) R. G. CARTER and HARRY L. GILBERT were represented by a paper and LESTER SMITH was the Voice of AMCA. Wish we could have been there! Volume VII, No. 2 of VMCA's *Sheeter*, which reports on this is the next best thing!

NOT TO BE OUTDONE, THE YOUNG AND VIGOROUS UTAH MOSQUITO CONTROL ASSOCIATION held its annual meeting on 18 and 19 March, 1960, in Brigham City. LEWIS NIELSEN sent us a note that the meetings were interesting and we know from long experience with all sorts of meetings that the proceedings will reach us just after this issue goes to press, so you'll have to send for the proceedings to learn more. (Advt.) However, we have a paper of Dr. Nielsen's, published in the Utah Academy Proceedings, Vol. 36, in 1959, and just received, on the distribution of *Aedes* mosquitoes in the snow regions of the Rockies, which is a mighty interesting piece of work. He describes careful observations which modify our ideas somewhat on such species as *communis* and *hexodontus*, of interest to many who don't have Rocky Mountains.

US DISENFRANCHISED NON-ATTENDING MEMBERS WERE CHEERED TO LEARN FROM SCOUTS RUNNING BACK FROM THE BOSTON MEETINGS THAT ERNESTINE THURMAN is going to take over the duties of Recording Secretary. We don't know how she does all that she does do but she does it (she is also recording secretary for the Washington Entomological Society, too, for instance) and, by golly, we know she'll turn in her usual accurate,

workmanlike, discerning job for AMCA's records. Her Good Neighbor Club activities, having been vigorously fruitful, should alone have earned her a nice restful assignment with lots of honors and no work, but the needs of the Association *Come First!* Mrs., Dr., Commander Thurman. Aren't we lucky we have you?

RUSS FONTAINE WAS THE HONOR GUEST AT THE BANQUET OF THE CALIFORNIA MOSQUITO CONTROL ASSOCIATION ENTOMOLOGY SEMINAR at Berkeley on the 15th and 16th of April. He gave us a fascinating profile of the vector and pest situation in equatorial Africa, especially Ethiopia and its neighbors. We wish we could do justice to his talk but scribbling statistics as fast as we could we were able only to catch a few. Russ said that at elevations below 7000 feet *A. gambiae* is a very efficient vector, so efficient, in fact, that most of the people have moved upland. *Gambiae*, like its cousins in other tropical places is most effective at the beginning and end of the rainy season, when the rain is not sufficient to "wash them out." Forty to fifty percent of the population are infected; in 1958 there were some 3,000,000 cases recorded around November. Fifty to sixty percent of these cases were *falciparum* and about twenty percent more were *vivax* and *malariae* (each). There are few pest mosquitoes other than vectors, Russ went on to say, though there are about ten species. The diseases include malaria, typhus, yellow fever, relapsing fever, trypanosomiasis, leishmaniasis and filariasis, so you can see they have a real problem and a lot of hard work ahead of them.

ILLINOIS MOSQUITO CONTROL ASSOCIATION MEETINGS WERE HELD 7 and 8 March in Decatur, Illinois, and we're sorry that the announcement reached us too late for the March issue. A mighty interesting session was set up in symposium form for the starter, the discussion concerning safety measures in mosquito control and covering dangers, the insurance company viewpoint and preventative measures. Two other panel discussions covered problems of district organization and practical operations, the latter including pre-hatch control, drainage, chemical control and the forms in which chemicals may be applied. A discussion of the coordination of Government agency programs and those of mosquito abatement districts concluded the meetings.

TOMMY MULHERN HAS SENT US A COPY OF A VERY INTERESTING REPORT HE HAS PREPARED ON POSITION classification in California mosquito abatement agencies. This report contains detailed position descriptions and a limited number of copies are available for furnishing to agencies outside the State of California. The P.D.'s are concise and, what's more important, couched in the special language of personnel directors. They should be very useful to anyone plagued with writing position descriptions that will do justice to the job and convey information in the form in which personnel people need it.

