

## NEWS AND NOTES

AUSTIN W. MORRILL, JR.

BILL BICKLEY WHO STARTED THIS COLYUM YARS AND YARS AGO AND WHO HAS BEEN A FRUITFUL SOURCE OF NOTES TO US EVER SINCE HE SWIFT TALKED US INTO DOING IT, continues to keep us faithfully supplied with choice tidbits. His last letter was so full of them we're going to give it to you well nigh verbatim.

In Maryland, according to Bick, it appeared that the vast amount of water resulting from Hurricane Agnes washed away most of the mosquito larvae and *Aedes* eggs. Possibly a lot of eggs were covered by sediment. Anyway, there was not a large build-up of adult populations attributable to Agnes and the numbers of salt-marsh mosquitoes were not excessive, either.

In Pennsylvania, they were apparently not so fortunate because Bick heard by grapevine that there were several hundred thousand acres sprayed in the areas that were hit by flood. Because of peculiar atmospheric conditions in metropolitan counties along the Washington-Baltimore corridor, there was a SMOG alert. This, of course, called for a moratorium on spraying, even if they'd wanted to.

Bick says the demise of the Entomology Research Division caused some gnashing of teeth along the Washington-Beltsville axis and we don't wonder, having gnashed a tooth or so ourself over this gobbledygook victory of clericalism over science, as it seems to us. Anyway, among the many empty offices and laboratories are those of JOHN FALES and JOHN FLUNO, loyal AMCA'ers both. John Fluno has returned to Florida and Johnny Fales is we know not where. (Come in, John!) Happy Retirements to you both and let us hear from you!

Bick is doing research on transmission of dog heartworm, on which a lot NEEDS to be done, surely, and says he is enjoying it very much. He is currently trying to find out more about natural transmission by mosquitoes. There have been very few experiments which simulate natural conditions. He is starting with *Culex salinarius* and both the mosquitoes and beagles are cooperating very nicely, he says. He hopes that *Dirofilaria immitis* will cooperate also. And so do we and all dog owners and dog lovers (they ain't necessarily the same, though I can say, for one, that I try to love my wife's dogs). Here in Hawaii, f'rinstance, heart worm is said to afflict over 75% of the dogs.

Bick plans to go to Australia to attend the International Congress of Entomology and we wish we could go. The gasoline handlers' strike wiped us out by grounding military flights not essential to National Security and all we had as an excuse for being in that wonderful country was our need to

study the bush fly some more. Bick will remain in the tomorrow side of the Date Line, going up to Tokyo in September and October to teach at the U of Maryland's Far East Division in Fuchu, and to visit the 406th. Lucky Bick. There is no place so lovely as Nikko in October and a great big parade around the 15th, besides; medieval costumes and everything.

WELL, ACCORDING TO TOMMY MULHERN, BERGEN COUNTY (NEW JERSEY), HIS OLD STOMPING GROUND, WAS NOT WITHOUT ITS TROUBLES IN THE RECENT FLOODS. He sends a clipping from the New York Times which gave Bergen County (and VERNON CONANT) high marks both environmentally and for their mosquito control effectiveness. Tommy notes that the emphasis is on source reduction and that shows Vernon got *that* idea across right at the start and good for him! Tommy says the marshes of Bergen County are covered with fox-tail grass 10 to 14 feet high, so dense that a man can hardly get through it, and they are within easy sight of New York City, Jersey City and Newark. They are also within easy mosquito flight range of the densely populated residential areas of north-eastern New Jersey, so that an emergence of a single brood of *Aedes* could easily cause an avalanche of complaints from Bergen, Passaic, Hudson, Essex and Union Counties all at once, to say nothing of New York City itself! Tommy and we both find it interesting, incidentally, that the "principal inspection vehicle" was identified in the Times article as being a two-seater helicopter. (From this we learn that Vernon is a pilot as well as an accomplished mosquito man, we guess. Unless the reporter was, that is.)

DESPITE A SOMEWHAT FOLKSY TONE, an article in the July issue of *Bioscience* is interesting and may not be humorous. It reports that Dr. Clyde Umphlett of Clemson is working on a microscopic fungus that lives in water and has the uncanny ability to track down mosquito larvae and kill them. "If all the experiments are successful," *Bioscience* says, breathlessly, "this new form of biological warfare could reduce the need for spraying mosquito breeding grounds with chemical insecticides or oil." Dr. Umphlett has been studying the fungus for the last ten years, and has found that it has a kill rate in *some* mosquitoes of up to 95%, the "some" including *C. quinquefasciatus*, *Aedes aegypti*, *Aedes sollicitans* and *Aedes taeniorhynchus*, so it's an important "some." NCDC is about to start tests and Dr. Umphlett is continuing on with renewed vigor and, kidding aside, it could be a very important breakthrough so we shore do wish them all success.

