

## NEWS AND NOTES

AUSTIN W. MORRILL, JR.

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MEMORY WE ARE WRITING THESE NOTES FOR THE JUNE ISSUE *BEFORE* TAKING OFF FOR THE AMCA MEETINGS SO WE CAN'T TELL YOU A THING ABOUT THEM EVEN THOUGH WE'RE GOING AND ALL, except we know that if you didn't go too, you missed a mighty fine time! Maybe if we find a typewriter some place in Boston and type like mad we can get you a word or two, because both YE ED and MARGARET SLATER are going to be there. READ ON!

YE OLDE HARRY STAGE SENT US A CARD FROM MEXICO CITY TO SAY HE WAS ENCOUNTERING NO PROBLEMS but lots of orchids and, since its the dry season in the tropics until April, he expected more of the same in San Salvador and Costa Rica. Hope you found plenty, Harry, and had a momentito to call in on the PAHO people.

DR. BILL HAZLETINE, STILL TAKING ON BIG BROTHER, UP AND TOLD EPA THAT WHILE THE FARM UNION IN CALIFORNIA CLAIMS THE RIGHT TO ENTER THE FARMER'S PROPERTY TO ORGANIZE HIS LABOR AGAINST HIM, the *M A D*'s HAVE GRANTED NO SUCH RIGHT TO EPA TO INSPECT THEIR MOSQUITO CONTROL. He got a grudging acknowledgment out of them, too, that indeed they did have no such right and after several mealy-mouth paragraphs of all the rights they *did* have, came right down and said (in several hundred well chosen words) that they could only make inspections if they had a court warrant, unless, of course, the State agency felt like letting them. . . . !

MEANWHILE GEORGE HUTTON, REPRESENTING THE SOVEREIGN STATE OF INDIANA AT A MEETING BETWEEN STATES AND EPA, in Sacramento, (perhaps because California has been causing EPA so many problems?), said the meetings were strenuous and productive and that everyone understood everyone else a lot better. And, we add, perhaps it was again made clear that the *States* know what they're doing, too. (We speak as a born Confederate. Like to hear our Rebel Yell?)

YE ED, BEING ERUDITER THAN WE ARE, IS A MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF TROPICAL MEDICINE AND HYGIENE AND HE HAS SENT US THE ISSUE OF THEIR *NEWS* in which was printed the comprehensive remarks made by BILL REEVES in presenting the Richard Moreland Taylor Award to ROY CHAMBERLAIN. Dr. Reeves pointed out the jewel-among-many in Dr. Roy's crown, that he had spearheaded the studies that led to the realization that the encephalitides could be carried by a wide range of unlikely mosquitoes, which was to prove so useful in gaining a handle on the VEE in the Texas outbreak. His work in the

identification of, and in the body of knowledge about, the many viruses and strains now known to exist has, of course, been a major milestone in arbovirology.

We noted in the same issue, however, that the Society found its Banquet a bit lacking in both the quantity and quality usually to be confidently expected in New Orleans, where they were meeting, and we wondered if anyone brought up the subject of eating those protein-rich little tidbits, mosquito larvae.

RETURNING FOR THE MOMENT TO EPA, WE HAVE A LETTER WRITTEN BY DR. ETCYL BLAIR OF DOW CHEMICAL TO TOMMY, WHOM HE ADDRESSES AS DR. MULKAR (That'll teach you to TYPE your name, Tommy!), in which he points out that considerations both of protection of the environment and of food and health, require that we move pretty quickly out of the arena of adversarial contention, which many of us consider to be detrimental even in its traditional courtroom. Dr. Blair thinks getting back to the local level may be "the way" but, as he does not add, local levels have in the past proved so venal that those who won't listen to scientific fact and reasonable discussion won't listen to having EPA run locally either.

