

NEWS AND NOTES

AUSTIN W. MORRILL, JR.

OUR EX-PREXY AND ONE OF OUR MOST INDEFATIGABLE MOSQUITO WORKERS, LEW NIELSEN, HAS HAD HIMSELF A MOST MARVELOUS SABBATICAL VISIT TO THE LAND OF HIS FATHERS AND BEYOND and he wrote us a wonderfully interesting letter which we want to share with you. Dr. Nielsen wrote (in June) from the Abisko Research Station in Sweden:

"Greetings from the land of the midnight sun. I am at the Abisko Scientific Research Station in Swedish Lapland, studying the holarctic *Aedes* mosquitoes that inhabit this part of the world. I am working here with Dr. Christine Dahl, the leading Scandinavian mosquito expert. Abisko is 120 miles north of the arctic circle and the station, which was established in 1903, has outstanding research facilities.

"Lapland is famous for its mosquito hordes, but this last year was a very dry one and they are not quite as numerous and ferocious as usual. Needless to say, however, we have had no trouble finding larvae and have already collected all the species known to occur here except *Aedes nigripes*.

"This is an ideal place to work. Plenty of quarry and 24 hrs of daylight to look for them (and have them look for you). Actually, time becomes almost meaningless here with constant daylight. We put in about a 15 hour day and go to bed when tired. It's an experience that has to be experienced. It can't be described.

"The area itself is spectacular. The station is situated on a large lake and surrounded by mountains. Yesterday, I saw my first reindeer (they are pretty wild here) but I have yet to see a Lapp. I'll be here about another week (have been in Sweden about a month) and then will return to Salt Lake to get busy again with Glen Collett on preparation for the 1980 AMCA meetings in Salt Lake. We expect to see you there next April."

Anyone who has been there or to Canada's (and our) station at Ft. Churchill, far less spectacular in scenery and 15° south of the Circle but still midnight sunny, can well envision what an all-round exhilarating experience Lew had. And we won't have to just envision it in our mind's eyes, luckily. Dr. Nielsen has written an article about his trip and it will appear in the issue of the *National Geographic* due out this month (that's *September*, if you're reading this

in October! . . . and, incidentally, their deadline for September is the 29th of MAY!! *Now*, don't you think our Ed. does a great job with a deadline in *July*?) Anyway, we're alerting you in case you're one of the rare unfortunates who does not routinely have a copy of the *Geographic* dropped on his desk. THIS one you'll want!

OUR OWN GEORGE HUTTON AND JOHN OSMUN WERE IN THE ENTOMOLOGICAL SPOTLIGHT YOU WILL HAVE NOTICED IN THE AMERICAN REGISTRY OF PROFESSIONAL ENTOMOLOGISTS' *Newsletter* lately. George was on the receiving end and John on the presenting end in a ceremony the *Newsletter* said was surpassed only by the occasion. The occasion was the first Distinguished Award of the ARPE and Dr. Osmun "paid glowing tribute to George Hutton's hard work and perseverance for professionalism. . . ." Well merited, George! Congratulations!!

DON PLETSCH WAS PART OF THE SMALL BUT VALIANT BAND UPHOLDING THE BANNER OF MEDICAL ENTOMOLOGY AT THE MEETING OF THE SOCIEDAD MEXICANA DE ENTOMOLOGIA, which held its 14th Congress in Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, in March. Dr. José Luis Carrillo Sánchez was elected the new President of the largely agricultural entomological group. Don commented in his letter about a nearly forgotten department in M.N. of our early years. These were the Spanish language reviews of a number of the articles. That habit of dim memory really ought to be revived, not only for our increasingly many Hispanic members but also for those of us who would like to retain some slight vestige of a language we have once enjoyed. Any volunteers? Does Ye Ed. have space?

DR. PLETSCH MUST BE A WATCH COLLECTOR for he quoted from the April issue of the *Bulletin* of the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors (XXI (2) p. 223) which has a picture of Dr. SAM SIMMONS, WWII founder and first Director of CDC, pointing out details of "OG" clocks to an attentive Chapter 24 of that organization in Atlanta. Don allows as how Sam has hooked a number of our lot on the charms of watch and clock collecting, including BOB COATNEY and ROY FRITZ. He doesn't say what an "OG" is. Judging by some of our alarm clocks, it's Occasionally Goes.