DIDJA SEE THE ONE ABOUT THE LADY WHO HAS EVERYTHING? What can you give *her* for a gift? Well, like it says . . . what she needs is a good pest controller.

WE TOLD YOU BACK IN DECEMBER ABOUT UTAH MCA'S ANNUAL MEETING AND HOW GOOD IT SOUNDED AND WE SHOULD HAVE TOLD YOU IN JUNE ABOUT HOW GOOD THE PROCEEDINGS OF THEIR 24TH ANNUAL MEETING ARE. The reason we didn't is that they're *so* good that we went and filed them with our permanent reference material and forgot all about getting them out with the Notes when the time came. Because the meeting was about a lot of things but mostly it had some real Horse's Mouth on Wildlife (Donald A. Spencer) and Pesticides, Mosquito and Wildlife Relations in Bird Refuges (Lloyd Gunther) and Utah Pesticide Control Act . . . and a lot more. And roses to BETTINA ROSAY and MARY NOTESTINE, who edited the Proceedings so promptly that it was out in *three* months! *Mea culpa* for waiting so long to tell you!

BILL HAZELTINE KEEPS UP THE HEAVY ARTILLERY AGAINST THE INSTANT ENVIRONMENTALISTS AND THEIR EAGER COHORTS, THE INSTANT EMINENT SCIENTISTS, yesterday, alas, unknown. He points to an article in the 8 July issue of *Business Week* which remarks that many "scientists," not exempting the otherwise impeccable Rachel, have willingly gone before investigating committees or even rushed into print with half-truths and less-than-the-whole-truths. It also points out that EPA has so far considered itself merely an advocate for the prosecution, surely not a proper stance for either a scientist or a judge. ON THE OTHER HAND, of course, as Dr. R. L. Zimdahl points out in the June ESA Bulletin, there is a legitimately different concern appropriate to potential teratogens and mutagens which would be inappropriate to simple poisons and when it comes right down to it very few people will choose to risk their own child to even the barest possibility, no matter if the dosage needed is fantastically high and no matter though they later deplore the higher prices of tomatoes and find them wormy.

SPEAKING OF THE ESA BULLETIN REMINDS US OF THE LIST OF COMMON NAMES FOR INSECTICIDES AND THAT REMINDS US OF SOMETHING ELSE THAT HAS BOTHERED us for a long, long time. We think that the author of any article which uses a relatively new chemical name or the scientific name of an insect (especially if it's been changed from something else we've all used for years) should be REQUIRED to state the name right out in plain language the first time it's mentioned. We admit we're not the most alert person in the world and we sometimes do get downright forgetful, BUT. . . .! For instance, a recent article was about *chlorpyrifos* . . . and we only take this as an *example*, mind you . . . and we asked at least ten people and do you know not one of them had any idea

what the darn stuff is? It wasn't in our old 1970 Pesticide Index, either (we don't have money to get a new one every year). Or any other reference work we could lay hands on. Well, we finally ran it down . . . Dursban! With or without the "®", Dursban is what most people call it, just as most people call it DDVP or even Vapona (®) instead of Dichlorvos, but we've finally got used to that. Next time, how about saying ". . . Chlorpyrifos ("Dursban") . . ." youse guys? They DID say, "\*" and "\*" Mention of a proprietary product does not constitute an endorsement . . ." but damn it, we wished they HAD mentioned a proprietary name. Later on, it was mentioned again in a list, almost all of which had the true chemical name identifier EXCEPT "Chlorpyrifos"! You know that sign with the jumpy letters spelling FRUSTRATION?

