

## NEWS AND NOTES

AUSTIN W. MORRILL, JR.

WELL, WITH ALL THE SCREAMING AND HOLLERING THAT'S BEEN GOING ON ABOUT PESTICIDES CONTAMINATING THE ENVIRONMENT IT SEEMED LIKE HIGH TIME SOMEONE SPREAD A LITTLE LIGHT ON THE SUBJECT and so ED FUSSELL did just that at his U.S. Navy Disease Vector Ecology (Get that!) and Control Center at the Naval Air Station in Alameda, California. A Seminar, held there on 25, 26 and 27 May, was one of the most successful of such conferences ever held, in the memories of many of those in attendance. And those in attendance, in addition to reading like the roster of Most Active Members of the C.M.C.A., included more than 400 people from all sorts of organizations and disciplines and included a sprinkling of laymen and students as well, some of them with long hair and beads and armed with a quick reading of Rachel Carson's book. But State, county and city health departments were represented, mosquito abatement districts, universities, ecologists, epidemiologists, fish and wildlife protectors, environment protectors, marine biologists, water pollution experts and of course, all branches of the military.

The emphasis was on working out a *modus vivendi* and none of the speakers indulged in pointless accusation and argument, largely because they all knew what they were talking about. Starting from the premise that Man is going to go on eating and protecting his health, no matter what, if he knows the choices he's faced with, it was agreed that the problem is how to do this best. And best, of course, means with highest regard for Man's inescapable place in Nature and as part of his environment. Although some of the questions during the discussion periods showed woeful ignorance on the parts of some of the earnest questioners, most of the questions were attempts to gain information and not to assert points of view.

One reporter from a notoriously "anti-establishment" newspaper was seen scribbling busily when a mammalogist discussed the fact that the widely-publicized sea lion kills on the California coast were later (and without any newspaper publicity) found to be caused by leptospirosis and *not* DDT . . . this took a good deal of sleuthing, incidentally . . . but he laughed with the rest of us when BILL HAZELTINE asked if, when the law is passed requiring those who prescribe pesticides to establish their competency to do so, a similar competency is to be required of those who advise *against* them!

There was a distinguished faculty from CDC, NIH, ERS, EPA, the Council for Environmental

Quality and various Medical Centers and the specific topics ranged through pesticides, pollution and ecology to teratogenicity, carcinogenicity, epidemiology, polychlorinated biphenyls, and trace element toxicants. We saw a number of tape recorders going and we wished we had brought ours instead of dropping it on the closet floor when we were packing.

VMCA's *SKEETER*, WHICH YOU MAY NOTE WE QUOTE A GOOD DEAL, mentions in connection with the above-named polychlorinated biphenyls, that Dr. G. B. Lee, of the University of Wisconsin got curious about some soil samples collected between 1910 and 1930 and tested them for DDT when he was running gas chromatography tests on some other, more recent, stuff. They were *positive!* So, naturally, he ran the whole thing over again. But what he had found of course, was indication of the fact that all these so-called determinations need to be re-checked. Was it *really* DDT in those oft-quoted Antarctic penguins, for instance, in the brains of those eagles and in the 50,000 year old glacial ice? Was God, way back then, making DDT along with the famous "coal for Bacr?" Or do we maybe not know quite as much as we think we do and ought to check a bit first before we shoot off our mouths?

WELL, NOT OURS, OF COURSE. THE OTHER GUY'S. WE DON'T PUBLISH WITHOUT GOOD EVIDENCE, DO WE? ? NO, WE DON'T. (DON COLLINS WOULDN'T LET US! !)

WELL, BACK TO *Skeeter* . . . JTLTHPE (WHICH MEANS JUST TOO LATE TO INCLUDE IN THE PREVIOUS ISSUE) . . . THERE WAS ALSO WORD OF THE 24TH ANNUAL MEETING OF VMCA. There were 132 persons registered this year and some mighty solid discussions, commencing with a paper by BOB VANNOTE in which he pointed out that our going quietly and modestly about accomplishing mosquito control has left the Public dreadfully ignorant of that accomplishment. No one worries about Yellow Jack any more, or Black Leg (that's malaria to you Nawthenuhs) or ever even heard of filariasis and dengue. Everyone takes the land reclamation and increased land usage for granted or credits the *highway engineers*. Now people are beginning to claim we've polluted the *environment*. So get out the flags, boys, strike up the band. Let folks know what you're doing for them.

