

NEWS AND NOTES

AUSTIN W. MORRILL, JR.

THE BIG NEWS FOR THE MARCH ISSUE OUGHT TO BE THE MEETINGS TO WHICH WE HOPE YOU'RE ALL GOING AND TO WHICH WE (SOB) WISH WE WERE, ONLY WE SPENT ALL OUR MONEY ON MOVING BACK TO SAN FRANCISCO AND OUR TOUR OF WESTERN EUROPE AND ALL. But no one has written us *anything* . . . which may be the fault of our Friendly Postal "Service" . . . so all we know is that it's at Atlantic City on 11, 12, 13 and 14 March. Of course, we DO know one thing about it . . . it'll be a dinger! We've been to Atlantic City in days gone by and they really do it up proud. We hope you all had a seafood dinner at that wharfside sort of place north of town and had a moment to walk along the silent windswept beach with only the gulls begging bread crusts to keep you company and the grey waves working away beside you to tidy things up for summer.

UNCLE HARRY STAGE WAS LOOKING HIS USUAL SMILING, ENERGETIC SELF WHEN HE PHONED US JUST BEFORE CHRISTMAS from his daughter's house en route South before heading back up to Coos Bay (Oregon). Harry's still big in orchids and, in fact, will be heading over to Frankfort shortly (that's in Germany, not Kentucky) for a show there in April.

GEORGE HUTTON WAS JUST OVER THERE, TOO, LOOKING UP ALL HIS OLD FRIENDS AND STOMPING GROUNDS AND WE WISH WE COULD HAVE HAD HIM AS A COMPANION AND CICERONE OURSELF. Like all other visitors to Yurrop this late summer and fall, he ran into rain and cold and more rain (*we* had some SNOW!) all of which had the local people mighty exasperated to miss their usual lovely fall weather.

OUR trip was wonderful . . . after waiting 40 years for it, it HAD to be! We saw every thing on our list but one. That was the Entente Interdépartmentale pour la Démoustication du littoral Méditerranéen, which Monsieur G. CHAUVET, who is le conseiller scientifique, had kindly invited us to visit. Our wife Jo caught the sore throat that we had going round and when it saw it had her, it gave up on the rest of us and *concentrated*. So she had to spend 5 days in a strictly monolingual hospital in Venice. (Boy! Did we ever learn to commute on the *vaporetto*!) Anyway, when we rejoined the group in Rome, THEY'd lost time to it too and so when we got to Nice there wasn't a moment to go off by ourselves to see ANYTHING. We were really disappointed because the Entente covers the whole-littoral from Marseilles to the Spanish frontier. The people in Nice who were (no pun) just as nice as they could be to us, home-made French and all . . . as indeed the people in Paris were,

too . . . were not unaware of the mosquito control work being done and gave it high marks and we hope to see all this on le voyage prochain.

SO WE ARE NOW IN SAN FRANCISCO AND OUR NEW ADDRESS IS 2701 Larkin St. AND OUR ZIP CODE IS 94109 AND WE DO EXPECT YOU-ALL TO WRITE US, HEAR? If we can write about our little old gaddings about, we can surely write about the good work *you* are doing and folks will want to hear about it, too, so don't be modest. Be like us!

WELL, BESIDES THE BIG MARCH MEETING WE CAN'T TELL YOU ABOUT, IT WON'T DO MUCH GOOD TO BRING THE HOT NEWS OF A COURSE AT CDC on 3-7 March, covering the control of mosquito-borne diseases. But if one of you took it (or TAUGHT it) let us know how it went, won't you? Please? During the 10-day period, 7 through 18 April, however, CDC will be giving a course entitled, COLLECTING, CULTURING AND CLASSIFYING MOSQUITOES. It costs \$250.00 but if they can teach you all that in TEN DAYS, boy! It'll be WORTH it! Well, gosh, now, it'll be worth it anyway. DICK DARSIE is the Director and if you know him that well, try to get in, but the deadline was February and it's limited to 20.