AMONG THE PEOPLE WHO KNOW WHAT NAMES LIKE THAT ARE ALL ABOUT WITHOUT BEING TOLD IN SIMPLE LETTERS IS DICK HAYES, CHIEF OF THE ARBOVIRAL DISEASE SECTION OF CDC AS YOU ALL KNOW. DICK writes to share with us the satisfaction they all felt at the recent course held at Ft. Collins (Colorado) on "Techniques in Arbovirology." The course was given in collaboration with DICK DARSIE and FRITZ FORRESTER and with Drs. John Bagby and Jim Ogg of Colorado State. The course was intended to familiarize teachers of medical entomology with methods of isolating and identifying arboviruses and their antibodies and that sort of thing but by public demand was expanded to include collection and processing of arthropod and vertebrate specimens; characteristics, classification, isolation and identification of arboviruses; serologic test procedures and lectures on arbovirus ecology (the real kind), surveillance, and control. A mighty full curriculum and one we wish we could have taken. We've always tried to look intelligently interested when BILL REEVES talks but really we've just been trusting him to know what he was talking about. Anyway, the Ft. Collins course had among its participants Drs. BEV NORMENT, CHARLES WARD, CURTIS WINGO and WAYNE ROWLEY, which covers the midwest and south pretty well. Comments have been so favorable that a repeat is being contemplated for next June. So come all ye rounders if you want to hear. Write Dick immediately and he'll send you the announcement as soon as anything's firmed.

TOMMY MULHERN IN JULY SENT OUT A MULTIPLE LETTER TO FOLKS IN CALIFORNIA WHICH YOU MAY WANT A COPY OF AND I'M SURE YOU CAN GET HIM TO SEND YOU ONE. It contains five newspaper articles from Mexico, furnished and translated by DON PLETSCH, on the Venezuelan equine encephalitis potential in that country. Those who have been to Mexico or who made the trip there en route to Miami will appreciate the difficulty of rounding up reliable statistical information among the small-owner rural areas of that otherwise sparkingly modern land. The countryside is

charming but not amenable to good data collecting. However, a 16mm movie has been made and Don obtained a pre-editing copy (in Spanish) which is in the possession of WARREN COOK of Madera County (Calif.) MAD on loan. They are doing a lot of good work down there. Tommy also points out that if you're really interested an excellent map of Mexico is available from AAA.

DR. ANNE HUDSON OF THE ENTOMOLOGY RESEARCH INSTITUTE IN OTTAWA SENDS US A DETAILED WRITEUP OF THE INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON BITING-FLY CONTROL AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY. (We like to put important News and Notes along toward the end so you have to read the who-o-o-ole thing.) We can't do it justice in summary so you may want to send for a copy. The Symposium was held in Edmonton at the University of Alberta on 16, 17 and 18 May, 1972, sponsored by the Entomology Department of that University and those of the Universities of Toronto and Waterloo, and by members of the Advisory Committee on Entomological Research (ACER) to the Defence Research Board. So it was aimed at the problems of the Canadian Armed Forces but quickly outgrew that with the announcement that the Department of Agriculture would assume responsibility for biting-fly research and control and take part in the symposium. Speakers came from all over Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom and the Soviet Union. The first day, AL WEST spoke on various insecticides of each major group, some of them selective on blackfly larvae, and Dr. Jadu Saha spoke on the need to continue exercising precautions even with widely accepted materials. Dr. FRANK STRONG spoke on hormonal manipulation, particularly the juvenile hormone analogues, which seem so far relatively harmless to other animals.

On the second day, ERNIE BAY, HAROLD CHAPMAN and K. S. RAI discussed the continued need for pesticides but integrated with on-going research on pathogens, such as *Reesimermis nielsenii* (which we guess to be a Mermythid parasite, not a pathogen as such) and genetic control, particularly chromosomal translocations.

On the third day, the first main topic was personal protection, with a paper by DON WEIDHAAS and then they moved into a paper on systematics by J. A. DOWNES which pointed out the need for adding genetic and biochemical factors to the traditional morphological characteristics. (We've been afraid for some time now that this is going to lead to each individual being a separate species!) Dr. Michael Service of the Nature Conservancy in England spoke on some little-known aspects of mosquito behavior and Dr. Reinhardt Brust of Winnipeg spoke on their program of mosquito control, based on behavior and habitat characteristics, and limiting control to the areas where breeding actually occurs. All the papers were followed by lively discussion periods, according to

Ms. Hudson, whose Resolutions Committee included BRIAN HOCKING. It is hoped that copies of the Proceedings will be available soon.

VMCA'S SKEETER, ALWAYS A GOOD SOURCE OF INFO WE NEVER GET ELSEWHERE TELLS US SOMETHING ABOUT DR. BILL BICKLEY THAT HE DIDN'T TELL US. Bill, it seems, has REALLY been observing mosquito larvae lately and besides his already-wide general knowledge on mosquito habits has good reason to believe that there is a hitherto unknown factor limiting mosquito populations. This, he calls GRF for *growth retardant factor*. It's produced by the developing larvae and acts as a limiting factor on rival species or even too many of the same species occupying the niche at the same time. He thinks it might be isolated and synthesized and *voila!* Another form of hormonal control in an entirely new direction.

