

NEWS AND NOTES¹

Austin W. Morrill, Jr.

WHEN WE WERE YOUNG THERE WAS A STORY ABOUT A YOUNG MAN WHO WENT AROUND THE ROOM AT A PARTY MAKING ELABORATE FAREWELLS AND THEN OPENED THE DOOR AND BOWED HIMSELF OUT INTO A CLOSET! He was so hacked, because he'd already SAID goodbye, that he just *stayed* there! Well, we're not the shy type and we can't stay in the closet inDEFinitely, so here we are again, just as if we hadn't said farewell at all, and ready to go on with the party. Apologies all round, chaps, bear with us.

OCCASIONALLY, TO STIMULATE A LITTLE CORRESPONDENCE, WE RUN AN ITEM OR TWO THAT WASN'T EXACTLY INTENTIONALLY WRONG, but that we hadn't CHECKED very conscientiously. The ploy hasn't always worked, but this time it did. CAPT JOHNNY MULRENNAN JR. wrote us a nice long letter to tell us about Navy moves and to say that, though he IS retiring (incredible!), he is *not* going to Zoecon. (Sorry, Zoecon; tough break.) His retirement will trigger moves all round, possibly in time for the June issue. Already moved, is LCDR DON McCRODDAN, now at NRMC at Subic Bay, in the Philippines. With the closing of historic NAMRU TWO in Taipei, LT JIM TROOPER will be leaving there next month for Alameda DVCC in California.

CAPT JOE McWILLIAMS and Miriam finally found the exactly RIGHT place to retire and are happily settled in Coupeville, Washington (98239), which, we gather, is on or next to Whidbey Island, of Naval fame. More and more people are deciding the Pacific Northwest is the last unspoiled area and it's certainly a lovely one. We remember with great pleasure that 40-minute or so ferry ride from Seattle up through the wooded isles. And CAPT DICK HOLWAY and Iva, who long ago settled on Maine as being equally unspoiled and equally lovely, are mulling over plans to open an antique shop there in Bar Harbor, to be called, perhaps, The Captain's Seachest. (With mosquito repellent in old Sandwich glass perfume bottles?)

GIL CHALLET WROTE US A LOVELY LONG LETTER IN NOVEMBER, too late for the December

issue, but NOW we can tell you after all. Gil had made a forceful and thoughtful presentation of the effects of the notorious Prop 13 on mosquito control agencies, at the Louisiana MCA meetings in New Orleans (see December). And he joined in formulating a position paper on this subject with a number of other AMCA'ers, including DON WOMELDORF, BILL HAZELTINE, FRED ROBERTS, JIM MALLERS and JACK FIORI. BILL REEVES gave a separate paper on one disease aspect.

After analysing the horrendous impact on the mosquito and vector control programs of a 50 to 60% cut in funds (since health agencies had been loaded on the property taxes rather than onto general funds, where they belonged), the AMCA'ers correctly pointed out that Prop 13 was meant to cut fat in City Hall (where this has notably NOT been done) and not to reduce the things people want and need like mosquito control, police, fire protection, museums, parks and libraries. These things, benefitting all the citizens and not just the property owners, should of course come from general levies. They also pointed out that STATE income from taxes has actually risen due to 13 and that state subvention of health protection agencies is already provided in law, though ended in practice. People, knowing that the State has a many-billion-dollar surplus from past high taxes, and is steadily gaining a bigger one despite the monies doled out to "bail out" local governments, see no reason why these funds cannot be transferred to essential services at the level from which the taxes came in the first place. A good presentation and right on target and we'd like to think it had an impact, but politicians are notably deaf to all voices but their own.

EDGAR BORDES, JR., OF THE LOUISIANA MOSQUITO CONTROL ASSOCIATION WANTED US TO THANK THE AMCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS, THE PEOPLE WHO PRESENTED PAPERS AND THE ONES WHO JUST ATTENDED their 20th Annual Meeting, which, from what others tell us is like a millionaire thanking the people who've allowed him to give them money. There were over 100 persons in attendance and papers ranged from the abovementioned one by GIL to one on the problems of trying to market biological control agents and from ULV to disease and vector surveillance. There was a salute to Dr. EDWARD HATHAWAY, the father of

¹ Austin Morrill's resignation was not accepted, therefore News and Notes appear as usual.

mosquito control in Louisiana, and a River Boat cruise with a menu that included "crayfish *boudin*, meats *boudin*, fried catfish, softshell crabs, shrimp and turtle sauce *piquant*." Mmmmmmmmm.

KEN KNIGHT'S SUPPLEMENT TO A CATALOGUE OF THE MOSQUITOES OF THE WORLD published by the Thomas Say Foundation as supplement to Volume VI and by the Entomological Society of America is now out and available as of December 1978 and brings everything up to date to the end of 1977. Which you can't be any up-to-dater than in this business.

