

NEWS AND NOTES

AUSTIN W. MORRILL, JR.

MOST OF THE ARTICLES WHICH HAVE APPEARED IN RESPONSE TO *SILENT SPRING* HAVE BEEN EITHER HYSTERICAL LAMENTS ABOUT MISSING ROBINS OR ON THE level of the garden column which reported a "new" insecticide called silica gel, a "diatomaceous earth" which killed by piercing the insect with tiny "spears" allowing "the fluid to leak out." Not so the *Deseret News*, however, which interviewed GLEN COLLETT and wrote a witty report on the whole matter. Starting off with the remark that after reading the aforementioned famous book they'd hardly dared draw a good breath of Utah's famed fresh air, they told how relieved they were to find that Glenn had been being careful all along and hadn't after all been panicked into using light traps as a substitute for insecticides because of the furor. "Good old tops-of-the-mountain air. Did it smell good!" they ended.

CDR DON MURRAY BROKE INTO THE NEWS—OR RATHER INTO THE *STAR*, THE WASHINGTON (D. C.) *STAR* THAT IS ON a different kind of deal entirely. Arriving for his annual tour of military duty, at Bethesda, Maryland, Dr. Murray and thirty-one other reservists were ushered into a fallout shelter for a "class" which turned out to be four days underground with no assurance it wasn't going to last all two weeks. Still smiling his famous happy grin, Don got his picture in a great big spread which was spotted at once by alert AMCA'er DON JOHNSON.

DR. MELVIN GRIFFITH OF KANSAS, OKLAHOMA, INDONESIA, THAILAND, INDIA and a good many way-points, made the headlines, too, when he returned recently from three years as regional malaria advisor for the Agency for International Development program in India and pointed out to the press that DDT among other things had reduced malaria in India from being their worst scourge, with a million deaths a year, to being only one tenth of one percent of the reported diseases and a mere 30,000 cases. There are more than 40,000 malaria surveillance workers making their rounds every day of the year, Mel reported, and almost every home in areas of about 400 million people is visited at fortnightly intervals. Mel also pointed out that other Asian countries are achieving good results, too, such as Ceylon with no malaria since mid-1962 and no deaths since 1958.

ROY FRITZ RECENTLY WROTE ED DAVIS (Is Roy a Good Neighbor now, Ed?) that he was finding the work in Geneva plentiful but congenial. Roy's wife had to undergo a rather serious operation, we were saddened at learning, but is recovering nicely and the Fritzes expect soon to be able to resume their occasional jaunts to Italy and Ger-

many and other nearby attractions. Roy says if you're over thataway (and, boy! we'd love to be, Roy) to stop in and see him. His office phone is 33-1000, EXT. 3252, and his home is at Apartment 42, 12 Rue Robert de Traz, Geneva, telephone 36-46-73. He didn't specify what his Area Code is, so just ask the Operator!

SPEAKING OF OPERATIONS, HAROLD GRAY HAD A RATHER SERIOUS ONE RECENTLY, TOO, BUT WE hear he is getting back rapidly into his old form and probably by the time you read this is out supervising the mosquito source reduction at the Oroville Dam.

DR. ANTHONY WILLIAM ALDRIDGE BROWN IS DELIGHTING THE CALIFORNIA BUREAU OF VECTOR CONTROL by working with them for several weeks (actually when you read this, it should all be placed in the past tense, though the delight will be a continuing one, we know) as a special Consultant. They hope to press ever closer to the frontiers of Elysium in working out more perfect standards of techniques for the determination of susceptibility levels like in parathion, and Bayer 29493 and those. Of course, Tony is going to be so busy answering fascinating but collateral questions from all and sundry that heaven only knows how he'll have time for the primary study, but knowing him, we know he'll do. We just put in all those names at the top, by the way, to let you know we knew them, having just looked in *American Men of Science*.

