

NEWS AND NOTES

AUSTIN W. MORRILL, JR.

WE'VE KNOWN ALL ALONG SOMEBODY WAS BOUND TO DO IT AND BY GOLLY IT'S HAPPENED . . . RIGHT ON THE FRONT PAGE OF MN, WHAT'S MORE. For years, your humble, self-effacing indexer has been delving away indexing papers on *Culex pipiens quinquefasciatus* and growling to himself about how much easier it is to type *fatigans*. And finally, lo! *quinquefasciatus* did emerge as anticipated, transmogrified into its quin-tes-sential form. Behold. . . . *quinquefascinatus*! Fascinatn', ain't it?

OVER IN TAIWAN, WHERE WE WERE VISITING JACK MACDONALD, we found the ripples still rippling from their pleasant visits with HARRY HOOGSTRAAL, CHAPPIE CHAPMAN and TOMMY MULHERN. Since we seldom see any of these three ourselves, and only missed them by INCHES, their gladness was our sorrow. Jack cheered us up with a helicopter trip to mountaintop aeries which must surely be the world's most inaccessible light traps. Jack has happy mountain villagers proudly making the daily rounds and the ceratopogonid-heleids would delight any dipterist and *do* delight Jack, though the abundance of specimens terrified us. The trip, though, was lovely and you should have seen the *beetles*. Jack has a light trap that uses alcohol to keep all his catch undamaged (except for dying of inebriation, of course). See MN for December 1970. The alcohol doesn't disappear, either. . . . at least not among the mountain people of Taiwan!

BILL HAZELTINE CONTINUES HIS VALIANT FIGHT TO BRING A LITTLE SCIENTIFIC CONSIDERATION FOR FACTS INTO THE CONTINUING PESTICIDE CONTROVERSY. We think it's a lost cause but the tide *does* seem to be turning a *little* and the constant dissemination of counter-evidence has no doubt been a major factor. So hurrah for you Bill! It ain't much more than a trickle but we *have* seen several articles where none appeared before, saying that maybe, just *maybe*, the anti-DDT evidence wasn't all that strong. Most folks probably will never have any concept of the scientific attitude that experiments must be *reproducible* and that they must embody a good deal of checking, replication and elimination of variables before they are rushed into print, but people *are* beginning to question the constant alarms over imminent disasters that next week shift into something else. The San Francisco *Examiner* and *Chronicle* on 19 September of this year, for instance, had a good bit to say in an article entitled, "Scientific Tests: Can they be believed?" Their conclusion was that on the whole, they couldn't. Not right off. What they were talking about, of course, wasn't scientific tests at all but analyses run by skilled technicians who thought

they were scientists but had never heard that science is an attitude and not a body of knowledge. Well, Bill hasn't contented himself with letters pointing this out to us and to the papers. He's been at the EPA and at even the Congress, where the voice of reason counts. . . . and he's been at them with good effect, too. So, thanks, Bill.

THE SOCIETY OF VECTOR ECOLOGISTS IS ANOTHER GROUP CONCERNED WITH KEEPING UP A STEADY AND RATIONAL ATTACK ON THE VERY REAL PROBLEMS OF THE ENVIRONMENT. And their band is growing. The Northern California Chapter had a day-long meeting at the State Department of Public Health on 4 November, where they attended the Bureau of Vector Control and Solid Waste Management staff meeting, to check on what *they're* doing to solve the problem (not that they aren't *friends*, but it pays to keep an eye . . .) and in the afternoon heard papers by BILL REEVES, DICK PETERS and several others on the outlook for Venezuelan encephalitis, and by HARVY SCUDDER on the biologist's role in managing the chemical environment. HOWARD GREENFIELD is Prexy, by the way, of the Society.

On 18 November, the SOUTHERN California Chapter had its annual meeting at the Orange County Mosquito Abatement District in Garden Grove. HARV MAGY gave them a run-down on the VEE surveillance program in Southern California, ROY EASTWOOD and RON HALL discussed a new residential rat control program in Orange County (which if you don't remember from the Disneyland meetings, is far, far from its orange grove days now). Since Roy and Ron both used to be mosquito control types, too, and still are, at heart, we commiserate with them but merely remark that that's what happens when you let in all those VECTORS into the zone of consideration, boys. DON ROHE, who used to work on mosquitoes with PAT GILLIES, is now concerned with tick surveys. . . . and they do have them in heavily urbanized Lower California . . . it's not THAT urban. The Society is moving ahead, by the way, on certification (not to mention incorporation!), and whatever they do, like the ESA's recent action will be none too soon for those grandfathers among us who see the field being taken over by the Instant Experts. (To whom we will have to go hat in hand to get our insecticides, by prescription, if we don't watch out.)