GUS FOYLE WAS THE FIRST RECIPIENT OF THE TEXAS MOSQUITO CONTROL ASSOCIATION'S Recognition Award, in October of last year, after receiving a plaque earlier which noted his "many years of untiring service" in mosquito control, at the TMCA's Annual Meeting. Gus got into mosquito control with the USPHS and was director of the Orange County MCD from 1957, when it was formed, until 1974. He was instrumental in forming TMCA and wrote its constitution and he is presently their Secretary-Treasurer.

BILL BURGOYNE WROTE TOMMY MULHERN A LONG LETTER WITH A GOODLY SUPPLY OF ATTACHMENTS about his trip to Warsaw to attend the seminar of the International Agricultural Aviation Center and the UN Economic Commission for Europe. As you all know, Bill is a flyer and has permission to fly all over Alaska in a light plane and working on "an instrument ticket." He said he thought OSHA would close the factories he saw in Poland but that the visit was educational. He also commented that in the USSR and Eastern Europe flying agricultural missions, like dusting and all, leads, as it does not do here, to later acceptance into the ranks of airline captains. (Somehow this doesn't make us want to fly in a Russian passenger plane. Not that we don't ADMIRE these guys that can go under telephone wires.) Bill and his wife Bonnie did not find Warsaw exactly their idea of "fun city" but said the Poles did all they could to make it comfortable . . . which it was . . . and generally first class. From Poland, they went to Vienna for 5 days, thence to Rome and Naples, and then, tired of lugging baggage through Europe's endless train sheds, to Avignon for a week to rest. The weather in the South of France was warm and lovely for them and they soaked up sun to carry home and also as fortification for five enjoyable days in Copenhagen, where coffee

was a dollar a cup. Bill came home to get tough with the gas pipeline people so that they'll do a better mosquito job than Alyeska did.

THE USDA'S SCIENCE AND EDUCATION ADMINISTRATION HAS ISSUED A DRAFT REVISION OF Recommendation R267.4, "Principles and Practices for Prevention of Mosquito Sources Associated with Irrigation," and AMCA (meaning TOMMY) had a lot to do with it. It's a real feather in our (his) cap because it really spells out what improper water management can do and does do in mosquito production and its attendant ills. (Boca Chica Ecological reserve of the California Department of Fish and Game, please NOTE!)

AND SPEAKING OF ILLS, WE HATE TO HAVE TO TELL YOU THAT TOMMY HASN'T BEEN WELL. We mean we hate it that he *is*, not that we're bearing the bad tidings. We didn't know that Tommy ever was ill and we know that it's really serious when he had to miss *meetings*. He says he was ably represented by LINDA SHIELDS, and we know he was, but we don't want this sort of thing to continue. Letters wouldn't ease the pain but they sure take your mind off it (We know.) Even after the fact. Most of you have been pretty good. Keep 'em coming. And let's hope he's all well anyway by the time you read this.

NO DOUBT YOU NOTED IN THE AMCA NEWS LETTER No. 14, the lo-o-o-ng list of corporate and non-member subscribers to *Mosquito News*. It's easy to sort of slide your eye over things like that but Tommy thinks that it's important to note how long that list has become. Says something about AMCA and about *Mosquito News*, doesn't it?

CALIFORNIA HAS MORE THAN ITS PROPER PROPORTION OF KOOKS AND KNEE-JERK "ENVIRONMENTALISTS" who fly apart at the release of any "unnatural" substance into "the environment," whether it be lead in gasoline or pesticides for the protection of forests . . . or mosquito control. The State's commissions, not being political fools, usually tend to "find" in the directions favored by the most vocal electorate. So we can be pretty smug, we in mosquito control, that the commission investigating the use of pesticides came up with just what we've been doing all along . . . the recommendation that chemical controls be applied in amounts and at times indicated by surveillance and not just by the calendar or the seat of the pants. How much trouble could have been av-

erted if farmers and householders had got that word at the beginning. Well . . . we TOLE 'em.

HERPES ENCEPHALITIS ISN'T (WE HOPE) TRANSMITTED BY MOSQUITOES BUT A BREAKTHROUGH IN FIGHTING IT IS NOTEWORTHY ANYWAY. You probably saw the news releases about the FDA approving a drug, Vidarabine, for use against the herpes type viruses. So far as we can learn, this is the first injection drug to be found effective against a virus and . . . who knows? It may lead to other fields, like our own pets, WEE, EEE and the whole crew. Put together with BILL REEVES encephalitis non-carrier mosquito strain and we may begin to hope that some day encephalitis will join smallpox, rather than hanging about in a threatening manner, like malaria.