BRUCE EZELL GOT OUR MESSAGE LOUD AND CLEAR AND HAS SENT US SOME NICE INFO FROM SOUTH CAROLINA: "Research work continues on mosquito breeding associated with Dredged Soil Disposal Sites (this is the new U.S. Army term for what most MAD Directors call "Spoil Areas") at The Citadel. Currently our research effort is sponsored by The Citadel Development Foundation, the Corps of Engineers and the S. C. Dept. of Health & Environmental Control. The grave danger of mosquitoes associated with hydraulic disposal sites was first studied in South Carolina by the Charleston County Mosquito Abatement Program. This agency (S.C.'s first MAD) brought the problem to the attention of The Citadel and S.C. Vector Control officials.

"New personnel brought into this interdisciplinary research effort," Bruce continues, "include Dr. D. L. Kline (Ph.D. N.C. State), Dr. R. P. Porcher (Ph.D. U.S.C.) and Dr. Edward Ryan (Civil Engineer)

"We are very interested," he concludes, "in hearing from MAD's that have a problem with dredged soil disposal sites. Another 'first' with this program will be the use of a national opinion survey form to be used to compare and contrast the attitudes of MAD's, State Vector Control officials, and the Corps of Engineers. If you are an MAD director and have a problem with dredged soil disposal sites, please write for further infor-

mation to: Dr. Wm. Bruce Ezell, Jr., HSA Project Director, The Citadel: Dept. of Biology, Charleston, S. C. 29409."

Those of you who've been in South Carolina don't need to be told what The Citadel is (or that Dr. Porcher's name is "Po'shay"?) but for those of us from Out West, U.S.C. is, in this case, the University of *South Carolina*. We note you can always trust the Army to make four words do the work of two, but it is a big advance to get the Corps of Engineers to admit that dredging is anything but an unalloyed good, and for that we do congratulate Bruce and his cohorts. So y'all write him, hear?

MIKE LOVING ALSO SPOKE UP FOR SOUTH CAROLINA (OR FROM THERE) TO TELL US ABOUT THE MEETING OF THE MID-ATLANTIC MOSQUITO ASSOCIATION held in Savannah on 3, 4 and 5 March. The list of those presenting papers included many AMCA notables and is far too long to reprint here and too notable to make selections therefrom, except to say that it included Prexy H. C. CHAPMAN and Ex-Prex BOB ALTMAN as well as (further back) ex-Prexies HARRY PRATT, ROLLIE DORER, KEN KNIGHT, BILL BICKLEY, TOMMY MULHERN and GEORGE CARMICHAEL. ROLLIE is prexy of MAMCA this year.

"It was an excellent meeting," adds Mike, sending along a program which certainly supports his contention, "and a good time was had by all. There were about 200 registered at the meeting, representing about a dozen states and federal agencies. The Chatham County Mosquito Control Commission, under the direction of Mr. OSCAR FULTZ, did an excellent job of local arrangements, including a delicious steak cook-out.

"New officers for the coming year were elected and include:

*President*—L. A. Williams, Jr.—S.C. Dept. of Health and Environmental Control

*Vice President*—C. J. McCotter—Pamlico, N.C. County Health Dept.

"DICK AXTELL will continue to serve as Secretary-Treasurer and Mr. AL HARRIS will replace Mr. McCotter as the North Carolina representative on the Board of Directors. Next year the MAMCA will be meeting in Virginia."

HAROLD G. WILSON HAS RETIRED TO THE PLACE WE WERE BORN IN, THEN A SMALL VILLAGE AND NOW THE CENTER OF "THE WORLD." *Disney World*, that is—

"In 1960, I purchased an apartment complex near the Orange Memorial Hospital here in Orlando," he writes from P.O. Box 8354, Orlando, Florida, and naming a figure which seems to us fairly astronomical, "and recently refused an offer of [an *absolutely* astronomical figure] for the acre of property, so I have reached the stage that I can really retire in comfort." Harold extends "an invitation to any of you who might happen to visit in Orlando to come by and see me and pos-

sibly we might be able to take a ride on one of the numerous waterways in this part of the State. The fishing is wonderful—in fact I have seen the time that you almost have to get behind a tree to bait your hook. . . ." (Better watch your language, we might take you up on it!)