VMCA'S SKEETER ALWAYS HAS NEWS OF INTEREST AND TURNS UP MANY ODDITIES AS WELL. THOSE OF YOU WHO READ IT MAY HAVE NOTED THE STRANGE FINDING of salt marsh mosquitoes breeding in rainwater trapped atop a landfill on Virginia's Chesapeake Bay. The assumption was that the fill, coming from a marsh area, had brought with it a complement of eggs, which then needed only rainfall gathering in depressions and presto! Instant *Aedes sollicitans*. BILL REED has found that putting simple gasoline in-line filters on his LECO ULV machines on the insecticide and cleaning-fluid lines prevents trash getting into the flowmeter, and how about that, LECO?

ROLLIE DORER, THAT PILLAR OF STRENGTH TO MOSQUITO CONTROL ALL THESE YEARS has another talent we didn't suspect, according to *Skeeter*. He distinguished himself at the Tidewater Mosquito and Vector Control Council picnic by winning at horseshoes and *topping* a DOUBLE RINGER by WAYNE BRADLEY!

BILL WYMER WROTE TO SAY THAT HE ISN'T A PART OF EPA, NOT REALLY, BUT IS ONLY PAID BY THEM because they support the Federal Working Group on Pest Control of which he is the Executive Sec. They're the ones who review Federal Environmental Impact statements and one of the nice things about being retired is that we

don't have to speak politely for fear of THEM, anymore. But we do have to be respectful anyway, on account of the guys who are reviewing them and we must say we're durn glad they ARE being reviewed by such good people who know what they're doing. They reviewed 3,566 projects of the 44 Federal agencies last year and CHAPPIE CHAPMAN is on that panel. The Chairman of the FWGPM is RUSS RUSSELL, not by the way, and they are developing guidelines on certification of governmental employees, to match the state-established certifications soon to be required.

BILL SENT ALONG NOT ONLY THE CHARTER OF THE GROUP BUT ALSO THE OUTLINE OF A THREE-DIMENSIONAL "MATRIX" ONTO WHICH, LIKE A PROGRUSTEAN BED, THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS ARE TRIED FOR "FIT." THOSE of you who have done any statistical analysis will understand what a THREE dimensional skew does to you. TRY to fit it. These headachy concepts include such things as immediate and long range effects on humans, other animals, plants, air, water and soil, irreversibility, recoverability, controversy, precedent-setting effects, economic ones and the interaction or chain reaction of all these things. Across which are laid the characteristics of the pesticide or other control measure to be used, its persistent effect, its immediate effect, safety, economics, antidotal or remediable aspects and alternatives. Frankly, we're glad *they're* doing the reviewing.

JACK McDONALD SAW THE NOTE WE WROTE ABOUT HIS SEEMING TO LIKE DESERTS MIGHTY WELL FOR A NAVY MAN and promptly took off for the Sahara, which he approved. Pyramids and all. He's now at the Navy Environmental and Preventive Medicine Unit No. 7, in Naples, Italy, and has learned to say *ciao* and *è bella!* (note the feminine ending) and *quanto?* (He says.) Remembering how he skipped around in Chinese, we bet he's really reeling off the Italian by now.

THE SOCIETY OF VECTOR ECOLOGISTS, OF WHICH EARL MORTENSEN IS PREXY, HELD ITS ANNUAL MEETING on 9 and 10 January 1975 at Paso Robles (California) and, among other items of business, worked on a Constitutional revision, which had been prepared by TOMMY MULHERN, CAL ROGERS and JOHN SHANAFELT.

MEL BOREHAM WROTE FROM HIS OFFICE AS MEDICAL ENTOMOLOGIST FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE CANAL ZONE in Margarita, about his recent work in yellow fever virus surveillance which is being coordinated with the Gorgas Memorial Institute. As this involves obtaining canopy mosquitoes, the techniques involved are mighty ingenious. A solder-weighted arrow is shot into the air and over a high limb, taking with it a light, mono-filament line. This line is then used to pull up and over the limb a 750 lb. test polypropylene rope. (That's *test*, not *rope*, that

750 lb.!) A pulley and rope is then attached to the end of the tree-rope and this is raised. A caged monkey is then raised to act as bait for about 45 minutes and is then lowered and a fogger lifted into the canopy. Pyrethrum is used as the insecticide and the insects knocked down are then aspirated, using the Husbands-Holten aspirator and the collection is complete. Mosquitoes are transferred to liquid nitrogen for the trip back to the lab. Seems like the monkey isn't doing his share of the work, really, lolling about up there in the cool foliage for 45 minutes. We'd teach him to use the aspirator.