JOHN LANE WRITES TO COMMENT ON OUR INABILITY TO FATHOM THE ADDRESS OF THE LONDON SCHOOL OF TROPICAL MEDICINE, which is: Keppel Street (Gower Street) London WC 1 E 7HT. He says, "We inscrutable Briddish! You might put an address such as ours, and most logically too, as Gower St. at Keppel (or is it the other way round).*** Keppel St., all 60 or 70 yards of it, I've marked in red on the (enclosed) map. The entrance of the School is on Keppel. Gower is a main road alongside the School." This makes all clear. We can sort of visualize a *Punch* cartoon showing us as Bewildered American Visitor. Actually, streets with different names at each end are unfortunately far from uncommon in the U.S. and so such a commonsense solution to a small half-block-long street didn't occur to us. We remember with relief that the bus stopped at what we took to be a main door, anyway; next time we're in London, we devoutly pray, we'll be able to get off and go in through the Main Door. *You*, too.

THE SOCIETY OF VECTOR ECOLOGISTS ANNUAL MEETING ON 4 and 5 JANUARY IN SAN JOSE (CALIFORNIA) had a panel discussion on Dog Heartworm, a paper by BEN KEH on Scabies and Pediculosis, the increasing comeback of a once-thought-licked problem, and a paper on Exotic Cockroaches. This latter was dramatically underlined later in the month by the exodus from People's Temple cases of documents in the San Francisco Federal Bldg. of hordes of cockroaches. Exotic as all get out. But now, alas, probably about to become endemic.

SKETER FOR THE WHOLE YEAR 1978 REACHED US AT THE VERY END OF THAT YEAR, as we hope it did for many of you, and glad we are to know that it had not folded its wings forever. It brought us news that ROLLIE DORER had happily recovered from his automobile injuries and then that Rollie, who came to Virginia and started mosquito control in 1933, "recently reached that age (70) after which state employees are no longer paid." We thought that was illegal. Rollie has been replaced by STUART MCAUSLAND who has no easy task filling THOSE shoes. Rollie meanwhile is now consultant to the Kempsville-Bayside MCC, formed the year Mr. McAusland was born (says *Skeeter*). And Rollie is still the Secretary-Treasurer of VMCA. "The *Skeeter* is happy to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Dorer for its birth, all the years of TLC, and for his continuing interest in the demise of mosquitoes." We imagine that goes double for AMCA, too.

PATRICIA WRIGHT WAS ELECTED PREXY OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA MOSQUITO CONTROL ASSOCIATION, HOWARD ROACH is vice-President and MARTIN HYATT Secretary-Treasurer, at the Sixth Annual Meeting on 2 and 3 November, 1978, in Greenville, S. C., according to word from MIKE LOVING. There were 60 people registered and a good, full program ranging from the biology and systematics of mosquitoes to a discussion of fire ants and duck ponds and other problems that are no longer easily solved with insecticides. Mike remarked modestly that SCMCA had "survived" a year of his leadership, for which we're sure the word should have been two words, "flourished under." He went on to tell of the Georgia Mosquito Control Association meeting which he said he was privileged to attend in October, in Athens. That meeting, chaired by Georgia prexy DAN BOYD, was also well attended and included among its guests, in addition to Mike, our own AMCA prexy PAUL HUNT, JACK ROGERS, OSCAR FULTZ and CARLISLE RATHBURN.

AS ROLLIE DORER WAS BEING GIVEN A FAREWELL FEAST IN VIRGINIA, A SIMILAR BANQUET OF MIXED AVE-AT-QUE-VALE'S was being given in California for DICK PETERS and DICK HUSBANDS who retired at the end of the year. DICK HUSBANDS' quiet but spectacularly innovative research will be a hard act to follow, especially in the anti-intellectual climate being fostered by Our Ex-Seminarian, as it was under the Super-Star. DICK PETERS' long fight to establish a sound mosquito abatement dis-

strict system was happily so successful that it shows every sign of enduring, staffed as it is in every area with highly competent AMCA'ers. DON MURRAY, according to DON DENNING, retired from active MCD duties, at the end of

October 1978, and JACK WALKER retired in November and left California's BVC for Bend, Oregon. DON WOMELDORF is the Acting. Fortunately for us, none of these gentlemen is retiring from AMCA.

MID-ATLANTIC MOSQUITO CONTROL ASSOCIATION

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4th Annual Meeting of MAMCA will be held jointly with AMCA in Washington, D.C. on April 8-11, 1979. MAMCA promotes the coordination and advancement of modern mosquito control in the region. You should be a member.

Dues: \$3.00 per year. For details contact the Sec.-Treas.

Texas Mosquito Control Association

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Yoshio Fujimoto, President Tom L. Edmonson, Jr. President Elect
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Spring Workshop-March 21, 22, 1979—Hunsville, Tx

Fall Meeting-October 17-18 & 19, 1979-Red Carpet Inn-Beaumont, Tx

AMCA Conference will be held in Texas For the Fourth Time

March 15-19, 1981 in the Alamo City-San Antonio, Tx

Membership and Proceedings-Available From Sec-Trea.