NEW JERSEY MOSQUITO EXTERMINATION ASSOCIATION HELD ITS ANNUAL MEETINGS ON 15, 16 and 17 March, in Atlantic City. Their Proceedings have been so high and so sacred for so long that we won't try to scoop them here . . . particularly since we weren't lucky enough to be able to go, as we once always used to, and our report wouldn't be very accurate. However, ROLLIE DORER reports that he and one of his District assistant Superintendents attended as a return call on Manley Jobbins and Bob Vannote. Rollie presented a paper on the "Use of Surplus Airplane Fuel Pumps for Mosquito Control."

JOHN G. SHANAFELT, JR., ORANGE COUNTY (CALIF.) MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT entomologist, who is also on the program committee for next year's AMCA meetings, included in the 1960 CMCA Yearbook a double page picture spread of Disneyland as a reminder of those meetings. The pictures are all of water and one is of water in lush tropical jungle growth! Doesn't that whet your instincts, mosquito men? Incidentally, the beautiful print job was done by John himself, in his home hobby shop. And *we* can't even type very well! Entomologists are sure various.

THE ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE KINGS COUNTY AND YOLO COUNTY (CALIF.) MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICTS, THE DESPLAINES VALLEY (ILLINOIS) AND SALT LAKE CITY MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICTS AND THE METROPOLITAN DADE CO. (FLA.) MOSQUITO CONTROL DIVISION are all so impressively got up that comparisons would be invidious and, besides that, impossible. And they are all so full of useful observations and tables and photographs we cannot do them justice here. Did you know that in addition to their other duties, as the military phrase goes, the Salt Lake City control people stocked all 602 ornamental ponds in their city with *Gambusia*? Did you know that Desplaines, not to be outdone, has stocked 16 wildlife oases with *Gambusia*, as well as 15 more backyard pools, and found that while only 3 containing fish were breeding mosquitoes, 29 without fish were full of mosquito larvae? Did you know that Miami's anti-mosquito-fish fish, previously noted here, is spreading a little but just can't stand cold weather, and they've started feeding on mosquito larvae themselves? JOHN BRAWLEY's Kings County report has a picture of his airplane flying along so close to the ground you'd assume it was landing if you hadn't seen the pilot at work, but golly, that's the way he sprays . . . right on the deck and we mean *right* on the deck. And GEORGE UMBERGER's Yolo County report includes a study on flight patterns which provide another brick in the structure of knowledge of this important but still incomplete part of mosquito control.

ROY W. CHAMBERLAIN recently addressed a symposium on epidemiology and laboratory aspects of eastern viral encephalomyelitis, according to the February issue of *Lab World*. Dr. Chamberlain, Chief of the Communicable Disease Center's virus vector research unit in Montgomery, Alabama, told

the group meeting at the University of Pennsylvania, that many factors had to come into the picture of mosquito population, bird population and victim; that is, horse and man.

DICK EADS writes that he has exchanged his old job as principal entomologist for the Texas State Department of Health for one as Senior Scientist (Commander) in the U. S. Public Health Service. He had been with the Texas Department of Health since 1939, with time out for three years graduate work and three years in the Navy on malaria control during World War II. Dr. Eads' present assignment is Station Entomologist, at the U. S. Quarantine Station, Brownsville, Texas. He gave up Austin OK, but he couldn't give up Texas. We know how that is, though we had to give up Texas a long time ago, part way, anyhow. We wish him luck in his new assignment!

G. ALLEN MAIL wrote us a month or so ago that as of 31 December 1959, he had retired from the U.S.P.H.S. in Phoenix, Arizona, and is now living in Tucson, where his address is 3020 E. 3rd. St. He says that after 2½ years of seeing his family only on weekends it feels grand to be home all the time but he doesn't plan to stagnate and will welcome visits from all AMCA'ers who come to Sun Land.

