

NEWS AND NOTES

AUSTIN W. MORRILL, JR.

GENE GERBERG STOPPED IN HAWAII ONLY LONG ENOUGH TO TELL US A LITTLE ABOUT WHO WAS AT THE INTERNATIONAL ENTOMOLOGICAL CONGRESS AT CANBERRA to which (sob) we had hoped to go but at the last moment couldn't. Who it was (as well as we can remember. . . . we were standing on one foot in the backyard with our hands full of charcoal briquettes and the phone under our chin) was: Bickley, Bidlingmyer, Knipling, Arnett, Fowler, Pearson, McWilliams, Lavin, Elizabeth Marks (who threw a beautiful party for the lingerers afterwards in Brisbane, that beautiful city), Sabrosky and Gene. Next meeting is to be in Washington D.C., but it may be changed to the U. of Md. (one should hope so!) or the U. of Mich. Hey, how about Hawaii? Gene said someone thought that was too close to Canberra, being in the same ocean and all. Tel Aviv was also mentioned, which we hear has wonderful facilities but . . .

BILL BICKLEY WENT FROM THERE TO JAPAN WHERE HE TAUGHT SOME COURSES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EXTENSION DIVISION AT FUCHU AIR BASE, for a couple of months. We met Bill at the Dai Ichi (Shimbashi . . . the "Old" Dai Ichi) one noon and by gosh he knew more about getting around Tokyo and environs than WE did and we used to live there! Of course, it's changed just a *sukosh* since Our Day. . . . but the train stations haven't been moved and we still get lost. Bill said that mosquitoes took a back seat in relation to *Culicoides* at Canberra and mentioned with pleasure and respect a very fine paper by J. A. DOWNES and one by RALPH BARR. Dr. Bickley and Dr. MANABU SASA and lil ole Mr. We had dinner at Prunier's on top the Kasumigaseki skyscraper (which is on the exact spot where our old billet the Peers' Club used to be . . . DON PLETSCHE and you other Old Japan Hands) and we talked about Japan and the South Pacific and mites and mosquitoes and filariasis and heart worms. Dr. Sasa has been recently in Samoa studying the principal vector, *Aedes polynesiensis*. . . . that breeds in *crab holes!*. . . . and he expects to be back at NIH in Bethesda again, perhaps next year, on this. We told him that when Dr. GEORGE BURTON first told us that he was switching from *malaria* to *filariasis*, we thought he'd lost his mind to leave the Main Stream like that but, by George!, it's getting to be a big thing after all. Heartworm, too. "My word so!" as we say in Australia.

BRIAN HOCKING'S INSTRUCTIVE PAPER AT CANBERRA CAME UP IN OUR CONVERSATION TOO and that led Bick to mention Brian's book, which he

has modestly refrained from letting us know about, called "Six-Legged Science," \$4.50 from Schenckman Pub. Co., 3 Revere St. Cambridge, Mass. 02138. Bick said we shouldn't miss it and we certainly don't intend to if we can help it.

ALSO BREAKING FORTH IN PUBLICATION IS ROSS ARNETT WHO ANNOUNCED IT SOME TIME AGO BUT WE DIDN'T GET THE MESSAGE UNTIL JUST NOW. He's about to publish a magazine called *Insect World Digest* and though we haven't seen a copy, it was due out this summer, will come out monthly, and you can find out all about it by writing to P.O. Box 4068, Tallahassee, Florida 32303.

SAM HILL IS AMONG THOSE WE SHOULD HAVE NOTED AS HAVING RETIRED SOME MONTHS BACK and by now you've probably seen it in what Herb Caen calls the Brand-X paper. We haven't heard if he's headed back for Florida or Georgia or stayed in Ole Miss. Which is it, Sam? Congratulations, anyway!