DAN JOBBINS DISCUSSED WATER MANAGEMENT AT THE VMCA 25th ANNUAL MEETING, held at Virginia Beach on 22 Feb, 1972. He told about the "old days" in New Jersey when water management was the main thing and brought them down to the present when, after a temporary eclipse, water management is again in the public consciousness. There was a talk, too, by Dr. Paul Catts, of the University of Delaware, entitled "Trapping Greenheads in Delaware." This ties in with the symposium in Canada, because Greenheads, for those of you lucky enough never to have experienced one, are tabanids with big green heads and a wicked proboscis. They are fast, big and mean and they hurt like hell. Sneaky, too. Like biting flies everywhere, they need lots of study, but as mosquitoes recede on the Public Enemy list, the biting flies move up.

SKEETER also reports on a two-day seminar held on 31 May and 1 June by the Navy Preventive Medicine Unit No. 2 (It's E PMU, but we won't say that word) at Norfolk, on the subject of *Gambusia*; the second day included a bus trip to Camp Peary, near Williamsburg, for a demonstration of fish husbandry and their utilization in an integrated program. Credit for the successful presentation goes to CAPT. E. J. CLARK, Jr., a good friend of DICK HOLWAY's program in the Pacific with PMU 6, some years ago, and to LANCE SHOLDT, DOUG EBERHARDT and ANDREW MICHAEL. Carrying on its bulletins on the once-rare *Aedes sticticus*, *Skeeter* relates that after Agnes, mentioned previously, the Potomac flooded over its banks and the complaints rolled in. *Sticticus* it was. VMCA's next annual meeting, by the way, will be jointly with North Carolina.

OUR SPY, MIKE PALERMO, SENT US A FLASH ON THE MIAMI MEETINGS, but it didn't get in the last issue and by now it's old hat. He did tell us that the attendance was over 600! And we still wish we might have made it "over 601." On to Houston!

IT'S A LITTLE HARD FOR SOME OF US WHO REMEMBER THE SMALL-TIME RELAXED DAYS OF 1940's meetings to realize it, but AMCA is now Big Stuff. We're a big and efficient business organization as well as an applied scientific one, and the tremendous reports we get from TED RALEY and the auditors who look over DON MURRAY's shoulder make us face that fact.

The financial contribution from the Florida Anti-Mosquito Association for the joint meeting in Miami Beach swelled our fat coffers by a full \$3590.53, which represented \$5.00 per registrant and one-half the net income as well! TED always poor mouths . . . and with good reason . . . he remembers the days of skimping and barely making it. But he quite properly says that this generous sharing will ease a good deal of the pressure on the printing bill for the Proceedings. And, it shouldn't be taken by tardy dues payers as an excuse to delay any further! Some of you guys who haven't paid YET better look to it or this issue you read may be your last. (We don't want to go from riches to rags!) (If you don't get this issue at all, you'll know why, eh?)

GARDNER MCFARLAND WAS CALLED UPON LAST

SPRING FOR A BIT OF SURVEY ASSISTANCE AND ADVICE by the Centro de Salud in Los Mochis, Sinaloa, site of one of the earliest Agricultural Experiment Stations in Mexico. Ing. Sr. Mario Sandoval, Jefe del Sección Saneamiento, did the calling, following the onset of a mosquito problem, which included *Aedes trivittatus* and *Aedes vexans*, and biting flies of the genus *Simulium*. Both problems were aggravated by the increase in irrigation water. They already had some predator fish of the genus *Poecilia* and *Tilapia mossambica* and *Gambusia affinis* were furnished for testing in the Fuerte River and associated irrigation canals. We'll be interested in learning more as their control program develops. Good luck, Señor!

FROM CALIFORNIA ALSO COMES BOTH GOOD AND BAD NEWS. DICK FROLI suffered a stroke in the Spring and we haven't been able to learn how he is, but the prognosis for full recovery was good and we hope has been borne out. DICK PETERS' news is cheerful, being of his marriage to Georgia Miller of Sacramento. We don't know the lady, but we know she's nice and we'd like to tell her that we congratulate her, too! Best wishes to you both! Aloha!

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