JIM KITZMILLER SPRANG INTO RETIREMENT FROM HIS TWENTY-SIX YEARS OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AND JUMPED RIGHT INTO THE HARNESS AT THE MEDICAL ENTOMOLOGY LAB at Vero Beach (Florida). It was more of a cartwheel than a spring, though, or at least a one and a half gainer, as it took him to Florida via the Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos, in Peru, which was founded in 1551, but is noted for solid accomplishments as well as its age. Jim spent the month of June last year teaching mosquito genetics in a course organized by Drs. MICHAEL GUEVARRA and HUGO GONZALES. Expecting a seminar-type group of about 15 to 20, Jim found himself with 70 eager pupils, which entailed five lectures a week and SEVENTY hours of lab! *In Spanish*, and competing with the bullhorns of the groups of students outdoors who seemed to be perpetually on *huelga* about something or other! (That means "strike" but it really means "socially acceptable" class cutting.) GLENN FLEMING of PAHO was on detached service for the course and "was a LOT of help."

JIM WROTE FROM VILLAVICENCIO (Colombia), which he felt was appropriate, since it was there that Marston Bates wrote "The Natural History of Mosquitoes" when it was the site of the Rockefeller Lab. We'd better let him tell it. . . .

"After a cold, sunless month in Lima, it was good to get back to the Amazonas and to get back to anophelines. From Leticia, we flew to Bogotá, checked in with PAHO and SNEM, [the National malaria organization] and made plans to get out to Villavicencio, only 70 Km away by a white-knuckle road; but a few days before, a landslide had wiped out about 10 Km of it (and about 300 Colombianos!) so plans had to be revised—we finally caught a DC-4, spiraled up one side of the Sierra and down the other, to VV.

"DICK KREUTZER had been there since June 1 and had the lab functioning efficiently, a lot of livestock (eggs, larvae, pupae and adults) on hand, a bundle of salivary slides already made. Glenn and I got there finally on July 9 and we've been at it ever since. Because of the landslide, all ground communications with Bogotá (and therefore with the rest of the world) is cut off and our only connection is the airlift, mostly DC-3's and 4's. . . .

"So far, we have concentrated on salivary and brain slides and attempts to colonize *albitarsis* and *darlingi*. We have a good lab in a residential barrio—PAHO rented an unfurnished (and slightly unfinished) house for us—which serves well as a lab.

"VV is an ideal climate—about 400 m. on the eastern slope of the Andes. From VV, the llanos spreads out for miles to the Amazonas—a terrific grazing and farming area—and full of anophelines—an ideal place to work."

Jim's address is now: Florida Medical Entomology Laboratory, Box 520, Vero Beach, Florida 32960, where he may be found happily and cozily researching with MAURICE PROVOST, JIM HAEGER, GEORGE O'MEARA, JOHN EDMAN and all the others of that productive crew. We look forward to further reports. Salud!

TOMMY MULHERN, BLESS HIM, DOES NOT LET HIS HEAVY DUTIES DULL HIS SHARP EYE FOR NEWSY NOTES NOR STAY HIS GENEROUS HAND. He sent us a page of the Fresno (California) *Bee* which front-page boxed an unexpected hazard for mosquito controllers. DAVE HUGHES, intrepid pilot for Consolidated Mosquito Abatement District (once TED RALEY's bailiwick, now DON MERRITT's), had previously thought his only worry lay in clearing the hedges as he flew over them to spray the golf course at its management's request. But, as the *Bee* put it, today he enjoys the distinction of being one of the few airplane pilots, if not the only one, to be shot down by a golf ball. "He also owes his life," wrote HOWARD MILLER, "to razor-sharp reflexes and instinctive pullup when his windshield shattered and he received a stunning blow on his flight helmet over the temple."