DONALD SHROYER WRITES IN SORROW TO INFORM US OF THE DEATH OF RUSS SIVERLY from a heart attack on 21 February. "Dr. Siverly's patient and tireless labors as a mosquito worker will certainly be missed." Don adds, "I feel particular loss in his passing, since he sparked and cultivated my interest in the Culicidae during my undergraduate years." It is a statement many could make. Russ's comprehensive and highly understandable key to the Indiana species, of a year or so ago, and his service as a Cooperator in the National Mosquito Identification Service were well known, and his participation at meetings will be sorely missed, as well.

DIJA HEAR ABOUT CDC'S NEW HOME STUDY COURSES? There are two of especial interest . . . one, 3010G, "Community Hygiene," has two lessons on Vector and Rodent-Borne Disease Control, and other lessons covering every aspect of community hygiene, if one wishes to go into it deeper; the other, 3013G, "Vectorborne Disease Control," entirely along our line of work. Information on these courses is available from the Chief of Home-study Activity, in the Bureau of Training, of the CDC, which, so you won't have to look it up, is: Atlanta, Georgia 30333. You may even be able to get college credit!

THE SOCIETY OF VECTOR ECOLOGISTS HELD THEIR SOUTHERN REGIONAL MEETING on 12 March in San Bernardino (California) where they heard LYLE STOTELMYRE discuss Vector Control in Vietnam as well as the program of mosquito control in San Bernardino, which he heads. In the afternoon, Dr. Raymond Ryckman, of Loma Linda University, talked on Trypanosomiasis (Chagas) in Venezuela borne by a vector which is of some occasional concern to MAD's of the southwest, too.

KATHRYN SOMMERMAN CAME ON A QUOTE HUGO JAMNBACK FOUND AND PUBLISHED IN HIS "BLOOD-SUCKING FLIES AND OTHER OUTDOOR NUISANCE ARTHROPODS OF NEW YORK STATE" in 1969. Hugo was quoting the famed Brues of Brues and Melander, as follows: "In describing the reasons for the hasty adoption of the American Declaration of Independence by the Continental Congress on July 4th 1776, Jefferson writes:

"The weather was oppressively warm, and the room occupied by the deputies was hard by a stable, whence the hungry flies swarmed thick and fierce, alighting on their legs and biting hard through their silk stockings. Treason was preferable to discomfort."

"No entomologist, after reading this paragraph,

can question the fact that the 'hungry flies' were anything but *Stomoxys calcitrans*, so characteristic is Jefferson's account." Do you Florida and East Coast MAD's remember "dog flies"? "House" flies biting before a storm? Yeah.

AND U. N. KNOWN SENDS US A JINGLE WE'LL PASS ON:

Two mosquitoes once lit on the features  
Of two fair and peroxidized creatures. (last century!)  
"Oh, the grandstands are full  
And we haven't much pull . . .  
So we're seeing the game from the bleachers."

ROY ELLIS, OUR REGIONAL DIRECTOR IN CANADA, WHO IS CITY ENTOMOLOGIST FOR WINNIPEG, has sent us notes on two related happenings in his area, both of considerable interest. First off, mosquito workers in two provinces have joined to form mosquito control associations: Alberta M.C.A. was formed in 1974 (but not, we think, appropriately noted here, alas) with KEITH EVANS of Edmonton as first prexy; last year the Ontario M.C.A. took wing under the presidency of RUSS WRIGHT of the University of Guelph. Roy says it's expected that a Manitoba M.C.A. will be organized this year and a Canadian M.C.A. soon after. Can Quebec be far behind? Bonne chance!