In North Carolina, for instance, SIDNEY USKY pointed out, with a budget growing from \$15,000 to \$420,000 since 1956, 4,500 acres of marsh land have been made usable and mosquito-free by impoundment, among other activities. ROBERT

LAKE described similar programs in Delaware, and DAN JOBBINS filled in some historical background with slides of early tidegates in New Jersey, compared with more modern techniques. BILL BICKLEY discussed the physiology of mosquito egg hatching. Later, Dr. JAMES MATTA discussed his work with viruses as control measures against *Aedes taeniorhynchus* and LANCE SCHOLDT brought the assembly up to date on *Gambusia*, which are turning out to be amazingly adaptable, now that we look at it, and a lot more promising a means of control than some people have thought heretofore.

WHICH REMINDS US, SPEAKING OF LANCE, THAT HE HAS RECENTLY GOT OUT A SUPER DUPER MOSQUITO SURVEILLANCE GUIDE from his Navy Environmental (Get that "Environmental"!) and Preventive Medicine Unit No. 2, at Norfolk, Virginia 23511. It's a Navy pub, of course, and intended for training our technicians but, though we didn't ask him, we bet any Mosquito Abatement District that asked for a copy could get one and welcome. And though we're a friend of Lance's and shouldn't say this, it's good.

POOR *Skeeter*. We forgot to continue with the VMCA program. Which was, a discussion of heartworms by JOHN ELLSWORTH of Old Dominion U., which should remind us that there are an awful lot of Dog Lovers Out There, and some of these here animal lovers love 'em more than they do people. So doesn't it make sense to remind these Taxpayers that you're protecting their DOG, too? Heartworm ain't funny, really. And it is mosquito-borne.

Finally, C. A. NELSON told about their work with ULV and the machine they're building like the one Louisiana has (Glenn? George? Izzit you?). This one will have an 18 HP gas engine, solenoid safety switch, flow meter that the driver can see and stainless steel insecticide tanks. One *Op Note* coming up!

MILAN TRPIS SAYS HE'S ALIVE AND WELL AND LIVING IN THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME and will we please tell folks to stop sending his mail to Dar-es-Salaam, as we advised last December. That seems to be how some folks get moved, just let us run a note saying where they ARE and right away they AREN'T. Well, we know how Dr. Trpis got moved. He had what GEORGE CRAIG and K. RAI wanted for their new project, "Ecological Studies of *Aedes aegypti* in East Africa Preliminary to Genetic Control." Which sounds kind of bad for old *aegypti*. The project is part of the International Center for Insect Ecology and Physiology (ICIPE) in Nairobi, Kenya. MOST of the time he'll be in Indiana, with trips to Nairobi now and then! wow.

TED RALEY WRITES THAT HE'S SENT IN A MEMBERSHIP LIST TO BE PRINTED IN THE JUNE ISSUE which we won't see until about the time you

read this, mail to Hawaii being what it is for magazines, but we know you're as pleased as we are. Plates for the Central Office addressograph should be ready to use soon, he adds, and after a little practice he promises to be able to supply a set of file cards for each region . . . for them as has a valid need for same, that is, quickly added. (We hope WE're high on that validation list, Ted.) So now we have a real honest-to-goodness Office, an addressograph, an offset duplicator, a desk and a chair and we're in Business. Ted's pinching the old pennies, you bet, but we ARE off the ground and aren't we lucky to have Ted bird-dogging for us? He also reminds one and all of the projected Louisiana MCA meeting with the wildlife group on 20-22 October (see also the list of MCA meetings elsewhere in this issue) and another reminder that the Miami meetings, which seem to be shaping up to be BIG, BIG, B-I-G, will also be the FIFTIETH Anniversary of the Florida Association, our host. Oh, those boat trips to the Bahamas and the Caribbean and even . . . Bermuda! In fact, the way things are going, you may be able to fly over to Havana for a spot of Night Life in the once well-known style.