Don himself has a collection we think even more fascinating than clocks, of which he re-

minded us in asking about our far smaller one. These are insect models in bronze, perfect in scale and detail, with movable legs and wings, done by Japanese sword makers as conversation pieces when the Meiji restoration abolished the Samurai and made big time sword-making instantly into a thing of the past. Or at least *fine* sword making. The last insect-maker was 85 when we knew him in 1947 and he had learned his art (and the art of damascene) when he was 12 and the Meiji era was less than 20 years old. Don's collection antedates THAT.

One more item from Don: "The 218th Malaria Survey Detachment of WWII in the Pacific, is holding its 4th reunion from 20-22 July in Dayton, Ohio. Shades of New Caledonia (with plenty of *Aedes vigilax* to offset its lack of malaria) Leyte and Hokkaido!"

AS WE SO OFTEN REMARK, WE HATE TO TALK ABOUT OURSELF AND IN THE CONTEXT OF WHAT WE ARE ABOUT TO SAY EVEN THE "EDITORIAL" WE IS A PRESUMPTUOUS AFFECTATION. Except that, perhaps, it sort of signifies that we don't feel *singular* enough to belong in the distinguished company in which you have so generously placed us. The roster of Honorary Members of AMCA is, as GLENN STOKES said in Washington, a "Who's Who of Medical Entomology." The names resound: T. J. HEADLEE, W. B. HERMS, J. A. LEPRINCE, L. L. WILLIAMS JR., WILLARD V. KING, ROBERT GLASCOW, LEWIS HACKETT, ROBERT MATHESON, HAROLD F. GRAY, LOUIS STEARNS, GEORGE BRADLEY, A. W. LINDQUIST, TED RALEY, ALAN STONE, FRED STUTZ, C. T. WILLIAMSON, JOHN MULRENNAN, and THOMAS MULHERN. There are times in life when words really do fail one and this is one of those times. We are deeply grateful for a truly high honor; to you, who voted it, to TOMMY MULHERN, whom we've known since we joined in 1944 and admired as long, and to DON MURRAY who brought us the plaque and whom we've known and admired almost as long. Don and Fran came up in June and we had a wonderful afternoon talking AMCA and the Big Things ahead and what a wonderfully active and cooperative bunch we all are! It's a prideful thing to be part of such a Family.

JONATHAN S. GIBSON WROTE US A VERY NICE LETTER ABOUT A GOOD MANY PEOPLE but principally about ROLLIE DORER of whom he says, quite accurately, "Mr. Dorer was, and is, a self-effacing man, modest in his demands and generous in his praise for work well done." Jon

arrived in Newport News in 1926 to work in the shipyard and at once noticed the mosquitoes and asked his future wife, Anna May, why nothing was being done about them. She said she assumed there was little that *could* be done; they were just THERE. In 1932, he joined the Lions Club and became chairman of the Civic Betterment Committee in due course. A Warwick County Supervisor, whose wife was active in the D.A.R. with Jon's wife, mentioned that there was a law and Jonathan obtained a copy. WW II intervened but in 1945 he was given Rollie's name and on his advice began to circulate a petition which was quickly signed up. With Rollie helping behind the scenes, the mosquito abatement commission . . . and the program . . . rapidly became a reality and Mr. Gibson served for 29 years as a Commissioner, until a law was passed limiting terms to two. Mr. Gibson was President of the VMCA, as many of you will remember, in 1951 when a memorable meeting was held at Virginia Beach in conjunction with AMCA under the Presidency of FRED BISHOPP. Memories of the old days and of Ye Ed, Dr. WILLIAM BICKLEY, of DON MURRAY, BOB VANNOTTE, HELEN SOLLERS-RIEDEL "(charming girl)." DAN DOBBINS, LESTER SMITH, HARRY STAGE, HAROLD FARNSWORTH GRAY, STUART MCAUSLAND, and many others filled his letter and we wish we could quote it in full. Happy memories of a full and active life make for a rich and pleasant Old Age and we are especially thankful for having so many wonderful memories aroused to make OUR old age richer, too.