ANOTHER EXPERT CONSULTANT SWELLING THE RANKS OF CALIFORNIANS WILL BE C. M. GTULLIN, who'll put in another summer in the Fresno Lab. (You can see all those old stories about the Terrific Heat in the Central Valley are just hogwash, what with people actually coming in to enjoy our salubrious warmth.) Meanwhile, RALPH BARR, on leave from the Fresno Lab, met with DICK PETERS in far-off Bangkok, presumably so he and Dick could keep tabs on each other but also so he could send word back that he's doing fine and too busy to sort his thoughts out as yet. Dick's trip of 5 weeks was real intensive, he says, though intensely stimulating and interesting . . . no time off. (When have you ever had a chance to get used to *time off*, Dick?) In addition to seeing Ralph, Dick was with ED SMITH and JOHN McDOWELL, with consequent rich discussion.

MEANWHILE WE HAVE HAD A CARD FROM RALPH WHO ALLOWS HE HAD HAD A WONDERFUL TOUR and is looking forward to getting back. We must say he is shore taking a leisurely way of hurrying back, if that's what he's doing. In Hapur, India, he visited with Dr. Lalaan Rai, who has many friends here, then on to Teheran, and thence to

"three lovely days in Athens and Delphi." Now on to Rome, and he'll be here after the middle of September. With Delphic oracular wisdom.

DR. IRVING FOX WROTE ON THE EVE OF THE JUNE ISSUE TO ASK US TO TELL YOU that the School of Medicine of the University of Puerto Rico has announced the availability of predoctoral and postdoctoral fellowships in parasitology, medical entomology and tropical medicine supported by a U. S. Public Health Training Grant. Annual stipends for predoctoral trainees range from \$2,700 to \$3,600; for postdoctoral trainees, from \$5,000 to \$6,000. Faculty members on leave from other universities, who wish to do research under tropical conditions are welcome. For further information write: Dr. Irving Fox, School of Tropical Medicine, San Juan 22, Puerto Rico. Irv, of course, is professor of entomology there. We apologize for the unavoidable lateness of our heralding what sounds like a mighty wonderful opportunity for those lucky enough to be able to take advantage of it.

SPEAKING OF COLLEGES AND SUCH, TWO OF OUR MILITARY ENTOMOLOGISTS ARE RETURNING TO THE HALLS SOON. In July, COL. JOE E. WEBB, JR., retired from the military and took off with a happy heart for his old Alma Mater, Clemson, where he will utilize a National Research Foundation grant to further the knowledge of the biology and ecology of mosquitoes in South Carolina.

THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY, OFFICE OF THE SURGEON GENERAL, ANNOUNCED JOE'S RETIREMENT VERY NICELY AS FOLLOWS: "ARMY'S SENIOR ENTOMOLOGIST RETIRES FROM ACTIVE DUTY. Col. Joseph E. Webb, Jr., MSC, the Army's Senior Entomologist, was presented the First Oak Leaf Cluster to the Army Commendation Medal during his retirement ceremony held recently in the Office of the Army Surgeon General. He has completed more than 21 years of active military duty.

"The citation, which covered the years 1955-63, praised the Colonel's outstanding accomplishments while stationed in Europe, Walter Reed Army Medical Center, and finally in the Office of the Army Surgeon General.

"Assigned to the U. S. Army, Europe from November 1955 to June 1959, Col. Webb was Chief of the Entomology Section, 10th Medical General Laboratory, and later Chief of the Entomology Section, 4th Medical Laboratory.

"From October 1959 to December 1959 while assigned to Walter Reed Army Medical Center, he helped to write the history of entomology in the U. S. Army.

"His last tour of duty was as Chief of the Entomology Section of the Preventive Medicine Division, Directorate of Professional Service, Office of the Army Surgeon General. In this capacity, he organized in-service conferences and symposia for the improvement of disease vector surveillance and control in the Army.

"The Colonel and his family plan to move shortly from their present address at 306 Mansfield Road, Silver Spring, Md. to Clayton, Ga. He anticipates being affiliated with Clemson College, Clemson, S. C."

ALSO, FROM ANOTHER OFFICIAL RELEASE: "LT. COL. ROBERT M. ALTMAN, MSC, has been assigned as Consultant to the Army Surgeon General for Entomology and Vector Control in Washington, D. C. He succeeds Col. Joseph E. Webb, MSC, retired.