DR. MANABU SASA TOLD US IN TOKYO RECENTLY THAT HE IS EN ROUTE ABOUT NOW to a research fellowship grant at the NIH in Bethesda, Maryland. (That's really NIEH now; *Environmental*, you know.) He filled us in on some of the scoop but it was in a bar and, well, you know how those things are. It was a perfectly respectable bar, we assure you, but we wrote it on a cardboard coaster thing and then we gave that to a souvenir hunter and . . . well, it's all too complicated. We do know, though, his *Gambusia* are doing fine in all sorts of peculiar environments and lend encouragement to Lance's words at the VMCA meetings.

YOU THINK YOU'VE GOT PROBLEMS, JUST LISTEN TO GEORGE THOMPSON FOR A LITTLE. First, it was hurricanes and mosquitoes blowing in and salt making *Ae. taeniorhynchus* breeding places where there hadn't been breeding places before. Now, he's got *quinquefasciatus* breeding in clean, flowing water. We've always said mosquitoes either couldn't or wouldn't read the book but we really sort of thought they read it a little. This is ridiculous. And, his District has one part in the City and served by a sanitary sewer system and the other part is outside the City and has septic tanks and some of those people only run their toilet into the septic tank and run the wash water into the ditch in the street. Which saves pumping out so often, all right, but breeds mosquitoes something fierce. To go with the visitors blowing in from the outside.

BOB EARNETT ISN'T TOO HAPPY WITH HIS *QUINQUEFASCIATUS* EITHER OVER IN HARRIS COUNTY (also Texas) where the drought has

eliminated a good part of his population of mosquito predators. The drought hasn't lowered the *Culex* breeding in septic tanks and ditches, naturally, and the *Aedes* eggs are just lying there when the rains roll round, while the Good Guys . . . the fish and the dragon fly nymphs and the predaceous beetles . . . have had a mighty rough go of it. Maybe he needs some of Dr. Sasa's H.P. *Gambusia* or maybe he needs to try crossing *G.* with lungfish. (We used to have some *Gambusia*-sized ones in the Philippines. Cute l'il devils.) But seriously, what with the Venezuelan encephalitis and all, and the fact that in Guatemala the principal vectors seem to be *Ae. taeniorhynchus* and *Psorophora confinnis*, not too rare here, Bob's looking into a plan with NASA and U. of T. to try breeding site detection with aerial telemetry. Op Note, Bob?

BUT DROUGHT DOESN'T MEAN THE SAME THING TO ALL PEOPLE AND OUT IN CALIFORNIA CHET ROBINSON WAS REPORTING GLADLY that *his* drought ". . . 0.17 as against an average 0.65" and last April's 0.63 against an average of 0.75, coupled with cool weather had about wiped out his countryside problems and let his men concentrate on the urban ones, which don't depend on rainfall. Or rather, increase slightly due to car washing, when it doesn't rain. We assume Chet hasn't had much rain since May, either. Not in Alameda County (California).

DON GRANT AND HIS SAN MATEO COUNTY MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT (California) put the pictures of eight well-known mosquito predators on the cover of their Annual Report and it certainly served to bring home awareness of the complex of life within which we live. Along with *Gambusia*, Don showed the Purple Martin, Orb-weaver spiders, Little Brown bat, dragon flies; planarians, Water Boatman, and dragon fly nymphs, all arranged upper and lower as to whether they prey on the adult mosquito or on the larva. Unfortunately, all but the *Gambusia* are a bit difficult to breed and distribute, a necessity if predation is to succeed as a control, but who knows what the future might bring forth? Any of you guys want to ask your wife to help raise some spiders?

YE ED. HAS BEEN RECOVERING FROM SURGERY (NOT nice SURGERY) DURING THE SPRING AND SUMMER but avows he's getting fitter. Mrs. SLATER says it for us, "We are all mighty relieved" at his good recovery and good prognosis, and THAT'S an understatement for the year. Get well faster, DON, and do your usual thorough and efficient job of it, hear?

Now for the Movers. . . .

THERE USED TO BE A FELLA IN WASHINGTON D.C. WHO ADVERTISED "DON'T MAKE A MOVE WITHOUT CALLING SMITH." Well, we'd like to say,

"Don't make a move without memo-ing Morrill." 'Cause Ted gives us the big picture and we mess up the details . . . and a lil note from YOU would help keep things straight and also let everyone in on what youall are doing. We DO care, too.