OUR NAMELESS CORRESPONDENT BRINGS TO OUR ATTENTION FROM THE PAGES OF TROPICAL MEDICINE AND HYGIENE *News*, the item about Prof. K. P. SEN GUPTA, who will lead an international symposium to be entitled "A Hundred Years of Malaria Research," and to be held during 17 to 19 January, 1980, at the Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research, in Calcutta. Since the cutback in the manufacture of DDT and the decline of support for the malaria control programs around the world, malaria has become, as we all know, an increasingly major health problem. In India it has now been officially so declared. It is fitting that the Symposium should be held in the laboratory from which Sir Ronald Ross in 1887 announced to the world the transmission of malaria by mosquitoes. Abstracts were requested for 31 March 1979 but scientists directly or indirectly involved in any facet of the malaria problem are cordially invited to participate.

WHO IS URGING TOURIST AGENCIES, AIRLINE CARRIERS AND ALL INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL BUSINESSES to remind people of the risk of malaria, now that there is such a logarithmic progression of increase in the number of travellers from malaria-free areas of Australia, Europe, Japan and North America. Unfortunately, the emphasis is on *drugs* and the *News* says, "... because malaria risk varies from place to place, as do the preventive measures needed, it is at times difficult *even for the physician* (emphasis ours) to know which is the appropriate drug to prescribe." Which is why entomologists and not doctors should head malaria prevention programs. Any malaria-control type mosquito man could tell them that the appropriate measure for ANY tourist in ANY area is to do what soldiers cannot always do but tourists *can* ... use mosquito repellent CORRECTLY and SYSTEMATICALLY.

HARRY HOOGSTRAAL SEEMS SOMETIMES TO SPEND MORE TIME AWAY FROM HIS NAMRU-3 IN CAIRO THAN HE DOES AT IT, ATTENDING SCIENTIFIC SYMPOSIA AND ALL. But we're the gainers for all that. In April, Harry was the Franklin Lecturer in the Sciences and Humanities at Auburn University (in Alabama), speaking on "Ticks and Civilization." We told you Harry was recipient of the Trop. Med. and Hygiene Soc's Walter Reed Medal, last November.

WHO IS NOT ONLY BEATING THE DRUMS ONCE AGAIN ABOUT MALARIA CONTROL BUT IS ALSO BECOMING INCREASINGLY EXERCISED ABOUT THE PROBLEM OF SAFE USE OF PESTICIDES. This is, as we all know, of increasing pertinency as the good ole, safe old insecticides become phased out, either by self-anointed environmentalist fervor or our old enemy resistance. WHO Tech Series Report 634 in English is now available for F.5.00 (Swiss) and French and Spanish editions are in preparation. This report, "Safe Use of Pesticides," is the third WHO has issued on this subject.

COMPOUNDING THE PROBLEM VIS Á VIS ADEQUATE CONTROL WITH LESS, WHETHER CHEMICAL OR "INTEGRATED" has been the action by Our Jerry to eliminate most of the famed Vector Biology and Control Section of the California Department of Public Health (we refuse to use the mouth-filling Newspeak name now hung on that Department). There is not, of course, a doggoned thing you can do about this, or even that WE in California can do about it, given Our Jerry's Presidential ambitions and presbyopia, but it may serve as a dismal warn-

ing to the rest of the country. This scattering and downgrading of functions is exactly what destroyed the old Bureau of Entomology of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Communicable Disease Center of USPHS and few of us who knew the old are of the opinion that the new is an improvement in terms of effectiveness. Beware the Ides of 1980!