"A native of Dothan, Ala., Altman joined the 125th Infantry Intelligence Section at Gilroy, California in 1941 and subsequently served with the Chemical Corps in the European Theater of Operations during the balance of World War II.

"From 1946-49, he reverted to civilian status and completed his Bachelor's and Master's requirements in Entomology at the University of Florida. He also holds his Master's in Public Health from the Johns Hopkins University School of Hygiene and Public Health and his PhD from the University of Maryland.

"Col. Altman returned to active duty in 1949 with the Medical Service Corps and was assigned as Entomologist at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington, D. C. His other important tours of duty as Entomologist include: Brooke Army Medical Center, Fort Sam Houston, Tex.; 37th Preventive Medicine Company, Far East Command; U. S. Army Environmental Hygiene Laboratory, Edgewood Arsenal, Md.; Ft. Clayton, Canal Zone, and the U. S. Department of Agriculture Research Laboratory, Orlando, Florida.

"The Colonel is a member of the American Mosquito Control Association and the Entomological Society of America. He and his wife, the former Jean Ellis of High Springs, Fla., and their two children: Robert G., 12 and Linda, 9 live at 8601 Manchester Road, Silver Spring, Maryland."

GEORGE L. HUTTON, A MONTH OR SO AFTER JOE WEBB, will quietly close the door (leaving BOB PAGE to stare mournfully at the In Basket) and will spend the coming academic year at the Industrial College of the Armed Forces at Ft. McNair in Washington, D. C., one of the military's Most Prestigious Assignments, we might add.

MEANWHILE, THE CALIFORNIA MOSQUITO CONTROL ASSOCIATION WANTS IT KNOWN that their 32nd Annual Meeting will be held on 27-29 January, 1964, at the Sacramento Inn. BILL RUSCONI is program chairman and there are any number of eager AMCA'ers in the area to help any of you with road info and room reservations if you want to spend a winter vacation in the Biggest State, population-wise, on the 1st Anniversary of its Birth.

DR. FRANCISCO DY HAS SENT THE REPORT ON THE FOURTH ASIAN MALARIA CONFERENCE as he promised to do in the March issue. In addition

to the summaries we reported in that issue, we were impressed to discover that in the Western Pacific region over half of the nearly 72 million persons under malaria attack have now been covered by WHO programs, while in the Southeast Asia region all but some 39 million of the 57.4 million at risk have been covered. That's a lot of people. WE were particularly interested in the Philippines and Ryukyus, of course, where so many of our troops were located during and just after the war and where we have had such pleasant associations with the resident malaria workers. A tremendous annex to the report lists all the eradication programs by country and gives an outline of the vectors, suspected and proved, the epidemiological background, the surveillance, the occurrence of resistance and the measures being used in the control work. Fortunately DDT and dieldrin resistance has not yet complicated the picture to any great extent and it appears hopeful that the eradication may actually be well completed before it does.

GEORGE BURTON writes to say that I misquoted in June when I attributed residual adulticidal spraying of building walls to his program. It was residual *larviciding*, and effective. (Sorry, George, I don't know what gets into my typewriter at times.) George and his Mrs. will be at NIH-West Africa Research Laboratory, American Embassy 5, P.O. Box 194, Accra, Ghana, after August.

LCDR JOE McWILLIAMS, WHO IS STARTING A YEAR'S GRADUATE SCHOOLING AT PURDUE, has been Chairman of the San Francisco Bay Area Mosquito Abatement Committee of the Navy, during his tenure there as Officer in Charge of the Disease Vector Control Center at Alameda (California). In July, Dr. Irma West, of the State Department of Public Health, gave a most illuminating discourse in which she pointed out that although 73 percent of the use of insecticides in California was agricultural, 50 percent of the deaths from these chemicals were from *household* use. Dr. West, in a TV discussion of pesticides and silent springs a few nights before had already pointed out that we have many more deaths from penicillin and yet no one screams to abolish antibiotics. Well, of course we were delighted to have a chance to hear more, particularly since all of us, naturally, couldn't agree more firmly on the need for constant carefulness and attention to safety and not contaminating the environment needlessly and all that. Some of us would like to see bulldozers and freeways added to the list of things man does to injure wildlife, including *us*. There were a few grim thoughts, of course. One man has been killed for each 1,000,000 acres treated by airplane. In California alone, 3000 children are brought in each year to be treated for household insecticidal poisoning, in addition to 900 workers, mostly agricultural. Of course, though there are over 150 deaths a year from insecticides, as pointed out in the Report of the