ALTHOUGH HARRY HOOGSTRAAL IS NOT AN AMCA'er (AND WHY NOT, HARRY?) he is so well known to so many of us that we thought you'd like to know that he has been presented with the Secretary of the Navy Distinguished Civilian Award for his contributions to naval medical research in the field of epidemiology. Dr. Hoogstraal, at the Naval Medical Research Unit No. 3, Cairo, Egypt, is best known for his contributions on ticks and ectoparasites but he has worked with many of us around the world on mosquito problems, too. During the war, with the Army's 19th Medical General Laboratory up through the Islands, he made friends with natives and foreigners alike throughout that vast area and he has more recently been the recipient of accolades from the Egyptian Government and people, not lately given to accolades toward the United States.

SPEAKING OF COUNTRIES THAT DON'T LIKE US, WE HAVE BEEN THE RECIPIENTS OF A STIRRING APPEAL FROM THE MINISTERIO DE SALUBRIDAD Y ASISTENCIA HOSPITALARIA DE CUBA, dated "Year of the Liberation" and appealing to us to use our influence to get the bust of Dr. Carlos J. Finlay placed in the Hall of Fame of New York University as the conqueror of yellow fever. The Historian who writes the letter points out that Drs. Walter Reed and William Gorgas are already represented there and sends a rather truculent publication which claims that we Americans have deliberately and unanimously refused to give Dr. Finlay his due. This is, of course, nonsense and we, for one, have never seen an account of the fight against yellow fever which did not give Dr. Finlay credit for his years of crying in the wilder-

ness. The fact is, of course, that he is ineligible for the Hall of Fame simply because he was not an American of the United States of America and did not become so by serving as a civilian contract surgeon with the United States Army, however meritorious his work. We thought we'd explain all this for our Cuban friends who may not know the whole story.

WE HAVE A FINE PUBLICATION OUT OF RUSSIA ENTITLED ENTOMOLOGICAL REVUE, WHICH HAS BEEN TRANSLATED BY THE A.I.B.S. This revue is a periodical and is regularly reprinted in English by the Institute and a very worthwhile method of keeping up with things entomological on the other side of the world. This particular issue recently sent us has some very fine *Aedes* keys for females of forest species, including such locally interesting ones as *nigripes*, *excrucians*, *impiger* and *sticticus*, to say nothing of *communis* and *hexodontus*. There is also an interesting discussion of *Anopheles maculipennis* in the Northern Districts of Belorussia (Byelorussia?), its emergence, fly-outs (from swampy breeding zones), hibernation and malaria vectoring. The Revue is intended for subscription by libraries and is priced at \$25.00 per annum, a bargain, but the A.I.B.S. might entertain orders for single copies. Their address is 2000 P St. N.W., Washington 6, D.C.

ALBERT E. WEYER IS CURRENTLY LABORING IN LIBERIA and has written a fascinating letter to the American Society of Professional Biologists, which was duly published in the *News*. It's too long to summarize but in addition to malaria control, cockroach control, ant, bee and milliped control, and such, he has learned to take microscopes apart, clean out the fungi and put them together in focus. This is no common ability, so he finds himself now flooded with offers to lend him material to practice upon, the material to be returned when fixed. Al's boss, Firestone, says, "There's not another man in the whole organization with a job comparable to yours," and Al isn't sure just how to take that. His malaria program covers 90,000 acres on one plantation and 6,000 on another and they extend themselves out two miles all 'round as a protection. They spray over 22,000 houses a year and despite dieldrin resistance, Al thinks they've been pretty successful considering that when he started they often found over 25 *A. gambiae* per square foot of wallpace.

HOW MANY OF YOU READ NEWSWEEK REGULARLY? WELL, YOU OUGHT TO. OUR ESTEEMED CONTEMPORARY RECENTLY "HONORED" ART LINDQUIST with an article entitled "Sex in the Swamp-land" and it started out with about as apocryphal a quotation as one can imagine. But they did manage to stay fairly close to the text on what Dr. Lindquist had to say, which was all about the recent studies on sterilization of males with irradiation.

