

NEWS AND NOTES

AUSTIN W. MORRILL, JR.

MILITARY ENTOMOLOGY LOST ONE OF ITS EARLIEST AND ABLEST LEADERS ON THE FIRST DAY OF 1974 WHEN SAM DEWS SUCCEMDED TO THE MYSTERIOUS AILMENT WHICH HAD PLAGUED HIM FOR OVER TWO YEARS. He came to mosquito control (like so many of us) a tyro from the ranks of the USDA but after his initial bloodbath at Fort (then Camp) Jackson, he characteristically made himself deeply knowledgeable and was transferred to the Headquarters of the Fourth Service Command in Atlanta. When DOYLE REED'S Corps of Engineers malaria control and GEORGE BRADLEY'S Malaria Control in War Areas got rolling (STAN FREEBORN was a Colonel in that, too, and HERB SCHOOF, BOB USINGER, TOM MCNEEL, ROY FRITZ and many others, now famous, were important segments of the machinery and the only other real State machinery in the Southeast was JOHNNY MULRENNAN'S in Florida), Sam was the calm engineer who oiled the gears, secured the linchpin, adjusted the safety valves, soothed the passengers (including more than a few Generals) and kept those of us who were more willing than able from gumming the works until we could learn which lever to pull and when. We won't belabor the story we've already told you of how SAM and KNIP gave us a picture of a gent dipping from a helicopter in the middle of Lake Lucerne, to memorialize our first attempt at a solo survey. Sam taught us, later. Without him we wouldn't have been able to make it at all, then, or later in Japan and Korea or at various Reserve duties while he was in the military and later. Sam designed the ancestor of the form on which all military work is reported, thus keeping EPA at bay a quarter of a century later. There are still mosquito workers in Japan who remember him with deep affection and respect and the forty or more people who saw him off on the plane when he left Washington two years ago were silent testimony to the love people bore him. He came back to lie in Arlington, with full military honors which would have pleased him quietly, and amused him a bit, too, for he was always meticulous in his military department but was about as unconcerned about the perquisites of rank as anyone could be. *Ave atque vale*, Sam. We mourn for ourselves.

ONE OF SAM'S IMPORTANT DUTIES WITH THE ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA these last few years, has been administering the new certification program. Entomologists, unfortunately, have been either indifferent to or actually (and unbelievably) antagonistic to asserting professional standards and now (while our Engineer colleagues reap the rewards of having long ago established theirs) entomologists are everywhere finding themselves wiped off the board in favor of more widely

understood disciplines. An example is the change in the California code, which those of you who were at Anaheim for the Meetings may have learned about. (We are writing this in January.) The new code deletes references to entomologist, retains engineers and adds a term "vector biologist." Without denigrating other disciplines, it seems evident that most vectors are insects and most vector specialists who deal with mites and ticks were basically entomologists to begin with. So, though we can understand the point the lawmakers are making, we deplore it and however much it may be due to our own remissness, we think that California mosquito control entomologists may want to protest the change. We certainly do . . . we don't want ideas like that brought into Hawaii!

BUT MAYBE WE REALLY AREN'T AN ENTOMOLOGIST. BICK SENDS US A CORRECTION ON A LIGHT REMARK WE MADE IN THE LAST ISSUE AND WE DON'T QUITE KNOW WHETHER TO CONSIDER IT AS AN EDITORIAL CORRECTION OF AN ENTOMOLOGICAL ONE BUT GUESS THAT WHEN BICK (OTHERWISE YE ED.) SENDS US A CORRECTION, WE'LL CONSIDER IT A NOTE! He points out that, according to DAVID GILLET the eggs of *Culex* mosquitoes aren't glued together but are held in rafts by natural forces. So our funny about GENE GERBERG'S un-gluing stuff just won't hold together either. Oh, well. Win a few and lose a few.

BILL REEVES HAS HAD A NEW HONOR HEAPED ON HIM (AND DESERVEDLY, NEEDLESS TO ADD) ACCORDING TO A PAGE NOTE IN *Tropical Medicine and Hygiene News*, which Bick also sent us. BILL has been appointed to the National Advisory Allergy and Infectious Diseases Council of the National Institutes of Health. (You see what we meant by "heaped.") Bill was President of ASTM & H in 1971, which was an honor for even that august society.