President's Special Advisory Board, there are over 200 deaths from aspirin and half of *them* are children, too. It *do* make a problem. Not at all by the way, other loyal and valuable members of the Committee include BILL RUSCONI, H. C. PANGBURN, EMBREE METZGER, HARRY MATHIS and PAUL JONES, all of whom were in attendance at the meeting.

WE HADN'T TOLD CAPT. GEORGE STAINS YET, but he is now the Chairman of the aforementioned Mosquito Abatement Committee, having taken over as Officer in Charge of the Navy Disease Vector Control Center at Alameda after years and years as the Ditto at Jacksonville, Florida, a little-known fact known to you all.

WE JUST CAN'T KEEP UP WITH THE EXPANSION (OR IS IT SUPERACTIVATION) TAKING PLACE DOWN YONDER IN OLE VIRGINNY WHERE THE BIRDS WARBLE SWEET IN THE SPRINGTIME. *Skeeter* tells us now that two Districts are expanding, Princess Anne County, Boroughs of Lynnhaven, Bayside and Kempsville, heretofore only partly included in MAD's, will shortly be completely included, if present ordinances are approved as expected. *Skeeter* points out the mathematics and economics of town vs. country in mosquito abatement and there's no getting around the fact that changing land from \$25.00 an acre to \$40,000 an acre does make a difference in the mosquito control tax income! The Old Dominion's VMCA also reports that they operated 22 mosquito light traps under contract with various MAD's, negotiated joint insecticide contracts, held three field demonstrations, showed the Association Exhibit (previously mentioned here), held a joint VMCA-USPHS school (also previously mentioned here) and donated to the National Mosquito Control-Fish and Wildlife Management Coordination Committee. Bravo, VMCA!

BOB HEDEEN'S SOUTH COOK COUNTY MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT'S ANNUAL REPORT for last year should have been reviewed earlier but like a host of others it was too meaty to skim and not light enough to *skun* in short order. Anyway, along with good information on soil sampling, source reduction and control techniques and costs, there's a section on resistance studies (none in *Aedes*, not much in *pipiens*, moderate or worse with *restuans*) and some dandy photos of their helicopter and other equipment. Including a shot of the District Headquarters of which they didn't have time to make a photo until clear into mid-winter and snowy mid-winter at that!

DICK FROLI AND HIS KINGS COUNTY (CALIFORNIA) MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT played hosts to two physicians from India who have just completed their Masters of Public Health studies at the University of California in Berkeley. Dr. P. Krishna Rao and Dr. J. H. Jhaveri finished their training by a week of field indoctrination

and we know by our observation that no District could have shown them a larger problem or a better handling of it. Dr. Rao returns to the State of Andhra, Pradesh, as Assistant Director of Health Education and, we hope, mosquito control indoctrination, while Dr. Jhaveri will return to the health education field in the State of Gujarat, with our same hopes.

WE SUPPOSE EVERYONE HAS NOTICED THE SPATE OF PUBLICITY INSECT CONTROL AND PARTICULARLY MOSQUITO CONTROL HAS HAD IN THE PAPERS LATELY. At the time of the eclipse of the sun in July, the AP and UPI news items told us every hour on the hour that University of Maine scientists were going to study the behavior of mosquitoes during the blackout. Charlie Rice in his Punch-bowl column in *This Week* gave forth with a mosquito questionnaire, "Do Mosquitoes Like You?" in which he quoted a Dr. Haynes as saying that Europeans have no window screens because mosquitoes breed in untended land and Yurrop's been settled, as most everyone knows, for a long, long time. In the San Francisco *Chronicle*, one Bud Boyd, a Nimrod columnist who was pretty determined not to let his prejudice be enlightened lest he cut off the sudden access to notoriety, was described as having been bitten by an enraged caterpillar, which private sources assure us was a mosquito. Had to be hospitalized, he did. Wonder the mosquito wasn't; but the incident rejoiced many a weary MAD manager, anyway.