ROY HAYES, WHO HAS BEEN BALANCING OUR WORRIES ABOUT THE FUTURE WITH SOME HIGHLY VALUABLE INFORMATION ABOUT THE PAST, writes that "Mr. E. B. Johnson, who retired December

31, 1965, after 30 years as State Public Health Entomologist with the Division of Engineering, of the Louisiana State Department of Health, died at the age of 76 on 4 July, 1971, after a brief illness. During his last several weeks, he actively participated in the preparation for publication in *Mosquito News* of an account of the last epidemic of dengue to occur in the continental U. S., in the successful abatement of which he was a principle architect.

"Mr. Johnson, a highly respected vector control specialist and mosquito taxonomist, interestingly was graduated in engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. His brother, also recently deceased, was a career commissioned engineering officer in the USPHS."

A considerable number of AMCA'ers and other environmentalists, both entomologists and engineers, received their first practical field training and experience in Louisiana under Mr. Johnson's guidance in the days of the Malaria Control in War Areas program. His many friends will miss him.

CARL WESLEY JR., who labored long, faithfully . . . and successfully . . . to bring order out of the chaos of the Engineer Research and Development Laboratories at Ft. Belvoir, Va., and who was responsible for the successful development of much insecticide dispersal equipment, including the widely imitated cold fogger, died late in July at Alexandria, Virginia, his home. Carl was born in Atlanta and, though cosmopolitan, remained a Georgia gentleman. He graduated from Emory and was a Sanitary Engineering officer in the Corps of Engineers during the war. Thereafter, he worked in Sanitation Engineering in the Virginia State Department of Sanitation and then joined the Laboratories, where he remained until his death. *Requiescat in pace*, Carl. You earned it.

TURNING TO HAPPIER NEWS, YOU WILL BE GLADDENED TO KNOW THAT OUR REDOUBTABLE AND EVER YOUTHFUL BUT LATELY SEVERELY HAMPERED EDITOR IS NOW WELL AGAIN. . . . and on the job! (That's the important part.) Mrs. MARGARET SLATER, who keeps things afloat with so much competence and (apparent) ease, says he looks as well as ever, which is busting with health, and we know you all join us in saying "Welcome back, Don! And, many many thanks, Margaret!"

HELEN SOLLERS-RIEDEL HAS SOME GOOD NEWS TOO, WHICH IS GOOD FOR US AS WELL AND NOT JUST BECAUSE WE LOVE HELEN. She retired on 31 July 1971 from the Agricultural Research Service to accept a grant from the NIH via ESA to put all her time for the next two years (and we hope longer!) on the mosquito bibliography and on an annual review of mosquito work throughout the world. Helen says the latter

hasn't been done since 1967 and so she plans to get the 1970 one out in the N. J. *Proceedings* and then work backward on the 1968 and 1969 ones.

Helen won the grant over some pretty stiff competition, we hear, and we're not surprised she won it. What a bonanza for US! For those of you who came into mosquito work last year, we'll recap a bit about Helen. She started out with the Division of Insects Affecting Man and Animals and how long ago *that* seems, yet it was only yesterday, we're sure, and with the former Insect Pest Survey. She's been with the Insect Survey Office of the ARS Plant Protection Division ever since it was formed. Helen is a member of some 12 professional societies and was, you remember, the prexy of the Entomological Society of Washington in 1969. She appears in Who's Who of American Women, Who's Who in the East (U. S.), Two Thousand Women of Achievement, Dictionary of International Biography and Leaders in American Science. And besides being a bibliographer, she's the author of over 100 publications herself. Right on, Helen!

