

NEWS AND NOTES

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WE HARDLY KNOW WHETHER TO HEADLINE RETIREMENTS OR CONFERENCES HERE AT THE END OF SUMMER. PERHAPS IT IS FITTING TO MENTION THE RETIREMENTS FIRST. . . . SOME OF THE CONFERENCES WILL BE OVER ANYWAY WHEN YOU READ THIS! Retirement goes on forever, something you don't really realize when you retire. But we must say all OUR retirees seem more than able to cope and busier'n hell at that.

CAPT JOE MCWILLIAMS bowed out of the Armed Forces Pest Control Board and the Navy after a distinguished career which took him to many lands and found him in many diverse areas of responsibility. Navy men, at least, will miss his sage and calm councils, not to say penetrating analyses, because few situations failed to find Joe seeing through them to the ultimate causes and effects. Joe, however, found it sort of relaxing to leave all that and isn't about to repine for the good old pressures. As he's going to be winging his way about (Space A) for a while, in a while, all you lost sheep keep your eyes peeled. Help may be at hand.

JIM SMITH retired from CDC and thought the old yard, so long an "I-must-get-to-it-sometime" thing, would be a great place to retire to. (A lot of us have found it so . . . for a time.) HARRY PRATT gives JIM about six months, give or take a few days. Jim's retirement party was attended by, besides Harry, SAM BREELAND, PAUL RICE, JOHN SEXTON and CLYDE FEHN.

BOB ARMSTRONG, too, became uncharacteristically retiring and took off in October. We say uncharacteristically, not because Bob was ever anything but modest, but because he was never anything but in the forefront of activity. TOMMY MULHERN recalled Bob's outstanding capabilities and energies in his letter to Bob, when he mentioned the "involuntary respect" engendered by this young and eruditely self-disciplined newcomer. Well, as for us, we can't believe it's been 40 years and we don't really think he's retired but, if he has, best wishes in it BOB and let us hear what you're into next!

JOE PANNONE has retired, too, leaving Rhode Island with a big gap to fill. The new crop, as

one of his retirement letters pointed out, will have a big goal to shoot at, in being equally resourceful. In a day when we are returning to first principles in insect control, resourcefulness is a long-neglected virtue but one that will have to be energetically refurbished. Joe's disciples will have a head start.

NOW . . . AS FOR THE THOSE ELDERLY TYPES WHO, LIKE US, RETIRED EARLIER . . .

MO HIRST, FOR INSTANCE, HAS A YARD THAT TAKES A RIDING MOWER, but he manages to carry on his studies at the Florida Tech. library, to be active in the Shrine and the Sojourners, including playing in the Shrine band (we seem dimly to recall some stories of Mo's early years in the dance band world!) and still has time to travel about to New Orleans, Memphis, Columbus and other southern metropol.

YE OLDE HARRY HAS BEEN CHASING ORCHIDS FOR SOME TIME NOW and they're a fairly non-retaliatory sort of prey. Now he's taken off for the mosquito wilds again, up (or rather down) the Chilcotin and Fraser Rivers, up in far western Canada. By raft. Now, *some* folks might think that was a *young* man's sport. Not Harry. Or rather, it is a young man's sport. . . . Ye Young Harry's.

HARRY PRATT, ON THE OTHER HAND, HAS APPARENTLY SPENT A WHOLE WEEK AT HOME. We don't know this for sure, but we have good reason to suspect it, for he says he spent it reading, "The Path Between the Seas: The Creation of the Panama Canal, 1870-1914," by David McCullough (Simon & Schuster: 698 pp.) Whether rephrasing the "as if by sovereignty" clause in the 1903 treaty is an idea whose time has come or not, the Canal was an idea whose time had come and the book is one as well. Harry says its many photos and figures (including a shot of President Teddy R. at the controls of a 97-ton steam shovel at Pedro Miguel) and its authentic tales of heroism and adventure are fascinating. They didn't forget the one about the *Aedes aegypti* breeding in the ant traps under the legs of the yellow fever patients' beds in the unscreened sick-bay. A grim reminder to those who take mosquito control for granted, how very recently we learned how vital it is that there should BE mosquito control.

