

NEWS AND NOTES

AUSTIN W. MORRILL, JR.

AS WE WRITE THIS OUR AMCA ANNUAL MEETING IS JUST GETTING UNDER WAY AT MIAMI and if we get any news of the exciting things that we know are going on we'll tuck them into the end of the column. And if you don't see any there, shame on you BILL BICKLEY, and HARRY PRATT and DON JOHNSON and TED RALEY and TOMMY MULHERN and you other guys who usually so dependably send us notes. And shame on us for not attending. And we bet the "en route" trip to Mexico was productive and fascinating for you Western types, too!

QUITE A LITTLE EXCITEMENT IN THE PHILIPPINES RECENTLY WHEN SOME HIGH TYPE SCIENTISTS FROM A FOREIGN NATION (NOT US) BROUGHT IN *ANOPHELES GAMBIAE* for a test to see if it would be a good transmitter of malaria! Shades of the gypsy moth! As if we didn't know already *gambiae* is a good vector and as if *minimus* wasn't good enough. wow! All this without the foresight to notify the Government of their host country, let alone get permission. Shows what one has to guard against when folks get a bit *too* academic. Dr. FRANCISCO DY very sensibly and quite properly advised the Philippine Government and the people of Palawan (where the test insects had been brought) that merely *thinking* that none had escaped and that all the unaccounted-for ones were dead, wasn't quite good enough and the only sensible course was to assume that some *might have* escaped and to keep a sharp eye out. Remembering Brasil. And all the millions of dollars and man-hours. The Manila papers, of course, picked up Paco's low-key warning and made headlines that implied Palawan was heavily infested and the whole nation about to be. Palawan was sprayed by air and then the Air Force went all out and decided to spray places for *minimus*, too. They came to AVELINO BANAAG, at Subic Bay (US) Naval Station, who had been an interested but uninvolved spectator, and wanted to know, quick like, (and unofficially) how many gallons of spray and how much would it cost to spray the whole Province of Zambales. wow. That's a whale of a big chunk of territory just north of Bataan. Bel told them, mildly but firmly, that it might be well to have a survey *first*. (People tend to overlook this when ordering in airplanes.) So that's where we left it, with Navy and Philippine Government and WHO men dipping all over the place.

MEANWHILE ON TAIWAN, WHERE WE WERE AND SHAME ON US FOR HAVING BEEN THERE TWICE NOW WITHOUT TELLING YOU ABOUT JEVRU, EXCITING BUT LESS SPECTACULAR THINGS HAVE BEEN GOING ON. More in sorrow than in anger, as they say, CARL MITCHELL gave us the Annual Report of

the Japanese Encephalitis Virus Research Unit-China, which is 75 pages of absorbing documentation of the fact that, important as the assistance of visiting specialists like TOMMY MULHERN, HARRY MATHIS, DUANE GUBLER, C. Y. CHOW, "CHAPPIE" CHAPMAN and J. W. WRIGHT has been, there is a lot of hard daily investigation going on. For instance, they have found that whereas *C. quinquefasciatus* alters its habits to bite in subdued light even on sunny days in some areas, in our Southern States in the winter, and *C. molestus* has done the same in Southern France, *C. tritaeniorhynchus summorosus* apparently disdains to do so. Observations have been made on *C. annulus* (a principal vector) and *fatigans* and *fuscocephalus* which will be of interest to many other areas as well as Taiwan, and on nematode predators, on host preferences, and on control. Of particular interest to other Pacific researchers and controllers are their data on the length of effectiveness of ULV vs. knapsack and other more "conventional" controls. We could take the whole rest of the column telling you. Real meaty.

WHILE YOU'RE OUT THERE IN THE ORIENT DROP IN TO SEE DOUG GOULD (DR.) AND NORM WILKINSON (CAPT.) and their fascinating work at the SEATO LAB. They are turning up some very unorthodox observations on mosquito habitats and habits. *Aedes aegypti* and *Ae. albopictus* have been found breeding happily in the same containers (and there goes our nice, if joking, theory about eradicating *aegypti* by introducing *albopictus*). Usually the *aegypti* shade toward interior areas (how's that for a choice of words?) and *albopictus* tend to be more numerous in exterior water containers. But there is an intermediate form! The adult resembles *albo* (but with an extra thoracic dot, if you know them that intimately) while the larva resembles *aegypti* but with comb hairs differing. It has been determined to be a separate species and has been named *seatoi* (neat, huh?). *Albopictus* seems definitely less infective of dengue and haemorrhagic fever than is *aegypti*.

Well, that's not all. *Anopheles* (which we won't name until they publish, but *very well known*) have been found edging toward very *Aedes*-like behavior in regard to dried-up breeding sources in which to "over-winter," if that's the right term. We looked this up when we got home and find that some *Culex* have been seen doing this, too. It's getting to be a very mixed up world! Another thing . . . Doug and Norm have sort of succeeded in "colonizing" *A. minimus*, though with the help of artificially induced mating! Exciting, man.