SKEEETER REPORTS THAT ULV FOGGERS WERE TESTED IN VARIOUS PLACES IN VIRGINIA this past year and proved out very well indeed. They concluded that they were practical and effective, somewhat more economical and that they eliminated the traffic hazard that has been bugging the fogging operations in increasingly urbanizing Virginia. But what is more unusual is the finding of mosquito breeding in the *floating* debris of an old borrow pit. We've heard of floating gardens and floating restaurants (even ate in one in Hong Kong once some months ago. . . . plenty of mosquitoes there, wow!) but we'd never heard of mosquitoes breeding quite this way. A sort of combination of benjo ditch and log pond, we gather. A boom had been installed about 50 feet from the bank to confine floating objects in the pit, which was about 50 feet deep and largely filled with demolition waste like lumber, plaster and brickbats. Well, what with male mosquitoes biting and anopheline and aedine mosquitoes showing up in foul, improper waters it looks like we're in for a major change in tactics by our ancient enemies. Look out, boys, they're comin' through the floor.

BOB BARTNETT REPORTS WITH JUSTIFIABLE PRIDE THAT FOLLOWING HIS CALL FOR ACTION the U. S. and State forces piled it on in Harris County (Texas) to repel the VEE threat and that he thinks it safe to say the program was a complete success. Not that everything is over. But it was quelled and both an epizootic and an epidemic were averted. Bob also has been requested to launch a surveillance program on *Aedes* at the International Airport in Houston. They found *veaxans*, *sollicitans* and *taeniorhynchus* in prelimi-

nary studies. Since international agreements require that *aegypti* be kept from international ports and airports and as it is endemic in Houston (like many another city), and with jets from all over coming in all the time, it is easy to see Bob has important work on his hands and has his work cut out, what's more. Alas *Aegyptiad!* How fain we would but see thee now! Sorry I ever joked you, fellers.

DR. J. G. REMPEL, LATELY OF THE BIOLOGY DEPARTMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN, IS ANOTHER RETIRER and he has left Saskatoon, for a new home in Victoria, British Columbia (3045 Henderson Road, if you go up for the roses next spring). Among his many professorial and entomological interests, Dr. Rempel completed an intensive study of the mosquitoes of Saskatchewan, and produced the two standard references, "Guide to the Mosquito Larvae of Western Canada" and "Mosquitoes of Saskatchewan." Dr. J. A. SHEMANCHUK, who sent us the word (Dr. Rempel retired in 1970 but the mail is slow to Hawaii), pointed out that Dr. Rempel was with the University for more than forty years.

WE THINK THAT LTC SAM HILL HAS RETIRED, TOO, 'CAUSE HIS ADDRESS IS CHANGED from Gulfport to Aberdeen, which we don't know where that is but the zip is several zones away. What you now, Sam?

GETTING BACK TO *Aedes*, VMCA'S SKEETER ALSO REPORTS the occurrence of an outbreak of *Aedes sticticus*, which was formerly so rare that only one previous capture was recorded. . . . on 6 February 1903, in Woodstock. This time the river bottoms next to Courtland put forth hordes of them.

SKEETER ALSO GIVES THE RULES FOR ULV FOGGER OPERATION FOR THOSE WHO HAVEN'T TRIED IT: 1) spray droplets must not be less than 5 microns nor exceed 23-27 microns; 2) half of them must be in the range of 5 to 15 and two-thirds to three-fourths must be less than 20; 3) the mass median diameter must not exceed 14 microns and the average should not exceed 12. They used a silicone coated glass slide. We used to use one coated by holding it in the smoke of burning magnesium foil (pollution!) which was fragile but worked well, if you're pressed to find silicone.

AND ANOTHER HEADLINE IS THAT DDT STILL HAS A PLACE. Which reminds us of the two articles you've probably seen in the New Yorker Magazine for 25 September and 2 October, by Dr. Barry Commoner. They contain many unexceptionable statements about the environment and its workings but leap from speculation to assumption to assertion in discussing pesticides and especially DDT. As GORDON EDWARDS says, it is full of "widely-known non-facts." Isn't it time

someone who *knows* spoke up? How about it, KNIP? How about it DON? ART? TONY? BILL? All you guys that KNOW?

PRESIDENT JACK ROGERS HAS BRIEFED US ON THE STATUS OF H.R. 4342, The Mosquito Control Act of 1971 and we think you may want to know about it, too. On August 19, 1971, a delegation from AMCA met in Washington with Dr. John Zapp, HEW Assistant Secretary for Health Legislation, and discussed the status of the mosquito control bill that has been introduced by Congressman Hale Boggs of Louisiana. Members of the delegation were DICK PETERS, BILL HAZELTINE, GEORGE CARMICHAEL, a member of Congressman Boggs' staff and Our PREXY. It seems that Congress is waiting for a reaction from HEW and HEW is staying away from having a policy in public. Dr. Zapp was a good listener, though, and admitted that our arguments were real and that they raised many points not previously considered by HEW. In other words, AMCA made some good points but HEW's policy is "agin" us. GEORGE CARMICHAEL will let us know when to start writing letters.