STAN CARPENTER IS NOW "COLONEL (USA-Ret.)" AND HAS JOINED THE CALIFORNIA BUREAU

OF VECTOR CONTROL IN THE KIND OF RETIREMENT PLAN EVERYONE DREAMS ABOUT. During the summers he will be in the High Sierras (where lesser folk have to pay for their vacations) happily collecting mosquitoes in the booming recreational areas and adding to and evaluating our knowledge of the pest species of these places. In the *winter*, he will remain equally happily ensconced in his estate in Sonoma . . . the valley in which all those luscious wines are made . . . poring over his mosquito collections, a brisk log fire on the hearth and a tiny, eggshell-thin crystal glass of Napa Rosé glowing beside him.

MOSQUITO CONTROL PEOPLE HAVE A MORBID PREOCCUPATION WITH RAINFALL. SOMETIMES, BECAUSE THAT IS ULTIMATELY WHERE ALL OUR WATER COMES FROM. If rainfall is abundant but not too abundant, puddles of one size and type or another form breeding sources for mosquitoes, and if rainfall fails us, irrigation or the collection of wash waters in cisterns and catch basins come into the picture. Back in 1953, a Dr. Richard D. Hoak published some interesting information in the *Chemical and Engineering News*, which may cheer or dismay mosquitomen as they read them. "This country," he says, "does not have as wide average extremes of precipitation as occur in the rest of the world. For the world, average rainfall ranges from less than five inches in desert regions to over 150 inches on the Assam plateau. The maximum rainfall recorded in one year was 905 inches of which 366 inches fell in one month (Cherrapunji, 861). Extremely high rates of precipitation of relatively short duration have occurred in many parts of the world. In the United States, the annual range is from less than five inches in the Southwest to 160 inches in the Pacific Northwest. The average annual rainfall for the whole country is 30 inches, of which 20 and a half inches quickly return to the atmosphere through evapotranspiration, and eight and a half inches run off to streams or percolate into the ground-water table." We can bet that little ole eight and a half inches causes more mosquito headaches than the 366 inches ever lid.

LCDR JOSEPH G. McWILLIAMS, who has been at Naval Medical Research Unit #3, in Cairo, Egypt, is receiving orders to the Disease Vector Control Center, at the Naval Air Station, Alameda, California, where he will replace CAPT. R. T. HOLWAY. Dick is going to the Armed Forces Pest Control Board, of which he will be Secretary, located at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington 25, D.C., replacing Col. RALPH BUNN. We can't tell you where Ralph is going because that's a *SECRET*. (See next issue for this exciting chapter.)

WHO'S WHO this month has two members from opposite sides of the country, both of whom have appeared in our pages before, both of whom (like so many of us) were launched into their interest in mosquitoes by the Armed Forces. We had not thought to analyse this until the other day we

were talking to CAPT. HOLWAY and COL. SAM DEWS and the conversation got around to how lost we had felt the first time someone stuck a dipper in our hands and we realized that *we* were supposed to come up with something. Well, the Army had COL. W. V. KING and COL. CARPENTER and the Navy had CAPT. KEN KNIGHT and the then LCDRs DICK BOHART and CHARLIE WILSON. The rest of us were still mainly interested in termites and storage insects and grasshoppers. Any of you AMCA'ers got more info on this? Write in.