MILT FLEMINGS, WHOM WE ASKED WHERE THE

to find and record the data on Sierran mosquitoes (See California's BVC's *Vector Views*, if you don't already). Ken's been having a cabin built near Soda Springs . . . smack dab in ski country, too . . . at 7,000 feet and off Highway 80 en route to Reno. His first weekend there the moon got eclipsed for him and he writes that he "got up to look at the full moon gradually blacked out in a shimmering winter wonderland of snow-covered trees and nine foot drifts of snow."

DR. KARAMJIT RAI, WHOSE PROMISING WORK WE MENTIONED IN MARCH, HAS SENT US A BROCHURE ON THE MOSQUITO BIOLOGY PROGRAM AT NOTRE DAME. This program is in its third year and is funded by a grant from the National Institutes of Health. The brochure is entitled, "Mosquito Biology: Genetic, Organismic, Environmental" and is available if you're interested. You professorial types may want to bring it to the attention of your students because it sounds like a great opportunity. We don't know about that "organismic," though.

JACK ROSEBUSH KINDLY LET US ATTEND THE CALIFORNIA MOSQUITO CONTROL ASSOCIATION'S FORTIETH ANNUAL CONFERENCE THROUGH HIS BEING THERE FOR US. It was held in Stockton on 31 January and 1 and 2 February and was hosted by LES BRUMBAUGH'S San Joaquin Mosquito Abatement District. Besides the multitude of mosquito luminaries in the Association itself, there were discussions of the larger field by out-of-staters like ARCHIE HESS, BRUCE ELDRIDGE, JOHN KILPATRICK, JAY GRAHAM, GLEN COLLETT, D. C. BAERG and H. A. CHRISTIANSEN from Gorgas (with STAN BAILEY, who is now at Santa Cruz) and R. E. OMOHUNDRO, and in-staters like TELFORD WORK, BILL REEVES, and TOMMY MULHERN, who was temporarily representing Taiwan. We don't list all the super-stars of DICK PETERS' BVC, like DON WOMELDORF, PAT GILLIES, DICK HUSBANDS, LARRY LEWALLEN, TOM PECK, EARL MORTENSEN, ERNIE LUSK, HUSAM DARWAZEH, MARV KRAMER or JACK WALKER or all the host from the University like DICK BOHART, CHARLES SCHAEFER, BILL WILDER, DICK GARCIA, GORDON PONTING, R. D. SANDERS, TAKESHI MIURA, E. F. LEGNER, R. A. MEDVED, R. M. TAKAHASHI, BOB WASHINO, and EVERT SCHLINGER. And what they talked about was too erudite to condense. We hope the Proceedings come out promptly . . . and to us! (We did *too* send in our money.)

HEY DO YOU SYSTEMATIC TYPES ALL KNOW ABOUT KEN KNIGHT'S *MOSQUITO SYSTEMATICS NEWSLETTER*? Of course, you did! We didn't, though, and our nose is a bit out of joint about it. How come you didn't say nuthin', Ken? It's in Volume 3, Number 4 already . . . or was in December, rather, and a pretty well-bound volume it is. Dropping the title Newsletter, hereafter, in fact, because it's not just a news sheet, by any means. We'd like to quote what they say about ALAN STONE,

too, whose retirement we hinted at in March. "More than any other individual, he is identified worldwide with mosquito identification and taxonomy. His unflagging and unselfish attention over the past 40 years to the needs of all people working with mosquitoes is probably the most exemplary service record with which I am acquainted," writes Ken, echoed by us. "His departure from our scene leaves a gap which will not soon be filled. Fortunately, we have his many accomplishments and the abundant presence of his name in our literature to remind us always of the debt which is owed him. We wish him long life and happiness in his retirement." And so do *we*, Ken, and note that the good words about service come from one who has done quite a little bit of that, himself. (Incidentally, we hope you all wrote your Congressmen to restore that manpower cut in the Insect Identification etc. Branch at USDA.) And thanks to ELMO HARDY for passing on the copy of MSN.

JACK KIMBALL'S ORANGE COUNTY (CALIFORNIA) MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT COURAGEOUSLY ASKED THE STATE BUREAU OF VECTOR CONTROL FOR AN APPRAISAL of its operations . . . and, boy! If you want a really candid evaluation of what you're doing ask your FRIENDS. Strangers might think they ought to be polite. But, by golly, HARV MAGY and TOMMY MULHERN did a real job of the analysis, which was presented to the Trustees by DICK PETERS and they gave Orange Co. *top* marks. Documented. And the documentation might well be used as a guide to ANY District program. Well done!

ARLIS HAMANN SENDS US A NOTE ABOUT MOSQUITO WINGBEATS (and many thanks, Arlis, for both it and the Kind Words). He says (speaking of our remark on the mosquito's 587 wingbeats a second), "Somebody, somewhere, must have been doing some more research, for in the Zoccon Corp. annual report for the year ended Dec. 31, 1970, there appeared an article, 'The Control of Insects' by Dr. Morton Grosser. Quote, 'The fastest known muscle contraction is that of the midge *Forcypomyia*, which has a maximum recorded wingbeat frequency of 133,080 beats per minute.' That figure breaks down to 2,218 beats per second, which is just about 4 times as rapid as a mosquito and more than 2 times as rapid as the number of beats you have for midges. [we had said 1,047 for midges] I hope the above information does not embarrass too many self-respecting mosquitoes." Well, we don't think it will. We tried jogging that fast and it just was something we couldn't keep up for very long.