"I was dazed for a minute," he said. "I don't even remember pulling back on the stick. I circled a few times and when my head cleared, set down on this little airstrip in Papagni's vineyard."

A one-handicap golfer had hit a clean ball for a straight drive down the fairway, UP which the plane was coming. The ball went through the propeller blades, smashed through the windshield, hit Dave and then broke a side window. The impact speed was estimated at 275 mph, since Dave was going about 100 and the ball probably 175. The possibility of the ball shattering the prod or taking Dave right between the eyes didn't bear thinking about. Both he AND THE GOLFER finished their respective tasks! (Shades of "hit the ball, drag Mabel, hit the ball, drag Mabel"!) The golfer later apologized for the hit if not the hit-and-run aspect, but we think the Club should have given Dave a silver medal . . . and a bullet-proof windscreen!

THE INDEFATIGABLE TOMMY has also compiled a list of the faithful advertisers who have sponsored exhibits at our annual meetings—and thus made them financially possible. Since 1966, there

has been a sponsorship EVERY YEAR by American Cyanamid, Buffalo Turbine, Chemagro, Ortho, Humble, Lowndes Engineering, and Piper Aircraft and a nearly perfect record by two others. Let's give them a big hand!

AT THIS POINT WE MAILED IN THE FOREGOING, BEING ON A TRIP AND NOT KNOWING *WHEN* WE'D BE BACK, but our Friendly Postal "Service" returned the Ms. to our vacant house, We having addressed it to State Office Bldg. instead of State Education Bldg. Ooops!

A STEADY CONTRIBUTOR WHO WISHES TO REMAIN NAMELESS HERE (EL MODESTO) sends us an Avon ad which ought to make mosquito control types welcome the pretty Avon Lady with even more alacrity than usual. Seems their "SSS" bath oils, shower gels, shower smoother, skin softener and powder spray have been rumored around to contain an odor (otherwise delightful) which is repellent to *Culicoides*. We thought GUYS and gals ought to know. Especially GUYS . . . in case the Little Woman says, "But I really NEED it, if I'm going to let you take us *camping*, dear." Or for out in the patio, or whatever. Any lady mosquito control types want to report on the efficacy of this?

THE OLD WILD WEST DAYS ARE TRULY GONE. CALIFORNIA M. C. A. had its annual meeting in Redding, California, this year on 26-29 January, and Redding did not used to be an exactly metropolitan area even in Gold Rush days. But it now has a HILTON INN. wow. That's where the meetings were. They centered on Government in Transition and even more on Control in Transition, with speakers on and from EPA, Cal/OSHA and programs on viruses, biological control, bionomics, source reduction and like that.

YOU KNOW THOSE STRIP BOOKMARKS LIBRARIES HAVE AT THEIR CHECK-OUT DESKS? Well, SAN JOAQUIN (Calif.) M.A.D. has some *they've* been handing out, complete with cute cartoons and tidbits of mosquito control information beneath them about watching out for water-holding containers in the yard. They're done on brightly colored bristol-board stock and handy for the constituents to use, while they pick up a bit of subliminal facts-of-life about mosquito control. Pretty effective little "ads"!

THOSE OF YOU WHO'VE BEEN AT MEETINGS OVER THE YEAR KNOW THAT OUR INDEFATIGABLE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY IS ALSO AN INDEFATIGABLE PHOTOG and you've no doubt seen him popping up to take a Notable's picture as well as having enjoyed the results of his photogging about the world. Maybe you *didn't* know that Tommy has been accumulating a wondrous collection of both "field action" and formal photographs of our distinguished colleagues and would welcome any addi-

tions you might make to the treasure, which AMCA may someday wish to have repose in its archives. If you've caught a famous man in informal action in the field, or photographed him in solemn pose at desk or study, with book or mosquito in hand, how about a small donation of a print? Tommy'd LIKE color slides, or 3 x 5 or 8 x 10 prints from same, or, if B/W, a 4 x 5 of 35 mm negs and 4 x 5 to 8 x 10 prints, but he'll settle for what you have and, if lent to him for copying, he'll give them TLC and return them promptly to the address which you'll surely *not* forget to put on the back of each! They should be accompanied by "taken by . . ." and dates and biographical data, as may be available. And don't forget the DATE! "Taken . . ." And WHERE! All the stuff you put on an insect pin or a vial in a collection, in fact. And *thanks!*