BARNEY TRAVIS HAS RETIRED TOO AND we tender him our congratulations; and a word for you about him. Dr. Travis was named Professor of Medical Entomology and Parasitology Emeritus on 31 October, having joined the Cornell University faculty in that capacity minus the emeritus in 1949. This followed extended valuable service to the military research program during World War II, some of which was carried out in the Great Laboratory of Nature (in Alaska and elsewhere) under fairly unusual circumstances or at least the kind that don't conduce to concentration on research unless you're really *dedicated*. Barney has compiled a six volume reference guide to insects that transmit disease, which Cornell says, and we believe, is the most comprehensive work of its kind ever published. Its 3,000 pages describe over 17,000 insects of medical importance, including, of course, many of Barney's friendly blackflies. He'll be down in Costa Rica for a while working on them and then back to Cornell, a desk with an "E" on it . . . *Ave atque vale* and *ave* again, Barney.

"THE NAVY CARRIED ON EVEN AFTER RETIREMENT," WROTE TED RALEY, sending us a picture and story in the Fresno Bee about DON MURRAY and scaring the hell out of us. But he meant CAPT MURRAY has retired. DR. MURRAY is still alive and kicking the gong around, looking at fly breeding sources in cull fruit around Dinuba (California). In the pictures, Don looks pretty serious and Expert, but Ted says he's still getting time to play a lot of tennis. We envy him that.

But, of course, we suppose some folks would envy our swimming. Which you can do even in the rain.

WE'VE LOOKED EVERYWHERE and we can't find a single letter from HARRY PRATT saying *he* was retiring, but VMCA's SKEETER says he has, and we believe SKEETER implicitly. How about it, Harry? What are you doing? Well, we hope. (You do *everything* well!) Best wishes!

And SKEETER says CLYDE FEHN and B. F. BJORN-SON have retired, too. Gosh, isn't anybody going to keep on working? Well, we do hope you all are each one as happy as a clam in deep water. It does say here that Clyde is working for the State of Georgia and we bet you're all up to *something*.

GEORGE LANGFORD RECEIVED THE ESA EASTERN BRANCH'S MERIT AWARD and we never noted it till now. (We've been away.) The award cited Dr. Langford for his work on mosquito abatement and biological control of Japanese beetle, the latter of which we must grudgingly admit is pretty important, TOO. George is Acting Director of the Maryland State Board of Agriculture Programs. Retired, *huh!*

PAUL RUSSELL HAD A CONCISE AND FACTUAL REBUTTAL IN A LETTER PUBLISHED IN *SCIENCE's* 4 August issue. He punctured the airy allegations of one Samuel Epstein, who deduced that DDT *must* be carcinogenic since admittedly "crude" and "grossly insensitive" animal tests were thought by some to indicate this, on the old where-there's-smoke-there's-fire theory and the assumption that the worse the test the more significant the indication. *Science*, which has shown an ever-stronger drift toward highly unscientific attitudes of late, to say nothing of intemperate editorial language, ran a lengthy rejoinder from Epstein, which merely repeated his unsubstantiated first remarks and left Paul's statement untouched. We'd guess the readers, if not the editors, of *Science* are still sufficiently scientific to tell evidence from currently chic assumptions. Paul ended his remarks by pointing out the obvious failure of emotion to aid in solving the real problem of biodegradable pesticides and biological control and added that WHO and many others are working on the problem and are not aided by the emotionalism of the EPA or the Instant Environmentalists.

DR. FREDDY E. GONZALEZ-VALDIVIESO, OUR REGIONAL DIRECTOR FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN thought so much of Dr. ANDY ROGERS' Presidential Address that he translated it into Spanish and sent it around to many Spanish-speaking constituents, and included *us*. (What flattery! *Gracias, amigo!*) It was a bang-up good job and we are sure it was well appreciated. Freddy, of course, *did* the translation, and a beautifully clear one, too. Even we can read it.

TWO MORE ITEMS FROM SKEETER WILL INTEREST YOU, but, first, a quote:

"Great minds discuss ideas, average minds discuss events,
Small minds discuss people."