BRUCE BROCKWAY AND HIS WIFE ARE THE NEW OWNERS OF A 29-FOOT MOTOR HOME and, as she is from California and as they are Rock Hounds, they plan a semi-nomadic life . . . at least in the winters, when you don't mow the grass in Toledo. Bruce's two sons are out of school (Bruce III) and in Toledo and in the Senior year at Ann Arbor (Lou) respectively.

DON JOHNSON SENDS ENCOURAGING NEWS OF THE NEW MAN AT CDC. Dr. Wm. H. Foege is an old friend, not only of Don's but of many in the "para-Medical" side and Don feels he will be an excellent new helmsman, being a strong public health man and firmly grounded both in domestic and international matters. He is soliciting input, as we say now, as to the directions Public Health should take and Don feels he will welcome AMCA's and the state's as well.

DON PLETSCH IS SO INTENSIVELY UN-RETIRED that we didn't want to include him there but as he took off for Djakarta, via Tokyo and HK, he flung backward a two-page letter (via DON MICKS) that is rousingly interesting but too lengthy to summarize and too good to condense. Nonetheless, we report the gist of it, which was, viz, that our public health-mosquito-disease vector control programs both where he is heading and in PAHO, where he has been, will not attain their full and needed potential until *local* involvement gets up more steam. Among other things, aids in training sent by us and prepared by Loving Hands need the hard practical foundation of being couched in the *local language*. (Spanish isn't all that hard and it is a Major Language, as well as our nearest neighbor.) Not that the valiant workers in the PAHO countries don't KNOW this, but they do need both moral and material support in spreading the word . . . and, we guess, the *promotions!*

NOW ABOUT THOSE MEETINGS. . . .

WELL, IT SEEMS THEY WERE ALMOST ALL IN OCTOBER. EXCEPT FOR ONE WHICH WAS DECEMBER 8 AND 9, over a month in the future as we write this but in the past by the time you read it (and, we hope, not too FAR in the past.) This is the first time we have EVER let the deadline get away from us so completely but we really did it this time. AND WE DIDN'T GET A SINGLE LAST MINUTE NOTE. First time THAT's happened! This is by way of a hint to those of you who went to the meetings we hope we're correct in saying occurred. Notes, please?

ONE MEETING WAS IN SEPTEMBER, ACTUALLY . . . THAT OF THE UTAH M.C.A. held on 26-27 September in Provo. Right after that the SAGINAW BAY MOSQUITO CONTROL COMMISSION held a symposium on Arthropod-borne Disease Surveillance and Control, on 6-7 & 8 October at the Holiday Inn in Bay City, Michigan. As the name suggests, the importance of various species as vectors was stressed, as well as techniques of surveillance and evaluations of methods. Eminent speakers came from pretty much all over the United States and Canada. At the end there was an open session and summary, led off by DON NEWSON, V.E. WAGNER, AL THERRIEN, GORDON SURGEONER, JORGE BENACH, MARGARET PARSONS, CHARLES BARNES, RICHARD HILLI-ROWLEY, JAMES ACKERMAN, D. L. MCGROARTY, CLAUDE SCHMIDT, SAM BREELAND and FRED LESSER.

On 13 and 14 OCTOBER THE NORTH CAROLINA MOSQUITO CONTROL ASSOCIATION HELD THEIR ANNUAL MEETING in the Holiday Inn at Nag's Head (does Holiday Inn have some sort of IN with us, do you suppose? or do they make us extra good offers to make sure no mosquitoes spoil their Holiday?)

Then, on 17-18 & 19 October, FLORIDA ANTI-MOSQUITO ASSOCIATION held a Training Program and Fall Conference at the Vero Beach Entomology Lab. At the end they had a CERTIFICATION program, led, we hear, by Dr. GEORGE O'MEARA. The accommodations for this one were at the Holiday Inn, too, but two other lesser places were listed, so that doesn't really count.

ON 28 OCTOBER THE CALIFORNIA SECRETARIES FOR MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICTS HAD THEIR ANNUAL SEMINAR and in addition to their program, the ladies (we are chauvinistically assuming no gents) had a slide-talk by TOMMY MULHERN on the numerous countries (mostly visited by him) where distance has not prevented the developing technologies from benefiting from California's. In the spirit of the Irish ladies who have banded together to stop the insane killings in their country, the mosquito control ladies spoke together on inter-communication to bring peace among the State's governmental agencies.