WHEN WE WERE QUOTING DON PLETSCH'S LETTER WE TOTALLY OVERLOOKED AN EARLIER LETTER TYPED ON A XEROXED *Aedes Aegypti* which was so lovely we clean forgot it WAS a letter. The addenda are worth going back and picking up: "In Mexico's elegant Hotel Presidente Chapultepec there was held (last spring) an International Conference in Malaria and Babesiosis, sponsored by, among others, the Rockefeller Foundation and U.S.A.I.D. The emphasis was clearly on research and the possible stimulation from exchanges of ideas." Dr. WILLIAM TRAGER described his pioneer work on *in vitro* culture of malaria parasites. Other AMCA'ers included JEROME VANDERBERG, BOB GWADZ, JOHN SCANLON, WOODBRIDGE FOSTER and Dr. LUIS VARGAS. A major interest was on the possibility of a vaccine ("at least a decade away") but operationalism was upheld by JIM ERICKSON who told of AID's support for this and for research.

WE HEAR RUMORS, TOO, THAT DR. FRANCISCO DY planned to, or actually DID, retire in June. Since our mental picture of Paco is of a handsome and boyish Colonel (he seemed about the age of some of the 25-year-old Air Force Colonels we had around) at the end of WWII on the staff of General Smith of USPHS in Manila, we find the thought of his retiring incredible. But of course, retirement could never mean inactivity for Paquito. Anyone who has followed his energetic career, through his years as Regional Malaria Officer for WHO's Western Pacific Area and then Director of that office, knows *that*. Where next, Colonel, Sir?

DALE PARRISH "HOSTED" THE ANNUAL BANQUET OF THE ENT SOC OF WASHINGTON THIS YEAR when they met in conjunction with the Insecticide Society of Washington at the Ft. McNair O Club in Washington D.C. Time was, when the Annual Event of the Ent Soc was a picnic at Beltsville and an egg race (Ye Ed won that, one year, we remember) Ft. McNair is definitely a Big Step Up but entomologists are adaptable and have become really quite cosmopolitan and sophisticated, all in all. All in all, a fine time was had.

AND SPEAKING OF THE WASHINGTON ENT SOC, HELEN SOLLERS-RIEDEL'S LATEST REVIEW HAS BEEN AVAILABLE SINCE MAY. If you didn't know, run get your AMCA News Letter, Number 16. You're slipping behind.

PAT WRIGHT, THIS YEAR'S PREXY OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA MCA had a good check list for summer preparations in the *Landing Rate Count* last June. Along with the self-evident but often put-off activities like mapping and getting equipment oiled and ready, she pointed out the need to PLAN in detail how one is to use summer help, both for the good of the program and the morale of the workers. Helps develop this year's neophytes into next season's experienced team. LRC also reported that MARTIN HYATT of Charleston was in receipt of "two flyable and two surplus Army helicopters" which seems to sum up his opinion of the Army surplus equipment.

ROY ELLIS AND BRUCE EZELL PAID SEPARATE VISITS TO THE MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY OF NEWFOUNDLAND LAST YEAR AND IT MAY HAVE BEEN AT THEIR BEHEST THAT WE RECEIVED THAT INSTITUTION'S EXCELLENT ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1978, of the Research Unit on Vector Pathology. We keep urging you to send for reports like this of especial interest and no one's objected yet so we figure it's all right to keep on doing it. This is definitely one you'll find of interest and value, for it is full of pictures, some slightly tongue-in-cheek perhaps, of activities and most especially of equipment in use. We found the section particularly fascinating which reported on the Unit's work on *Simulium* on the Ivory Coast of Africa and *Aedes* in the South Pacific, both of which sound like good *Geographic* material. We're sure that you are not as unacquainted with their program as we are ashamed to admit we were, for the names of AMCA'ers are scattered through the report.

ANOTHER REPORT PACKED FULL OF DATA AND INFORMATION IS THE RAPPORT ANNUEL D'ACTIVITE OF THE ENTENTE INTERDEPARTEMENTALE POUR LA DEMOUSTICATION DU LITTORAL MEDITERRANEEN, also for 1978. No pictures and a *little* more work to read, as it's in French. But a wonderful chance to bone up on mosquito control under conditions both exotic and familiar, to learn about the Littoral . . . in case Cannes is on your itinerary for next vacation . . . and to practice your rusty French. Cataloguers will find the section of interest which details their use of (macro) fiche filed

under 16 headings and capable of serving up quantities of information rapidly. When we spotted a section on BOUCHES-DU-RHONE we thought, oh, boy! Wine! But it turned out to be a comment on the abundance of *Aedes*. Like us, the Littoral was plagued with a wet spring and a sub-normal rainfall later, with switches from natural sites to urban. Like us, they had a good season and were satisfied it was progress toward more basic control, even though the intermeshing of integrated control IS a bit harder than simply spraying.