(We guess this puts us in OUR place!)

A test was conducted of dibrom in a ULV ground fog in September in Virginia, following the clearance of the chemical for this purpose. Both the machine and the material were under test, really, and both came through flying. The insecticide was dissolved in HAN, with an auxiliary, to 15%.

In September, also, a new group was formed in Virginia, which will be called the "Tidewater Mosquito Vector Control Council," with LANCE SHOLDT as Chairman, CHARLES TATUM as Vice, and STEWART McCAUSLAND as Secy. Among those present was Lt. COL. LEN TRAGER (to whom congratulations!), who was host at the next meeting. Lance also reported on Navy tests which ROGER GROTHAUS has been spearheading on repellents against flies and mosquitoes applied to large mesh nets. The small mesh nets, as everyone knows, have met with considerable consumer resistance, even in areas where they were essential. The larger mesh were tried from time to time but only now have been arranged so they worked. Up to three months!

Well, really, there were *three* items of interest. Kempsville-Bayside (Virginia) Mosquito Control Commission found that their Abate blocks made during the winter, which had a long period of curing, lasted for two months and even a bit more, while those made and used within a month of manufacture deteriorated much more rapidly. Hint! Make up your blocks as wintertime busy work.

WE'VE BEEN INDEXING LIKE MAD TO BE READY FOR THE MARCH ISSUE (we get December's about 1 March. . . we keep telling you about our Mail "Service"). . . and, by gosh, we STILL think *arbovirus* sounds like something that happens in forests. It's a lousy contraction, if you ask us. (DID you ask us? no.) What set us off was a word we had to pause over and type VERY slowly and carefully. *Bunyamwera Group Viruses*. You have to say that mighty slowly and carefully, too. Well, we mean, like, well, if you can say "Bunyamwera Group Viruses," you can say "Arthropod-borne Viruses," can't you? It ain't all that difficult. Even to shorten titles for indexing (and you know how we feel about THAT), arbo ain't worth it.

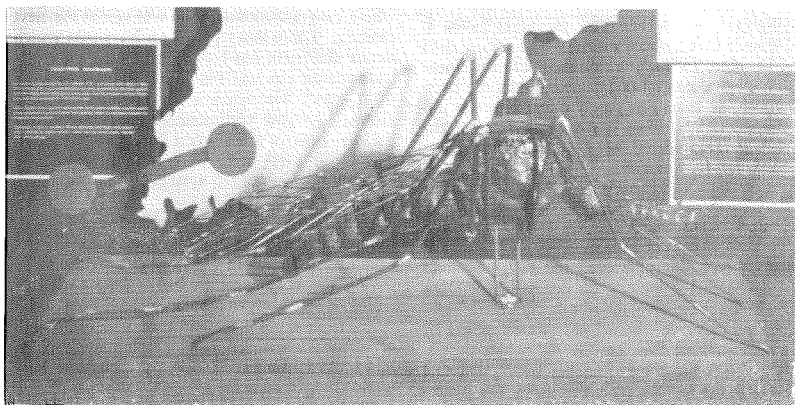
JEFFERSON COUNTY (TEXAS) . . . WHICH IS GEORGE THOMPSON . . . reported on their record system and we think it's good to know about because maybe you, like us, get a lot of static about keeping records too long and too much in detail. Well, by golly, with EPA roaring around . . . not to mention Nader . . . we think anyone handling pesticides BETTER keep records. George records every service request and puts down the

location and the nearest cross street (to save time in answering), who, what and where, and *dated*. *The forms are kept on file for three years.* "Each area that is sprayed, either by ground or by air, is recorded, together with the name of the individual who made the treatment, the kind and amount of insecticide used and the weather." *Good idea, George!*

R. E. SIVERLY SENT US SOME PICTURES OF BALL STATE UNIVERSITY'S EXHIBIT AT THE INDIANA STATE FAIR THIS YEAR, WHICH FEATURED MOSQUITOES, and we could see why people clustered around (and stayed to learn)! A quarter of a million of 'em at the Fair and we'll wager half that number goggled at BALL STATE's show. It centered around a two-foot iron maiden of a mosquito which was done by hand by one of the

in and Bick got a real great view so he went home saying "Guess who I sat next to at the airport today?"