RUSS SIVERLY AND DON SHROYER HAVE PUBLISHED AN ILLUSTRATED KEY TO THE GENITALIA OF MALE MOSQUITOES OF INDIANA, which appeared in Vol. 6(3):167-200, 1974, of *Mosquito Systematics*. Reprints are available upon request without charge (while they last) and ought to be a mighty useful bit of reference material to all those who share the species found in Indiana. Keys to males aren't too prevalent!

LUIS VARGAS HAS ALSO BEEN BUSY WITH KEYS AND HAS PUBLISHED A BILINGUAL ONE in *California Vector Views* Vol. 21(5), which was May, 1974, but just received. It's entitled "Bilingual Key to the New World Genera of Mosquitoes (Diptera: Culicidae) based upon the Fourth Stage Larvae," and it's accompanied by an also bilingual discussion. ¡*Olé, Don Luis!*

BOTH THE UNIVERSITIES OF CALIFORNIA AND MISSISSIPPI HAVE BROUGHT OUT NEW BOOKS OF INTEREST TO MOSQUITO CONTROLLERS. California's is a re-issue of STAN CARPENTER's and WALTER LACASSE's monumental *Mosquitoes of North America*, long in short supply. Mississippi's is the *Proceedings of the Summer Institute on Biological Control of Plant Insects and Diseases*, which is not exactly on Our Subject, but deals with diseases and parasites and such, which might be.

W.H.O. LIKEWISE IS SHOWING INCREASING INTEREST IN COMPREHENSIVE CONTROL of vectors and a

paper by DON SCHLISSMANN spearheads this. It's entitled "Technical and Economic Justification for Use of Comprehensive Antimosquito Measures in Malaria Control and Eradication Programs" and was WHO/MAL/74.835. W.H.O. meet AMCA.

THE WEST CENTRAL MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL ASSOCIATION is having its annual meeting on 25 and 26 March at Fort Collins and if you hurry you may be able to make it. JIM STEWART of PHS's Vector Borne Disease Division (P.O. Box 2087 and Zip 80522) has the program, which, as we write in January, we don't. And the FLORIDA ANTI-MOSQUITO ASSOCIATION WILL HAVE ITS ANNUAL MEET AT FT. MYERS in the Sheraton Inn, on 13-16 April. JOHNNY MULRENNAN and WAYNE MILLER can give you the dope on *that*.

DICK DARSIE HAS SOME MORE COURSES COMING UP AND DUE TO THE POSTAL DELAY OF OUR MS. WE CAN MENTION THEM IN ADVANCE FOR A CHANGE! Two (in two parts, that is) are on "Epidemiology and Control of Vector-borne Diseases" and will be held at Atlanta on 2-13 June and 16-20 June respectively. The course charge is \$125.00 per week, and we don't know how you divide it. The other course is "Ecology and Control of Arboviruses Causing Human Diseases" and will be limited to 20 trainees, who must apply before 14 March. (Applications for the first two end 7 and 24 April, respectively.) The course on Arboviruses is \$125.00, too.

THE POSTAL DELAY ALSO ENABLES US TO END ON A SAD NOTE ABOUT GARDNER MACFARLAND THAT WE DIDN'T EXPECT TO LIVE TO WRITE. Gardner died suddenly of a heart attack on 12 January 1975. He had been Manager of the Southeast Mosquito Abatement District, which is much of Los Angeles, a respected member of our profession, an active leader and the devoted friend of many, including us, for twenty-five years or more. Gardner was the sort who not only inspired others to action but took action himself and we sort of thought he'd go on that way forever. His passing will be a loss to us all, but especially to California mosquito control.

VALE.