SOUTH CAROLINA MOSQUITO CONTROL ASSOCIATION SCHEDULED THEIR MEETING FOR 3 & 4 NOVEMBER at The Citadel in Charleston. The nearest Inn you guessed it . . . is the Holiday Inn. BRUCE EZELL sent word to Tommy and added a cryptic note asking, "Have you read the *St. Francis Effect?*"

CALIFORNIA MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL ASSOCIATION'S BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING IS THE ONE TO BE 8 & 9 DECEMBER and will be held at the Yosemite Lodge. After the summer's long, but alas not unprecedented, drought, the fall rains have grudgingly set in, which is to say sprinkles where there should be steady showers, and the winter's cold is upon us ahead of time, so they may have snow to make them feel cozy as they deliberate.

THE CMVCA'S FORTY-SIXTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE FOLLOWS SHORTLY AFTER, ON 29, 30 and 31 JANUARY AT WHICH TIME THEY ALMOST CERTAINLY WILL HAVE SNOW (fingers crossed for the ski-lift people who went broke last "winter") so they have moved this conference into the venerable, elegant and STONE Ahwahnee Hotel, which has a FIREPLACE. Or did. The Hotel had, we hear fallen on evil days, but has now been refurbished and is as rich with comfort once again as it was when it opened, the year we took our first entomology courses from Prof. E. O. ESSIG and from Dr. WM. B. HERMS and slept under the stars on entomology field trips. . . . NOT in January! We hardly dared PEEK into the Ahwahnee, so rich and we so poor.

WE DO HAVE ONE OTHER EVENT TO CHRONICLE BESIDES THE ABOVE FUTURE CONFERENCE. C. J. McCOTTER extended North Carolina's invitation to the MID-ATLANTIC MOSQUITO CONTROL ASSOCIATION to meet on 22, 23 & 24 March at the Blockade Runner, at Wrightsville Beach. "The invitation was unanimously accepted," writes R. C. AXTELL. (No Holiday Inn?)

JOHN CALLICRATE WRITES TO CORRECT OUR MISQUOTATION OF THE NORTHWEST MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL ASSOCIATION'S *VECTOR NEWS*. The movie on monomolecular control by the U. S. Navy is still in the making. If the appropriate office in BuMed or the DVCC's will give us the word, we'll let you know when it IS available.

CLAUDE E. ALLEN WRITES FROM WHO'S MALARIA TRAINING CENTER AT MADANG IN PAPUA (NEW GUINEA) to say that he MAY be able to attend at least one course during his home leave in 1978-1979. DR. C. T. CH'EN thinks he might be able to work in a 2 or 3 month one and Claude would like to hear from any training center that expects to have one during the '78-'79 overlap. His address is P. O. Box 1071.

ODEH K. HABASH of the Solomon Islands wrote Tommy recently to express again his appreciation for all the fruitful discussions with AMCA members and mosquito fighters, arranged for him by Tommy, and to send them all his and his wife's greetings. He especially remembered Orange County (Calif.) and C. L. BARNES (who was in the Solomons during WW II) and his colleagues and hoped to see everyone again one not too distant day. His address is P. O. Box 22, Honiara.

BRIAN WHITWORTH WAS ANOTHER WITH WHOM HE VISITED and BRIAN WROTE ABOUT IT TOO and ADDED THAT HE HAD HAD THREE OTHER DISTINGUISHED FOREIGN VISITORS in a one-month time (August), the other three being good friends of former years: (Miss) LAUREL WALTERS, who has just finished an entomological stint with the Peace Corps in Africa, DR. KALYAMANI DIXIT, Chief of the Malaria Eradication Program in Nepal, and Mr. SHAMBU LAL SHRESTHA, entomologist with that same Program.

WE HOPE MARGARET SLATER and BILL BICKLEY WILL FORGIVE US BUT APPARENTLY THE REASON WE MISSED THE DEADLINE WAS THAT OUR SUBCONSCIOUS TOLD US WE HAD *MISLAD* SOME NOTES! Just as we were about to sign off, we found them. No "we" about it . . . *mea culpa*. First . . .