WE TRIED TO GET THEM TO NAME IT S.A.V.E.—THE SOCIETY OF AMERICAN VECTOR ECOLOGISTS SINCE EVERYONE ELSE IN THE WORLD IS USING THESE HIGH-FLOWN ACRONYMS but they demurred, saying *anyone* was welcome, not just Americans. So if you're not a citizen of North or South or Central America . . . or even if you are . . . if you want to know more about these folks, write JOHN SHANAFELT or OSCAR DOANE or ED SMITH or BRYAN WENTWORTH (who is now Manager, Northwest Mosquito Abatement District (Calif.)) or DON ROHE, who edits Vector Ecology Newsletter from 3827 W. Chapman Avenue, Orange, also Calif. Their purpose is to encour-



AEDES METALLIFER VAR. INDIANENSIS SIVERLY SP. NOVA.

students. *She* hadn't been named at press time but R.E. suggested *metallifer* as a specific name, and quite appropriate. Obviously *Aedes*, too, we'd say. . . . pointed abdomen, short palps, spotted legs. . . . yup! *Aedes metallifer* var. *indianensis* Siverly. Sp. nova. (See Figure).

WELL IT SEEMS WE DON'T ALWAYS GET THINGS RIGHT, WE DON'T KNOW WHY WHEN WE TRY SO HARD. Anyway, we reported last issue that Bick had talked about a GRF or Growth Retardant Factor and darn it all, po'r Bick had to go and write to Dr. CHET MOORE and apologize ("Well, you know how that guy Morrill is . . . he means well. . . .") 'cause shux he was just reporting on it and the *idea* was Chet's. It'll all be properly documented (and explicated) in a forthcoming *Proceedings of the Washington Academy of Sciences* and when it is and Bick sends us the page numbers, we'll rush them to you.

PS . . . BICK GOT ALL SET TO LEAVE TOKYO AND THEY CAME ON THE HORN AND SAID . . . So, sorry. Slight delay. And it was the EMPEROR coming

age the study and suppression of disease and nuisance vectors through environmental management and conservation and to maintain the integrity of these fine words against all the latter-day forces of Instant Environmentalism. Good luck!

RANDALL LATTA SAYS JOHNNY FALES' ADDRESS IS RIDGE ROAD, NEELD ESTATE, HUNTINGTON, MARYLAND 20639 (and thanks, Randall . . . but couldn't you have said a little about *yourself*?) He doesn't say what Johnny's doing and we hope this will nudge Johnny into telling us! Come in, John!

THE NEW YORK ACADEMY OF SCIENCES HELD A CONFERENCE ON REGULATION OF INSECT POPULATIONS BY MICROORGANISMS in October and we'd like to have been there. Although one of the speakers was (Dr.) Barry Commoner, whose articles in the *New Yorker* we took strong exception to, feeling he was confusing journalism with science, there were a host of worthwhile studies discussed and the subject matter was covered in

a manner it seldom gets but greatly needs. MARSHALL LAIRD talked on environmental impact of control by microorganisms, JOHN BRIGGS discussed the UN program implementation, BILL UPHOLT spoke on regulation of pesticides based on microbes and their metabolic products, E. F. KNIPLING was among those present. We'd shore like to hear the outcome.