IN CONNECTION WITH WHICH VMCA'S SKEETER for May and June came in just as we were writing this and devoted five pages to a condensation of the President's Advisory Committee's Report on the "Use of Pesticides" and we think this is a real honey of an idea, because all too few people will read and heed this excellent report. In fact, most of the special-pleaders who wave the Report as "evidence" have utterly misquoted it and its tenor and should be sent back to read it again after school is out. On a TV hour devoted to this, the Audubon Society rep was somewhat taken aback, incidentally, to have the Society's own statistics quoted back to him to show that robins are not only *not* depleted this year from the wild use of DDT, but have been counted in the annual check as being more numerous than ever.

UNCLE HARRY STAGE HAS BEEN ABSENT FROM OUR COLUMNS FOR FAR TOO LONG BUT HE HAS BEEN FAR FROM INACTIVE, as you may suppose. After Atlantic City, he went to Halifax, Nova Scotia, Nantucket, Boothbay Harbor and around. They then drove from Halifax to Vancouver over the 4100 miles of the Trans-Canada Highway, which brought their mileage up to 11,991 miles and seven weeks. Harry sent us a picture of DON COLLINS and BARNEY TRAVIS and himself, labelled "Foremost Mosquito Authorities," which appeared in the Schenectady County *Agricultural Service*

News, and should be reproduced someplace in this issue, if Ye Ed's w.k. modesty will only let him. (No room—Ed.) It's a good picture and does honor to AMCA, too. They attended a public meeting on mosquito control, held in Scotia at the behest of an aroused populace, answered questions from the floor after their talks had been completed and in general produced a session reported as being highly informative and creating a desire among the auditors to have more of such meetings. Bravo Ed! Sir.

ED DAVIS SENDS US A LETTER FROM HASMO SOEGYARTO, GN MEMBER IN SEMERANG INDONESIA. Dr. Soegyarto reports that the U.N. office in West New Guinea was returned to Indonesia on the first of May 1963 and that he has returned to Indonesia as well. He had his laboratory in New Guinea in quonset huts once part of General MacArthur's headquarters and sent along a picture of the handsome memorial standing at that site.

QUITE A FEW AMCA'CS HAVE SHIFTED AROUND IN THE LAST FEW MONTHS and we can't claim to keep up with them all, though we try, and are helped by the valiant efforts of TED RALEY, than whom no society ever had a more faithful, hard working and, above all, productive Secretary, thank goodness. Well . . . if you didn't know sooner, you may like to know now that ED WASHBURN has left Liberia for Djakarta and USAID, % State Department Mail Room, Washington 25, D. C., and we don't know the ZIP number for that. LT. JIM GENTRY departed quietly awhile ago from Ft. Sam Houston and is now at the U. S. Army Medical Research Unit at the Inst. for Medical Research at Kuala Lumpur, Malaya. CLYDE BARNHART departed the house and home of ERDL at Ft. Belvoir and is now researching at the Limited War Laboratory at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md. DICK DARSIE left the sleepy-sounding address of R.F.D. 3, Slippery Rock, Pa., and is now with USAID at Nepal, while ANGEL CRUZ has changed from Tampico to Iguala, where his address is Angel Cruz Perez, Entomologia, Seccion Epidemiologia, Jefatura Zona IX Norte, Reforma 12, Iguala, Gro., Mexico, all of which sounds mighty Governmental, judging from the kind of addresses OUR governmental offices devise. LT. JOHNNIE MULRENNAN, JR., much to our regret, shook California's dust from his shoes and hid off to the Navy Preventive Medicine Unit No. 7. (that's Naples), Navy No. 510, Box 41, F.P.O., New York, and MR. MONROE PASTERNAK is now home and in school (we hear), living at 218 Cambridge Ave., Berkeley, 8, California.