LINDA CAVEY, WHO WAS ONE OF THE SECRETARIAL CONFERENCE ORGANIZERS IS FAR FROM LIMITED TO ONE FIELD FOR HONORS. On August 29, she received a bowling trophy for Most Improved Lady Bowler at the close of the summer session of the California State Employees Association League chapter in Fresno!

BILL BURGOWNE SENT HIS NEW MANUAL FOR MOSQUITO CONTROL WORKERS IN ALASKA, a compilation which must have taken a good many of those long, cold winter nights at Lake Wasilla, especially since Bill livened it up and made it eminently readable by his own cartoons,

drawn with skill and wit. As the first and most important thing about any manual is to get the reader to pay attention, Bill certainly gets first honors. (Note to Editor: Could we reproduce one of them, next fiscal when we aren't so strapped?)

MAURICE PROVOST, CHAIRMAN OF THE EDITORIAL BOARD, HAS COMPILED A COMPREHENSIVE TABULATION OF SCIENTIFIC ABSTRACTS APPEARING IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS (1971-6) of *Tropical Diseases Bulletin*, the most thorough abstracting journal for culicidology, by repute. LO! *Mosquito News* led all the rest . . . 24.6%!!! It was only approached by WHO's *Bulletin* with 16%. What's more we got an average of 14.3 lines and 19% of all those getting more than 40, while ESA's two entries amassed only an average of 13.7 and 12.7 lines. Take a bow, Ye Ed. and all writers! *Mosquito News*, indeed.

THE 1977 BITING FLY WORK CONFERENCE WAS held 8-10 June in West Virginia, with most of

the first day being spent at the Sleepy Creek Public Hunting Area, near Martinsburg (Berkeley County). In spite of unfavorable weather, 10 species of Tabanidae were collected. Two modified Malaise traps, 1 standard Malaise trap and 5 canopy traps were used. Most of these were baited with dry ice. Nets were also used by the eager participants, who set 3 new county records and 4 seasonal records for distributional extremes.

On 9 June, the group assembled at Morgantown for some interesting discussions and on 10 June, they met at the Cranesville Swamp, in Preston County. This time, they collected 15 tabanid species, set 6 new county records, 3 seasonal records and 1 state record.

The participants represented 7 states and 2 Canadian provinces. Though Chairman JAMES T. GOODWIN was sadly unable to be present, secretary LINDA BUTLER and her colleagues carried on as the excellent hostesses and hosts. LARRY UHRICH is arranging the 1978 meeting for New Hampshire.

DR. STEPHEN M. K. HU

It is difficult to write of Steve Hu in the past tense or to think of him in any other way than the one we always have, as a man so full of life that just to be with him made his companions feel somehow more alive, too. His energy was unbounded both in his work and in more relaxed moments of good fellowship with his fellow workers from around the globe. When I think of Steve, I can only think of one time in Manila when an infuriating indisposition of a spinal disc made me send my younger colleagues in to town alone to dine with Steve and to learn about the local programs. Next day, they admiringly told me, "Wow, Dad, that guy's a real *swinger*! How come you're not like that? He wore us out!"

Dr. Hu was born 74 years ago in a Honolulu not yet awakened to a career of achievement and, except for earning his doctoral degree at Johns Hopkins, spent most of his 46-year career in the Orient. He went to China in 1931 as a Rockefeller Foundation Fellow, worked on China's National Health Administration malaria control program in Nanking and later headed the entomology department of Henry

Lester Institute in Shanghai, where he remained after World War II with the United Nations.

He went home to Honolulu in 1948 to head the Bureau of Mosquito Control and was credited with introducing *Toxorhynchites* as a predator species, an introduction which was successful but failed as a control under the local conditions. Thereafter, he was with the Department of Defense programs in Japan and Taiwan, where a mosquito was named for him, *Aedes hua*. He joined AID and was acting chief of the program in Nepal and Pakistan, followed by the Philippines. Returning to the United States in 1968, he became research associate at Walter Reed Medical Center and at the school of pathobiology at Johns Hopkins University School of Hygiene in Baltimore.

Steve was a member of the American and the Royal Societies of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, the American Public Health Association, the Society of the Sigma Xi and, of course, AMCA. He is survived by his wife, his son, two daughters and six grandchildren and a host of friends.