HARRY PRATT WAS AMONG THOSE WHO SENT US NEWS OF THE LOUISIANA MOSQUITO CONTROL ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE AND JOINT MEETING WITH THE NATIONAL MOSQUITO CONTROL-FISH AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT COORDINATION COMMITTEE AND THE GULF STATES COUNCIL ON WILDLIFE, FISHERIES AND MOSQUITO CONTROL . . . and he wrote his up for us, so we'll use his. It seems that, even after they got through reading the name of the meeting they still had time for a scrambling session and we sure wish we'd been there. Since we weren't there, let's let Harry tell it:

"The Louisiana Mosquito Control Association held a most successful fall meeting jointly with the National Mosquito Control-Fish and Wildlife Management Coordination Committee and the Gulf States Council on Wildlife, Fisheries and Mosquito Control in New Orleans October 20-22. AMCA prexy, JACK ROGERS, and four past AMCA presidents—BOB VANNOTE, JAY GRAHAM, GEORGE CARMICHAEL, and HARRY PRATT—were among the 78 registrants from eleven states.

"Out-of-State AMCAers included such Texans as GEORGE THOMPSON from Nederland and BOB BARNETT of Houston who is President of the Gulf States Council on Wildlife, Fisheries and Mosquito Control.

"The first day included: progress report by the five directors of organized mosquito control districts in Louisiana, GEORGE CARMICHAEL, GLENN STOKES, SAM RICHE, WIL SCHULTE, and CHARLES ANDERSON; on insecticide resistance by DAYTON STEELMAN from LSU, and on biological control of mosquitoes by JIM PETERSON of U.S.D.A. CHARLES FULLER from NASA showed marvelous aerial color photographs taken of the New Orleans area as part of a research project which ultimately

may relate certain types of vegetation and aquatic habitats with specific mosquito breeding places. A highlight of the afternoon program was a talk by Dr. ANDREW HEDMEG, State Health Officer, Louisiana State Department of Health, reporting that the establishment of a significantly expanded State vector control program was his Number One project this year. May all states be as farsighted!

"On the second day JACK ROGERS presented one of his fine papers on insecticides for mosquito and dog fly control, HAROLD CHAPMAN reported the current status of biological control of mosquitoes, TOM DUKE explained the effects on aquatic life in estuaries of the Mirex fire ant program and the ULV malathion aerial spraying to control Venezuelan equine encephalitis (VEE), and HARRY PRATT discussed Public Health Service research on mosquito control. There was an interesting panel on the interdependence of mosquito control and wildlife conservation featuring WALTER DYKSTRA, CLAUDE SCHMIDT, BOB VANNOTE, GLENN STOKES, HARRY PRATT, and LARRY JAHN. Final presentation of the afternoon was a paper on VEE by HAROLD TRAPIDO, who is now Professor at Tulane Medical School, after fighting mosquitoes overseas for 25 years in Panama, Sardinia, India, and South America.

"Perhaps the most enjoyable part of the meeting was the SEA FOOD FEST Thursday evening with all the oysters, shrimp, and crabs the group could eat, on top of the Falstaff Brewery! Need we say more?!

"On the third morning members were privileged to fly over the salt marshes (Louisiana has the dubious distinction of having 51% of the 7.5 million acres of salt marsh in the United States!), to take an airboat tour of the Salvador Game Management Area, or to visit one of the five mosquito control districts."

HARRY FORGOT TO ADD TO ALL THIS that back in April he received the USDHEW Distinguished Service Medal from Secretary Richardson himself and there was a reception afterward that EVERYBODY, even the Surgeon General of USPHS, went to (photo in Trop Med and Hygiene News). Maybe Harry had calmed down enough to forget it by October, but in any case, it was obviously one of those honoring-themselves-by-honoring-him affairs. Congratulations, DHEW!