TED RALEY'S RETIREMENT WAS A BLOW TO THOSE OF US WHO HAVE BEEN AMCA'ERS SINCE ALMOST THE VERY FIRST AND CANNOT IMAGINE AMCA WITHOUT HIM AS FIRST MATE. We sat right down and wrote him a strong letter of protest. How could he do that to us? It was OK to retire from his DISTRICT but from US?? Nonetheless, we are grateful that he waited until he had our business running smoothly and with up-to-date efficiency and we do wish him well on the travels he'll now have the time to take. We can't really fault that, now can we? We've been looking over the American Association of Retired Persons' tours ourself, lately.

IN TRIBUTE BOTH TO TED AND TO BICK, OUR NEW YEARS RESOLUTIONS WERE TWO. . . . First,

we will get our dues in *promptly* so TED's successor, who will have no easy time, won't have quite so hard a one. Second, in grateful memory of DON COLLIN's tolerance of us and to lighten BICK's new burdens, we hereby give up all further crusades against solocisms . . . other people's, not OURS! . . . neologisms and word abuses. We made this resolution on "the Bus" (Honolulu's "Rapid" Transit) while standing properly behind the "standee line" on our way back from a University seminar where we were first an attendee and then promoted to a conferee. (We thought from this last that maybe we were about to get a degree conferred upon us, but, no, we were the conferee.) The attendees at our seminar were being trained to go teach safe insecticidal application to pest control *applicators*, to comply with EPA's new regulations . . . or as the military say, in *conformance*. Won't you be glad we've stopped?

DON JOHNSON WROTE US ABOUT HIS RETIREMENT FROM CDC/PHS, along with HERB SCHOOF, JOHN KILPATRICK and RUSS FONTAINE, who switched to WHO and remains in Kenya, so he doesn't quite count. He tells us also that SAM BREELAND, BOB TAYLOR, DON ELIASON, JIM MILES, AL PERRY, DAVE WEATHERS and a few others moved to Chamblee and will remain with the transmogrified remnant, like the priests in the Dark Ages, guarding the flame of knowledge for a brighter day, while malaria control as such goes to ED SMITH in AID, who is carrying on amid shortages of personnel but with a stiff upper lip. It makes us realize that if we haven't much to show for our "career," at least we can be proud of the company we retired in! Don is staying in Atlanta, like HARRY PRATT, but might be induced to travel a *little* . . . if it doesn't interfere with building his mountain cabin.

DON ALSO REMINDED US OF FRED SOPER'S EIGHTIETH BIRTHDAY on 13 December, when a reception was held in his honor in Washington, D.C. There are many of us, near and far, who would like to have attended in testimonial of the fount of learning FRED has been to us over the years. We'll come to the NINETIETH, Fred.

HARRY PRATT HAS LOST NEITHER HIS VIM AND VIGOR FOR TRAVEL NOR HIS WILLINGNESS TO SHARE HIS MEETINGS WITH US (Bless him) and we devoutly hope he never does. His long, delightful letter adds LES BEADLE and KENT LITTTIG to the list we mentioned above and says DANNY SUDIA has moved back to Ft. Collins to be with ARCHIE HESS and DICK HAYES.

Harry was at the biennial training program at Vero Beach on 15-17 October with JOHNNY MULRENNAN, MAURICE PROVOST, JOHN EDMAN, JIM HAEGER and others. They had a class of 80 students, divided into two groups, which alternated studying mosquito identification in the laboratory (with CHARLES HAMMOND, JOE VITELLI,

ELIZABETH BECK, W. L. BIDLINGMEYER and JUDY KNIGHT among others) and going to the field to see the marvelous research program of the Center (with again JOHN EDMAN, JIM HAEGER or JOHN LINLEY). The final afternoon was devoted to the Fall Conference of the Florida Anti-Mosquito Association, with excellent talks, says Harry, by DAN GORMAN, JOHNNY MULRENNAN, JOHN BEIDLER, CARL RATHBURN, PAUL HUNT, WAYNE MILLER, JACK SALMELA, and many others. It sounds like a whole issue of *Mosquito News* and we surely wish we could have been there. As a *student!*

ART LINDQUIST WROTE, NEWLY RISEN FROM A HOSPITAL BED BUT SAYING HE FELT FINE NOW, to say he was going to drive with Nita to the ESA meetings and thence to Harlington, Texas, where it's warmer than Kansas, and we hope he made it before the fuel crunch. You'll just have to FLY to Anaheim, Art, like the rest of us gas-less non-workers. (Course, it takes a lot more gas to drive from Hawaii, is why we're flying!)