GEORGE THOMPSON WROTE, TOO, TO SEND US THE 75th ANNIVERSARY ISSUE OF THE PORT ARTHUR NEWS and quite naturally, in reviewing significant history they gave a page to the events leading up to the establishment of the Jefferson

County (Texas) Mosquito Control District in 1950, and its Herculean accomplishments since. The story starts out, "Oldtimers recall the days when they were forced to walk in the middle of the streets, wear mosquito netting over their faces and heavy clothing and boots to fight off hordes of mosquitoes during the early days of Port Arthur. But smudge pots in the street cars and mosquito netting over the beds once the order of the day are no more since the establishment of the Jefferson County Mosquito Control District." That's the kind of news story we like to see, 'cause the Younger Generation seems to think that no progress has ever been made in ANYTHING until they came along to holler about it. Like all newcomers, to whom ONE mosquito is now a Big Issue. Good going, George!

JOHN TOENYES WITH JUSTIFIABLE PRIDE ANNOUNCES THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY (ON JANUARY FIRST) OF THE FOUNDING OF THE MONTANA MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL ASSOCIATION. A first for the use of the word "Vector," too, and hurra for that. He notes that the Association includes all of the mosquito control districts in Montana, public health sanitarians, conservationists and many small communities which practice mosquito control informally. GLENN MONSON of the Glasgow Mosquito Abatement District is President. TED RALEY notes (also with pride) that they are the 13th State and Regional association, and a BIG WELCOME to them all.

VIRGINIA MOSQUITO CONTROL ASSOCIATION REPORTED IN THE JANUARY FEBRUARY SKEETER ON THEIR TWENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING, held on what used to be Washington's Birthday (pore George, he started out on the *eleventh*) at the Mariner Resort at Virginia Beach. As always, there were a mighty passel of out-of-staters who included DAN JOBBINS, JOHN FLUNO, BILL BICKLEY, HARRY PRATT, as well as local boys like SIDNEY USRY, CLAUDE TAYLOR, C. E. TATUM and C. A. NELSON.

MAJOR DEAN GARRETT has left Brooks AFB for North Highlands, California, and ROY HAYES, JR., has gone from ECA to the Louisiana State Department of Health in New Orleans. DICK HOLWAY's new address is General Delivery, Spruce Head, Maine 04859, and mighty cold for May, after Hawaii, Dick? MICHAEL WINTER is

now at 1020 Saginaw in Fresno, from Bakersfield, Calif., JOHN KLIEWER is back from TMORU to Atlanta, JOE KNOWLES has left LAWTON, Okla., for Clermont, Florida, FRANK DOWELL is now in the Bay Region, in Concord, California, JIM HITCHCOCK, JR., has become a WHO Scientist in SUVA (Fiji), a lovely place . . . how can you work there? NEWELL GOOD is back from White Plains to a lovely sounding address: Ashwood Trail, N.E., Atlanta (That must be out near Buckhead?), JULIAN DE ZULUETA has gone from WHO's regional office in Copenhagen to Kabul, Afganistan, Capt. BRUCE FURLow is now at the 5th Army Med Lab in St. Louis, while Major GENE THOMPSON has gone from Fort Sam to DPSC-STQ, in Philadelphia, and C. W. LEE has left the Grand Cayman for what we got as the Center for Overseas Rest Research (we bet that's *Pest*) in one of those complicated London addresses: College House, Wrights Lane, London W8, 5SJ, England . . . complicated, but doesn't that College House, Wright's Lane, sound bucolic and charming, Westcheap or not? Major JAMES NEELEY is off to the USAREUR Med Lab (Frankfort, or something?) APO 09180, LCDR HARRY FALLERS is back from Naples at the EPMU-5 San Diego (oh, ya-a-as, that "E" is "Environmental"), DEREK RIORDAN has left Belleville, Ontario, for Summerland, British Columbia, but *we're* right here in Honolulu and we wish you'd all write us.

NATHAN CHAMPAGNE, Information Specialist in GLENN STOKES' Jefferson Parish District in Louisiana, writes in as follows: "We at the Jefferson Parish Mosquito Control District have chartered what we believe to be the 'first ever' Mosquito Control Special Interest Explorer Post 722, sponsored by us through the Boy Scouts of America Explorers' Program.

"A special interest post allows young adults, 14-21 years of age, to investigate and experience vocational interests utilized by the sponsoring agency in its specialized field.

"Our Post now has 11 active members and we expect to have about 20 members by mid-summer. Present members are: Kurt Pepperman, Stephen Mistretta, Paul Posseno, David Beary, David Dearie, Samuel McAneny, Joe Bailey, Robert Hazel, Melvin Lamps, Ezra Batte, and Ron Franz." Good going, Boys—