ONE OF THE THINGS WE MESSED UP WAS WHERE IS LT LARRY LEWIS MSC USN? ?? Doggonit, we had him at Arkansas or someplace fixin' to study up and be one of them dudes with a Phud. But he's at DVECC, Alameda, all the time. Doing good work and appears to be happy as a clam. Sorry 'bout that. Don't fret. All your mail will get straightened out by'n by, Larry.

DICK TANIMOTO has left Alaska for the Indian Hospital in Claremore Okla., and JAMES HUDSON has gone all the way from England to Alberta, Canada, at the University, and Dr. D. J. GUBLER has gone furthest of all and jumped from Calcutta to Honolulu and no matter WHAT you've heard about pollution in Hawaii, we want you to know that's an *improvement*. HUSAN DARWAZEH moved from UC at Riverside to BVC in Fresno and Army Captain HARVEY SHULTZ has thrown in his chips with the Navy as a civilian entomologist in Philly. MERRILL WOOD has gone from Lahore to Kathmandu, which has always sounded frightfully exotic to us, perhaps because it sounds like Xanadu, but GEORGE BURTON used to speak mighty well of it and its inaccessible beauty. We hear the inaccessibility is now part of the package tour by 747 on alternate Thursdays, though. How 'bout it, Merrill? ART KIDWELL has moved from Williston to Bradenton, both in Florida, sort of. JOHN SEXTON is back in the CONUS at Watertown, South Dakota, and ED WASHBURN is back in Turlock, California, (Retired, Ed? or thinking? Or just catching a breath of dry air?) DICK HAYES has left California for Fort Collins (Colorado, you know) and BOB HEDEEN is now with the Salisbury State University in Maryland. Major MOUFIED MOUSSA has been called in to Washington to the R & D Command slot, while Major RALPH CARESTIA is temporarily with MAC-V Surgeon's Office in Long Binh, no Saigon, no Tan Son Nhut . . . well, anyway, we GATHER that MACV's temporary, and Capt. MICHAEL SULLIVAN has left SEATO lab for the Medical Field Service School at Ft. Sam.

Capt. MICHAEL PEACH III has moved over from Walter Reed to the AEHA at Edgewood Arsenal, Maryland, and Dr. E. W. CUPP has moved to the Department of Parasitology at Tulane, which isn't so much of a move, same ZIP code. Like MERV GRIFFITH's apparent move from NW to SW in Washington, D.C., same address, really, just one little ole letter. DONALD BROTHERS has gone from Boise to San Jose, California, . . . SC,

Don? . . . and ROY CROSSMAN is now in Vero Beach, Florida.

VAUGHN WAGNER WROTE JTLTIPIE to say that he resigned 4 June as medical entomologist in charge of the Dutchess County (N.Y.) Mosquito Control Program, to accept a research fellowship awarded by the Michigan State Depart-

ment of Natural Resources, working under DON NEWSON at Mich State. Best wishes, Vaughn!

And we're in Singapore at the Raffles, with our feet up on a rattan footstool and a cold gin and tonic on the glass topped rattan table at our side. No juke box, no Muzak, no PA system calling people to the phone.

## INTER-AMERICAN MALARIA RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM November 1-4, 1971—San Salvador, El Salvador, C.A.

An Inter-American Malaria Research Symposium is to be held November 1-4, 1971 in San Salvador, El Salvador, Central America, at the Hotel El Salvador Inter-Continental. This meeting is sponsored jointly by the Government of El Salvador, the Center for Disease Control of the United States Public Health Service (CDC), and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO). This Symposium will provide an opportunity for key individuals in malaria research and in management of operational malaria eradication programs to present and discuss their problems and accomplishments. It is hoped that the Symposium will bridge an obvious knowledge gap in the rapidly changing field of malaria.

This Symposium, which will be translated simultaneously into Spanish and English, will include the following sessions:

1. Extent and impact of malaria.
2. Serologic tests for malaria.
3. Host response to malaria infections.
4. Antimalarial drugs.
5. Vector ecology and biologic control.
6. Chemical control of vectors.

Tours to the CDC Central America Malaria Research Station and the PAHO Insecticide Testing Unit are included in the program.

Further information is available from either:

Director  
Pan American Sanitary Bureau  
525-23rd Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20037  
Attn: Chief, Malaria Eradication

Director, Malaria Program  
Center for Disease Control  
Atlanta, Georgia 30333