ART ALSO KINDLY ENCLOSED AN ANNOUNCEMENT OF A CONSULTANT JOB IN PAKISTAN, which sounds mighty interesting but we chickened out on overseas assignments, even assuming we could hack it. But if it's still open, some of you might. It's for two years, until May 1975, and includes family travel. The requirement is for an entomologist familiar with the ecology of *Aedes tritaeniorhynchus* or the like, with the Pakistan Medical Research Center, 6 Birdwood Rd., Lahore. Dr. R. H. Baker is in charge.

YE OLDE HARRY STAGE CONTINUES HIS ORCHID TRIUMPHS. BEING THE FIRST TO BRING TO BLOOM A WONDROUS HYBRID, he was given the nod by the Royal Orchid Society of London to name same. Which he did. If you want one you will please call for *Paphiopedilium iantha* Stage and bow to Mrs. Stage when you say it. Howdy, Ma'am!

DOYLE REED AND HIS GOOD WIFE LOUISE (who would once have boxed our ears verbally for calling her a "goodwife") CONTINUE TO TRAVEL ABOUT, TOO. Doyle is a docent at the Washington Cathedral, but Holy Orders have never been his forte; we guess he gets *tired* of being holy. Anyway, they got themselves up to West Lafayette to check on GEORGE HUTTON to see what he was up to since he left the Navy high and dry. He was up to plenty. All of it legit. Shux. He's going to give EPA ideas, if he ain't carefuller. We understand Indiana is just about SET.

KEN KNIGHT LEFT THE NAVY SO LONG AGO NOW HE PROBABLY THINKS HE ALWAYS WAS IN ACADEME, BUT WE REMEMBER. And so we take a kind of double pride, both as ex-Navy and AMCA'er . . . in his selection as new President-elect of the Entomological Society of America. He'll go right from here into there, no pause, but then . . . he's always had a lot of stamina. We think we'll stay in ESA another year . . . 1975, that is . . . after all!

AMERICANS SCOOPED AGAIN BY DAVID GILLET, is the headline Ye Ed said he'd put on this, if he had time to write it, so that's what we'll say, too. "This" is an article by Dr. (J. D.) Gillett which appeared in the *American Scientist* 61(4): 430-436, 1973, and sure enough, it is, as Bick said, "simply fantastic" in its scope. Besides that, it's simply beautiful prose. It's also a sort of "Everything You Always Wanted to Know about Mosquitoes . . . and Didn't Know Whom to Ask." It ought to be used as a handout by all mosquito control agencies, it's so readable and informative. The title: "The Mosquito: Still Man's Worst Enemy." Recommended reading. If your library doesn't stock it, ask your nearest Sigma Xi representative.

ALSO INFORMATIVE AND VALUABLE THOUGH EVEN AN ADMIRER LIKE US CAN'T CALL IT "BEAUTIFUL PROSE" IS HELEN SOLLERS-RIEDEL'S Supplement (Bulletin, really) entitled, "The 1971 Global Mosquito and Mosquito-Borne Disease Situation," which is a supplement to the Proceedings of the 59th Annual Meeting Proceedings of the New Jersey Mosquito Extermination Association. As the Association notes, the first annual review was initiated by Dr. L. O. Howard in the Proceedings for 1921 and was continued for over 20 years after 1930 by the late FRED BISHOPP. This paper supplements and amplifies all that wealth of information HELEN has been publishing along with her Review of the Literature (and, well, yes, the discussion part of this paper IS both interesting and highly readable prose!) It's a definite must in any library of mosquito control. And only \$2.50, postpaid.

BICK EXHIBITED AN AD FROM THE *NEW YORKER* AT THE OCTOBER MEETING OF THE ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON which we had missed. A sterling silver fly swatter! That's right. A sterling silver fly swatter from Shreve Crump and Low, and only \$100. The absolute ultimate in "economic" entomology. Unless you count the electronic mosquito repeller, also advertised in the same sophisticated, but environmentally naive, magazine. That costs only \$21.95 from Gifts for Men, in the Hyatt Regency in Atlanta (on Peachtree, naturally). Guaranteed for from 3 to EIGHT feet and the battery alone lasts for "up to 200 hours." The tone repels mosquitoes but what it will do to YOUR pacemaker isn't specified. It would send *ours* into fibrillation.