SOUTH COOK COUNTY'S ANNUAL REPORT . . . THEIR TWENTY-FOURTH . . . UNDER THE AEGIS OF KHIAN LIEM is a neat combination of report and public relations release. Dr. Liem reduced his report to virtually an outline and they gave a pictorial report on activities and a photo—cartoon-simple-text presentation of information on mosquito basics. Very readable. Among the basics, incidentally, was the info that La-Crosse encephalitis (which was the only kind they had) was transmitted by *Aedes triseriatus*. We hadn't realized it, but we haven't BEEN KEEPING UP.

THE NORTHWESTERN MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR 4, 5 AND 6 OCTOBER in Vancouver, B.C. (Holiday Inn). We received word, unfortunately, in June, so this is our first chance to mention it and we may just be telling you what you've missed. The program divides into Integrated Control Programs, Vector Control Technology, Program Administration and Training, Peripheral Hosts and Vectors, Environmental Factors and Agency Programs. The strictly vector control meetings are included in a 6-day joint meeting with the Canadian Entomological Society, starting on the first.

BOTH ALAMEDA AND FRESNO-WESTSIDE (CALIF.) MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICTS EMPHASIZED MOSQUITO FISH DISTRIBUTION AND LONG-TERM CONTROL in response to the reduction of County property tax support and the Governor's unwillingness to use the State's increased tax-income for subvention of "peripheral" concerns like schools and mosquito control. Fresno-Westside, with it's differing problem of large agricultural areas, continued to need airplane applications and mosquito complaints in both areas were somewhat up as were light trap counts. ORANGE COUNTY increased its vector control activities by adding ground squirrel and flea surveys, trapping of

reservoir animals for blood samples and flea counts, dusting of burrows and pick-up of dead animals and a press release to let the public know all this was going on, and why.

THE LOS ANGELES TIMES WAS SUFFICIENTLY IMPRESSED TO RUN SEVERAL GOOD AND LENGTHY ARTICLES on both the plague control aspects of vector control and on a talk given by Dr. BILL REEVES who, in "a dramatic, last-minute move, changed his topic" from a routine report to a hard-hitting summation of the encephalitis situation vis-à-vis reduced expectations. He pointed out that in California's Central Valley expectations had better be lifted, for under the right conditions and without adequate action beforehand, 25 out of each 100,000 residents could succumb and perhaps 1,000 of every 100,000 have less severe infections. Another speaker added that it is estimated that it costs from \$150,000 to \$200,000 to maintain each victim in an institution for the rest of his life. Following which Dr. Work of UCLA pointed out that with increased use of outdoor recreation, there are some 1,000,000 man-days of exposure to encephalitis of Southern Californians in July and August alone. "Bettah you go Hawaii."

INCIDENTALLY, THE TIMES' HEADLINE ON THAT STORY WAS "VERMIN FIGHTERS VOICE ALARM." Oh, well. Win a few. . . .

PREXY GLENN STOKES AND HIS JEFFERSON PARISH MCD was host to Dr. Y. A. Bang of the World Health Organization. Dr. Bang is stationed in Jakarta, Indonesia, and was touring Mosquito Control Districts in the States as well as other countries. He assured JPMC that he would recommend to other interested parties that they visit Jefferson Parish, whose up-to-date mosquito abatement facility we have all seen in those spectacular Annual Reports.

DR. JOHN E. CUTTS and W. STANLEY TANT with the Mobile County Health Department were also July visitors to the Jefferson Parish Mosquito Control Department. Stan Tant is the newly appointed Director of the Mosquito Control Division of the Mobile County Health Department.

GLENN has announced that the AMCA Interim Board of Directors Meeting will be held in conjunction with the UTAH MOSQUITO ABATEMENT ASSOCIATION meeting scheduled for October 15-17, 1979 in Salt Lake City.

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