HARRY AND JOHN EDMAN AND DR. JOHNNY MULRENNAN JR. PUT ON A TRAINING COURSE at the Vero Beach Research Center the second week of November, and it, too, sounded a dilly. The list of instructors was, wow: JIM HAEGER, JOHN EDMAN, DICK DOW, BILL BIDLINGMAYER, JACK SALMELA, LARRY RHODES, JIM HEIDT, WAYNE MILLER, FRANK WILSON, DAN GORMAN, CLAUDE SOUDER, GARY MOUNT, MERRILL CATES, CARLISLE RATHBURN, DAN BOYD, JACK ROGERS, PAUL HUNT, JACK BEIDLER and MEL WILLIAMS (in order of their

appearance). We'd like to have been there just to see them!

GLEN COLLETT SAYS THEIR UTAH MOSQUITO ABATEMENT ASSOCIATION MEETING WAS A GREAT SUCCESS THIS YEAR, TOO, which is hardly news but we thought we'd tell you. (It's *always* good.) They met on Weber College's new campus in Ogden for the 24th Annual Meeting on 4 and 5 October and among those present were Prexy JACK ROGERS and Advisor-emeritus BOB VANNOTE. Among many papers on arbo-viruses, mosquito control and wildlife, and such, were one by LEWIS NIELSEN on mosquito collecting in Mexico, one by Tommy Mulhern on ditto in Taiwan and one by DON REES, as *piece de resistance* at the banquet, on Africa. Then Glen and JAY GRAHAM joined them and they took on the *World!*

DICK PETERS KINDLY INVITES US ALL TO THE 40TH ANNUAL "CONFERENCE" OF THE CALIFORNIA MOSQUITO CONTROL ASSOCIATION, WHICH WILL BE 30 AND 31 January and 1 and 2 February at the Holiday Inn in Stockton. Alas, we'll be in Australia chasing *Musca sorbens vetustissima*, but y'all go, hear?

KINGS MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT IS STILL IN SEARCH OF A GOOD MAN with a background in mosquito control, biological sciences, engineering or agronomy, or any combination of same. It may be late by the time you read this, so get in touch. PO Box 907, Hanford, California 93230. Interviews will be sometime this month.

ALAS WE HAVEN'T SPACE FOR ALL THE MOVERS SINCE TED RALEY GOT OUT THAT WONDERFUL LIST OF MEMBERS PRINTED IN THE JUNE ISSUE, but we do note that HERB BARNETT is now with the "Regional Science Office 'UM Gp' (1) Consulate of the U. S., Salvador, APO New York 09676." And MILT FLEMINGS, whom we thought of as happily rusticated in his professorship, has heeded the call of the wild and of duty to help, and is now at MAAG, Box 462, APO New York 09319. Wherezat, Dr., Colonel, Sir? And TOM LAURET is now with us here in Honolulu.

DR. ERNEST C. BAY has left his position as Head of the Division of Biological Control at the University of California, Riverside, to become head of the Department of Entomology at the University of Maryland, College Park. BILL BICKLEY, in relinquishing his administrative duties, will continue his teaching and research, and we look forward to a surge of research papers for *Mosquito News*. And we hope ERNIE, who was Program Chairman for the recent annual meeting of ESA, will not be too overwhelmed with his new administrative duties to continue his widely known studies of biological control of mosquitoes.

SOME ARTICLES IN THE PRESS ARE GOOD. CHESTER ROBINSON WAS WRITTEN UP IN THE OAKLAND

TRIBUNE (Calif.) When Chet started out, encephalitis wasn't much talked about, nor filariasis (like dog heart worm) either, but *malaria* was. . . there were some 6,000 cases in the State in the early years of the century. Not that Chet started then! *Alameda* MAD started in 1931. Taxpayers argued that 2 cents per \$100 assessed valuation was too much to pay because there wasn't any malaria in the Bay Area to speak of, and it took a lot of persuasion by our late revered DR. BILL

HERMS and HAROLD GRAY to swing them around. Now the rate is only .008 (or about 50 cents a year for an owner of a \$25,000 house) and everyone screams like crazy if they see ONE mosquito. We were fresh out of college ourself and at that time thought mosquitoes were for the birds, (though we worshipped at the feet of the good Doctor in our first course in Medical Entomology and in Insect Ecology). Apologies to their shades! AND HAVE A GOOD NEW YEAR!

DESPLAINES VALLEY MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT

8130 Ogden Avenue, Lyons, Illinois

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