WHEN TOMMY MULHERN SENT US HIS TRAINING MANUAL WHICH WE NOTED IN LAST ISSUE, HE ALSO RUMMAGED UP FROM HIS FILES SOME OTHER ITEMS OF CONSIDERABLE INTEREST. One was a copy of the "Report on Position Classification" which BVC prepared in 1960 but which is now being found pertinent to the planning of a training and certification program to meet the EPA standards. It seems to have stood the test of time quite well and may serve as a good guidepost (beacon?

channel marker?). Tommy also found a copy of an article entitled, "A Simple Mode of Preventing the Production of Musquitoes," which appeared in July of 1789 in the (Philadelphia) *Weekly Magazine*.

It's too long to quote in full and too good to do justice to in a summary, but we'll quote a few bits anyway:

"At this season of the year and in this country little need be said on the disadvantage of being surrounded by musquitoes," it starts. . . .

"A knowledge of the nature of the animal shews that its very being depends on the existence of water in a degree stagnant; . . . A pond or a single rain-water hoghead may, in this way, be (a) fruitful source of torment to a whole neighborhood; and, according to the quantity of its contents, similar evils will flow from every stagnant puddle. Ponds and puddles are, in the respect, a nuisance without being applicable to any use. They ought therefore to be removed from the city and its vicinity. The same, however, cannot be said of rainwater hogheads: they produce musquitoes in abundance, it is true; but still they are useful. . . .

"Procure a tortoise, such as the boys catch in the creeks, ponds and ditches, and place it in your rain-water cask. *The musquitoes, in their unwinged state, will serve as food which it will seize with avidity—and, perhaps, all produced in your hoghead will be less than it will desire. Thus will the production of this troublesome insect be effectually prevented. But this is not all: your rain-water, in this cask, can never acquire that horrid and unwholesome stench which it otherwise would: the loco-motion of the tortoise, etc. will prevent its perfect stagnation. Any fish, or a frog, perhaps, might answer equally well for this purpose. . . ." It is signed A CITIZEN, who adds, "in my hoghead I let a piece of shingle float for my tortoise to rest on." Well, *Gambusia* experts?

SKEETER, WHICH IS, AS YOU ALL KNOW, THE ORGAN OF THE VIRGINIA MCA, HAS A COMPANION SUGGESTION: *Toxorhynchites* (formerly *Megarhynchus*) spp. Well, *Skeeter*, gives a good analysis of the benefits and disadvantages of breeding up *Toxorhynchites* and liberating them to seek out breeding places of *Culex pipiens* and *Aedes* of various sorts, and all. We'll tell you, *Skeeter*, though . . . better talk to PAT NAKAGAWA about that, promising though it looks. They were let out here and, yes, you can find them around. But you can find them frolicking happily in the midst of an overwhelming abundance of their prey, stuffed and not a bit hungry.

INCIDENTALLY, DID YOU KNOW THAT *Mansonia perturbans* is now *Coquillettidia*? Fact. *Skeeter* says that, too, in reporting on the interesting fact that some of them (and one *Culiseta melanura* collected in a light trap) were found infested by

a mite, identified as *Arventurus (Truncalurus)* spp. by Dr. Mullen of Cornell. A water mite, it does not seem to affect the mosquito. Yet.

CLAUDE SCHMIDT SENT US A COPY OF THE NAS BULLETIN, ENTITLED "MOSQUITO CONTROL, SOME PERSPECTIVES FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES," which we mentioned a couple of issues back. It is, as we said, one of those must-be-in-every-library reference works of handy size and concise readability. (Did we say it has a resumé in Español and one in Français? The one is a great help in burnishing up our tarnished Spanish and the other in strengthening our no-doubt-laughable French, which we are laboriously putting together from a set of those records so we can order the right wine next autumn in some little *pension* in the Loire.) Well, CLAUDE says, "The National Mosquito Control-Fish and Wildlife Management Coordination Committee (what a mouthful!) is still alive and kicking. There have been some changes on the committee: Jerry Longcore, USDI representative is the alternate for Paul Springer; Sam Brecland, USDHEW representative, is the alternate for Jim Smith. Our committee held a joint meeting with the Northwest Mosquito & Vector Control Association back in 1972 at Eugene, Oregon. After a long delay the proceedings are now available from John C. Stoner, 135 E. 6th Street, Eugene, Oregon." Claude is Chairman of the group, we should add, and is planning a meeting with the Illinois MCA for next March.