We had no sooner learned that Lt. Col. GORDON FIELD was back in the States and at Valley Forge General than he moved over to the Army Environmental Health Agency at the Army Chemical Center, Edgewood, Md. (The note we got says *New Jersey*, but we're pretty sure

Edgewood hasn't moved that far. Delaware, maybe.) BILL FROHNE meanwhile left Bethesda and is now at the Lake Erie Field Station, 7298 York Rd., Bldg. 49-A, Cleveland, Ohio, and edging slowly toward the 40th State, perhaps? VERNON LEE took the big jump and instead of Rockefeller Foundation, New York, you'll now find him with the Faculty of Medicine of the Universidad del Valle, Apartado Nacional 439, Cali, Colombia, which *Holiday* magazine, the *National Geographic* and everyone we know who's been there say is a lo-ove-ly country. How about it Dr.?

COL. JOE WEBB stayed in Washington awhile to give his daughter Trish in marriage to Mr. Jim Hendershot and then moved his address to P.O. Box 784, Clayton, Georgia, but really Clemson College, South Carolina, on a real fine research project, as we said before. LT. COL. A. A. THERRIEN finished at Texas U. and is now not far away, at the Department of Preventive Medicine of the Medical Field Service School, Brooke Army Medical Center, Ft. Sam Houston, Texas. (See what we mean about Government addresses?) And CARROLL N. SMITH says it's now finally official and the Orlando lab is in Gainesville, so from now on address him at 530 N. E. 7th Avenue, Gainesville, Florida.

DR. MEL GRIFFITH, our first Who's Who'er, was, as we noted earlier, one of the consultants to the Government of India during the recent appraisal program which, with U.N., W.H.O. and U. S. assistance, determined that areas with some 250 million population had had malaria transmission eliminated. He was born in Lawrence, Kansas, where he received his bachelor's, master's, and doctorate from the University of Kansas. He became associate professor of zoology at North Dakota State in 1938 and full professor two years later. Joining the U. S. Public Health Service in 1941, he served in Florida, Louisiana

and Oklahoma. Concurrently, he was professor of zoology at the University of Oklahoma from which he took leave in 1951 and worked for nine years with the U. S. Technical and Economic Mission in Thailand as chief malariologist. He has recently returned to the U. S. and we suspect is finding us a little tame after Thailand and India! Mel is a member of the American Public Health Association, the American Society for Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, the Society of Limnology and Oceanology, the Entomological Society of America and the AAAS, besides the AMCA.

HERB SCHOFF, who is now Chief of the Biology Section of the CDC laboratories at Savannah, Georgia, is so well known to so many it is easy to forget that he seldom talks about himself and though we know him we don't know *about* him. Well, what with belaboring him with pestiferous notes and fanning the pages of various reference works, we can now tell you that he was born on Long Island, N. Y., but lived and took his BS and MS in North Carolina, where we always associate him because of the good work he did for the Army with MCWA during the W.W. II years. After N. C. State, Herb went to Illinois for his doctorate, and then returned to N. C. State as an instructor for two years. Thereafter came the six years with MCWA, after which he was in charge of the Fly-Borne Disease Section of Entomologic Services of CDC in Atlanta. Followed the Fly-Poliomyelitis Investigations, which he also headed, and in 1953 he became part of the Biology Section in Savannah, which, as we said, he still heads. He is a member of Sigma Xi, Phi Kappa Phi, Phi Eta Sigma, Alpha Kappa Phi and RESA, of the Expert Committee on Insecticides of W.H.O., and of honorable though non-honorary organizations like ESA and AMCA, of course. He is also consultant to W.H.O., Pan American Sanitary Bureau and AID, as well as informally to the Armed Forces and to many an MAD.

UTAH MOSQUITO ABATEMENT ASSOCIATION

Sixty per cent of the people in the state of Utah are now living within the boundaries of organized mosquito abatement districts.

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