YOU MAY THINK WE DO TOO MUCH ADVERTISING OF THINGS WE LIKE and we guess we do because sometimes the *advertees* sort of murmur a bit. Like CAPT LES TELLER of the Armed Forces Pest Control Board, whose Military Entomology Information Service, we've appreciated loudly. He says there are now 57,500 accessions, catalogued since 1961, in addition to some 50,000 "older" articles, abstracts and titles. "There are nearly 300 arboviruses catalogued (not *our* word, that), over 80 of which are definitely arthropod-borne." (This confuses us, a little.) Les points out that Stone's Supplement IV (1970) raised the valid species of mosquitoes to 2840 and thinks it's fortunate not all are virus vectors! amen. They have *Mosquito News* thoroughly coded and processed and we can vouch the read-outs are thorough all right. Les adds, "We need no advertisement, quite the opposite." So, OK. This is not an advertisement.

THE TONGA CHRONICLE ON 22 JUNE 1972 HEADLINED "LABORATORY OPENED BY HER MAJESTY" and left us wishing wistfully we could have been *there*, too. The World Health Organization Filariasis and Vector Mosquito Research Laboratory, directed by Dr. J. C. HITCHCOCK, late of California, was opened with some little fanfare by Queen Mata'aho and Princess Pilelevu. TED RALEY AND VIOLA sent us the clipping. The laboratory is at "Menlo Park" on the Alaivahamama'o Bypass, if you get to Tonga and with all these jet-the-Pacific tours these days the chances get better and better. If you read the *Natl. Geog.*, you know Tonga's definitely worth visiting before too many big hotels go up. Her Majesty inspected the laboratory after opening it, followed by 400 other guests, so Dr. Hitchcock had to serve a good many cocktails at his party, but well worth it, we're sure. Entertainment was by the

Police Band, which is said to be both colorful and good, and a dance group. Aloha!

BUCK BELLAMY, IN CASE YOU'VE WONDERED, AND WE HAD IS NOW AT the Research Station, Agricultural University Campus, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. BRIAN STURGESS is now at Corvallis, Oregon, and Col. BILL YOUNG is at *USAEHA*, Edgewood Maryland.

THERE WERE A GOOD MANY OTHER MOVES, TOO. . . . *AMCA*'ers HAVEN'T STOPPED MOVING ABOUT . . . but we were so charmed with Ted Raley's new system of sending us *cards* instead of lists we had to make cards *from* . . . that we filed them! And now we can't remember. We do know Who's New, though. So welcome all you cards we hadn't filed yet . . . Mary Susan Gnagey and Martin Taylor, Lt. Col. Neil Pennington, T. D. Gilbert, Timothy Taylor, in Nigeria, at the University of Ibadan, and N. S. Rao, in Bombay, Nguyen Ti Vong of Saigon, and Dr. Volvick Remy Joseph of Haiti, Jon Jesen, Franklin Hall, Robert Lauderdale (of Reno, not Florida) and Noel B. Rawls, Vivie Davis, Tom Jones and Allen Dufrene, Ronald Everett and Gordon Stairs, Major W. A. Dimmitt, David Bell, James H. Jandl and George MacCollon, Max Schubert and A. J. Sorensen, Professor Sudhir Narang of the University of Brasilia, and Capt. Larry Nelson at Ft. Baker (Calif.), James Roney and Jim Earnist and Marsh Meyers, Manager of the West Umatilla Vector Control District, of Hermiston Oregon, to whom both welcome and good luck! And welcome, Dr. Keith Smart and Donald Forcum and Col. Paul Foley, Louis Lenhard, and Thomas B. Hall (we're leaving off some of the "Doctor's" . . . Dr. Hall is one. 'scuse) and Kenneth Hansgen and Grant Kinzer, and Dr. Fred R. S. Nelson and Mitchell Skrenczuk and Robert Rodale. And welcome to all you whom we DID file. We're just as happy to have you as can be. And we *IMPLORE* you all to write to us and let us in on what you're doing. It's fascinating, really, don't think it isn't. We'll love to hear about it just for fun and you'd be surprised how often it will HELP someone! Yes, even lil ole *you!* Aloha, y'all.