CURT SABROSKY, WHO IS PRESIDENT OF THE XV INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF ENTOMOLOGY CONVENTION announced that ERNIE BAY, long of California and now of the U. of Maryland (Chairman), WHO consultant, member of the National Academy of Sciences panel whose Perspectives we were just talking about, and, of course, eminent AMCA'er, is the new Secretary-General for the Congress, replacing JOHN OSMUN, whose duties with EPA escalated so rapidly and took him so far so often that he had to give the Congress the wave, although retaining membership on the Organizing Committee.

The ESA BULLETIN A FEW ISSUES AGO HAD A FASCINATING STORY ABOUT SOME WORK DONE BY A YOUNG STUDENT RICK BORSCHULT, WHO RECEIVED AN ESA AWARD FOR IT. He found that *Nepeta cataria*, a plant extract, served as a significant repellent for several plant-infesting insects. The material contains a terpene nepetalactone, which is the repellent constituent of the plant. The plant is *catnip*. So while we're trying to find that perfect mosquito repellent that people will use and that'll work when they don't read the label on *how* to use it, we might try catnip. 'Course, then we'd have to fight off the cats. Which would *you* rather have, cats or mosquitoes?

THE SAME BULLETIN ANNOUNCED THAT BILL PEARSON, CHAIRMAN OF THE ARMED FORCES PEST CONTROL BOARD is now to be addressed as

COLONEL and we aren't sure we told you. Another long-deserved promotion which shows that the Armed Forces *do* (eventually) recognize good entomologists.

DR. RONALD WARD, PROJECT MANAGER OF THE SOUTHEAST ASIA MOSQUITO PROJECT, has a new address: Department of Entomology, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. 20560.

AND SO DOES EL IN^o FREDDY E. GONZÁLEZ VALDIVIESO WHOSE TITLES ARE MANY AND WELL-KNOWN but for the few who don't know, he's Coordinator of the Center for Investigations on Environmental Contamination, Director of Malaria and Environmental Sanitation in the Ministry of Sanitation and Social Welfare. His new address: El Hatillo-La Union, Estado Miranda, Venezuela, Apartado Postal 62131 (Caracas 106) and his code is CISCASAS, a nice anagram, while his acronym is CISCA.

GLEN COLLETT, LAST BUT NOT LEAST, TO COIN A PHRASE, REPORTS THAT THE 26th ANNUAL MEETING OF THE UTAH MOSQUITO ABATEMENT ASSOCIATION WAS A GREAT SUCCESS. Visitors, including Prexy KEN KNIGHT came from twelve states. DON REES, who hasn't slowed down a bit and who was organizer and first President of the Association, was elected Vice President and JAY GRAHAM continues as Secretary. REED ROBERTS, taking due note of Women's Lib and being aware that *some* women haven't needed liberation for years, has aroused the League of Women Voters in Logan and a new District is expected momentarily. Good luck, Reed, congratulations UMAA on your perspicacity in picking officers, and many thanks Glen!

POSTSCRIPT!! WE ALMOST GOT SCOOPED!! (We're NEVER scooped!) Ted's place has been taken by TOMMY MULHERN than whom we know of no one more capable of following in Ted's prodigious *footsteps*. But Tommy, now that you're The Man . . . our address changed on 1 July 1973 to: 763 B Aalapapa Drive, Kailua, Hawaii 96734. We are no longer with the NAVY. PPS Good luck, Tommy, and bon voyage!

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following items have been added without the knowledge of the News and Notes editor:

DR. EDWARD F. KNIPLING, formerly director of the Entomology Research Division, U.S.D.A., and a very active member of the AMCA, retired from government service on December 31, 1974.

JUST AS WE GO TO PRESS we learn of the death of A. W. BUZICKY, Director of the Metropolitan Mosquito Control District, St. Paul, Minnesota. AL never regained consciousness following a heart attack. He died on January 12, 1974. AL was a former president of AMCA and a most valuable member.