"With mosquito control becoming more and more organized," Roy continues, "abatement officials in Canada are getting together more often to share their experiences. The O.M.C.A. meeting last February was well attended. For the first time St. Louis encephalitis spilled across the border last summer into southern Ontario . . . as far north as Toronto. Although the Province is taking mosquito control more seriously now, progress is being impeded by environmentalists, particularly those on the maniac fringe." (We think that "maniac" is a better designation than merely "lunatic," don't you?)

"Alberta M.C.A. members got together in March . . . in Edmonton [and] BRUCE TAYLOR did a good job of coordinating and chairing the meeting. Some of the 'important' speakers included H. N. JOHNSON, G. MOUNT, R. SJOGREN, C. H. SHAEFER, R. A. BRUST, R. A. ELLIS, J. MC-LINTOCK and R. WRIGHT.

"Western encephalitis, endemic to the Canadian west, took off last August in Manitoba. *Culex tarsalis* populations were 10 times normal and weather conditions perfect . . . for mosquitoes. With over 100 horse cases and almost as many suspected human cases, a health emergency was declared by provincial health authorities." Emergency mosquito operations were carried out under Roy's direction, employing a DC6B to apply Baygon aerially, helicopters to apply Abate granules, trucks and boats to fog with methoxychlor and trucks to spray with Flit MLO. One can see why knee-jerk environmentalists, who are never confused with facts, would react to these

stern measures, particularly feeling, as they do, that mosquitoes are more important than humans. A full account will be published this year as a special monograph of the Canadian Public Health Association.

DAUNTLESS AS BILL HAZLETINE, ROY TOOK ON THE PRESS WITH A SCHOLARLY AND THOROUGH LETTER TO THE TORONTO STAR. After reviewing the pest and health aspects of mosquitoes in Canada and rehearsing the appropriateness of the methods of control employed and the competency of Canadian specialists to employ them, he went on to give the media a dignified chiding which we think it would do editors everywhere a world of good to peruse.

"Too often," Roy said, "the news media are the cause of undue public alarm over the use of insecticides. Every newspaper appreciates that 'end of the world' stories are good copy. Editors that allow themselves to be manipulated by those extreme environmentalists on the maniac fringe or by those equally extreme who are 'gun ho insecticides,' should strive harder to keep their articles more balanced. Fortunately, Canada has leading experts in every field relating to mosquito biology and control and most of these people are willing to provide information to the media. Unfortunately, many of these experts cannot volunteer the information, because of their employer's policy, unless the media come to them. Because the mass media play a major role in influencing public and political opinion, I would encourage the members to get their facts right.

"How many people must suffer annoyance, infection, paralysis, mental retardation, premature senility, or even death unnecessarily before Canadians recognize the need for mosquito control?" Hear, hear!

HELEN SOLLERS-REIDEL HAD A VERY NICE WRITE-UP BY JIM FOSTER IN THE FEBRUARY NEWS OF THE AMERICAN REGISTRY OF PROFESSIONAL ENTOMOLOGISTS and the article, besides detailing Helen's *extensive* accomplishments, which we all know, has a very nice picture of her. Personal comment isn't supposed to be good form but Helen's finally gained a wee bit of weight and it's most becoming! Work under all those mountains of references obviously isn't affecting either her good looks or her good humor. Only thing, she wasn't wearing a HAT! How come? Anyway, Jim says her D.C. auto license plate reads CULEX! Wouldn't you know! She surely deserves it if anyone does, n'est pas?

P.S. HELEN IS HAVING A SHORT-TIME BARGAIN PRE-PUBLICATION OFFER ON HER CURRENT REVIEW and it would be well worth your looking into. Best of all, if you were at Boston and talked to her personally!

SECTION D OF ESA IS SO NEARLY SYNONYMOUS IN MEMBERSHIP WITH AMCA THAT PERHAPS NEWS OF THEIR DOINGS DON'T "BELONG TO BE" REPEATED