COL. SAMUEL C. DEWS, BY THE WAY, HAS EXCHANGED HIS UNIFORM FOR CIVVIES and his address at the Office of the Surgeon General for the Office of the Chief Engineers, U. S. Army, where he is assistant to DOYLE REED in their Insect and Rodent Control Section. While we're talking about him, let's add him to our WHO'S WHO and start off. Sam was born in Tonganoxie, Kansas, and went to school there, going on to the University of Kansas, where he received his AB in 1930 and his MS in 1932. As the conversation we mentioned brought out, he worked on pink boll worm, corn worm and grasshoppers and even ran a pest control business for several years. In 1940 he went to the State of Kansas as assistant to the State Entomologist, but almost at once received a red bordered letter which started off "Greetings . . ." and found his neighbors had suggested his name to the Army. A Reservist in the Sanitary Corps, Sam was assigned to Camp (later Ft.) Jackson, S. C. as entomologist and quickly won attention in the headquarters of the Fourth Service Command for his dependability, good sense and fine professional qualities, one of which was his imperturbability. (If you think *that* isn't a prime quality you have never been in the Army.) So Sam ran the entomological program of the Service Command for the duration of the war, setting up with Stan Carpenter what this Department still thinks was the finest coordination of survey and control ever practiced. It really produced results, as the many distinguished entomologists who passed through camps and stations in the seven southeastern states during the war can testify. At the close of the war, Lt. Col. Dewes went to the Department of Agriculture in Gulfport, but the lure of mosquitoes proved too strong and he took the job of setting up a program for military stations in Japan under the Occupation. When Korea broke forth in a war, Sam was one of the prime movers in getting the support organized which fed trained men, materials and equipment to LT. COL. SAM HILL. Then, back in uniform, Sam D. replaced Sam H. at the end of the tour. Thereafter, back in the States, Sam (Dewes) went to Ft. Bragg, and then to the Army Environmental Health Laboratory in Maryland and then to the Office of the Surgeon General. You can see he's been too busy to have hobbies, but he's no mean home carpenter and do-it-yourselfer.

MAJOR MILTON B. FLEMINGS is presently the entomologist of the First Army Medical Laboratory

and we hear that, if they have their way, he will continue to be for some time. He started, though, as a Southerner, in Fulshear, Texas, and the soft-spokenness stays with him. (He's also the traditional Texan size!) His BS was gained in 1939 from Prairie View College, Texas, his MS from Kansas State and he has gone on to further work at Rutgers. He, too, began outside mosquitodomy, as a high school teacher until Uncle Sam tapped him in 1942. Starting the hard way, as a private, he became a Lieutenant in seven months. He had three overseas tours, on one of which, as a Captain in Japan, he set up a magnificent control program for an Army area located in a city noted for its sanitation problems. Milt enlisted the aid of what has since appeared in the newspapers several times as a militant citizenry. His last overseas tour was in Korea, and we guess that cured him. He is the father of a daughter who is graduating with honors from high school and who plans to enter Radcliffe next fall. His twins, who are twelve years old, a boy and a girl, are entering high school. Milt lists his hobbies as bridge (which sounds sedentary enough until you see that the other is table tennis). He has also done noteworthy work in insecticide resistance, which precludes other hobbies sometimes. He is a member of ESA, Alpha Phi Alpha, and the Agriculture Honor Society Gamma Sigma Delta.

ROBERT K. WASHING was also turned to mosquitoes by a military start, you might say, but it

was transmitted to him by Dr. Dick Bohart and ripened by the Army. He was born and raised in Sacramento, California, attended the University of California, School of Public Health, at Berkeley, and then the University of California at Davis. This is where Dick got in his licks and Bob worked under him for two years, receiving his MS degree at Davis in 1956. Soon after graduation, Bob was married and commissioned in the Army and went to basic training at Ft. Sam Houston, Texas, site of the Environmental Sanitation School. On finishing, Bob and his wife went overseas, where he was stationed at Orleans, France (some 70 miles south of Paris) for two and a half years and it was here that his son was born. Whether having a French son or having a son in the military milieu was the cause, we can't say, but anyhow he left right after that and came back to California to live. Here, he joined the Bureau of Vector Control and commenced work on the cooperative project jointly sponsored at Bakersfield by the BVC, the University of California (BILL REEVES) and the U.S.P.H.S. They are studying the ecology of Western equine and St. Louis encephalitis in Kern County. Bob is a member also of the ESA and the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene and his hobbies are golf and bowling and collecting mosquitoes in out of the way places. Despite the strenuousness of the first two, we suspect the last is really the most rugged of the lot. At any rate his associates comment in an awed way on his successes in it.

Watch for more information on Disneyland, "Walt Disney's Magic Kingdom," where mosquito control problems can be discussed in the shade of the Matterhorn, on the *Maid of the Mist*, while cruising down a jungle river watching the hippos attack the *Swanee Lady*. You might even see some mosquitoes from a submarine cruising through "Liquid Space," exploring the mysteries of the depths of the Seven Seas.