

NEWS AND NOTES

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WE ENDED LAST TIME, NOT COUNTING THE FILLERS, WITH A STOP-PRESS ITEM FROM CLAUDE SCHMIDT, OUR PREXY-ELECT, ABOUT THE WATER MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE HELD LAST JUNE IN NEW JERSEY. He also sent us an item we found interesting and think you will too:

"There is evidence that Delaware Bay salt marshes were diked and drained by Swedish colonists in the 1600's. One of the main drainage ditches on the Moore's Beach salt marshes was dug by 'white slaves' (indentured servants) about 1800 and is still maintained today.

"Before the advent of modern farm equipment, horse-drawn wagons were a common sight on the salt marshes. Special shoes were placed on the horses' hooves so they could walk on the marsh and hoods and netting were placed on their heads and backs to protect them from mosquitoes and flies.

"The New Jersey Division of Fish and Game has purchased several thousand acres of salt hay farms and has permitted them to be restored to tides. Sections of dikes are levelled and tide gates are removed. Surface water and tall *Spartina alterniflora* increase and *S. patens* decreases when tides are restored. Mosquito breeding can be reduced more than 95% and both numbers and species of birds increase with this type of management (although passerine birds tend to decrease." So much for all those sweaty hours of ditching.

LEW NIELSEN SENT US A MIGHTY INTERESTING LETTER FROM DR. DAVID GILLET, LAST YEAR'S MEMORABLE MEMORIAL LECTURER. We quote, "A rather unusual honor has come to one mosquito worker: not only has a new string quartet by the British composer Dr. Robert SIMPSON, been dedicated to him but the second movement, a lively, appropriately weightless Scherzo, is entitled, 'Molto vivace (*Eretmapodites gilletti*)' It suggests the 'formidable delicacy' (the composer's own words after reading a certain book) of the African mosquito."

Dr. Gillett adds as "P.S. The quartet, by the way, is a very fine work and has received very good reviews in the national press; it will be broadcast by the BBC fairly soon, when they broadcast all eight of Simpson's quartets." He was expecting to go to the Entomological Congress in Kyoto, when he wrote, and we do hope he made it.

AMONG THOSE WHO DID MAKE THE CONGRESS . . . AND WE HAVE PHOTOS SENT BY AN OLD FRIEND . . . were KARL KROMBEIN, CURT SABROSKY, MANABU SASA, DARWIN YOSHIOKA, ALAN GILLOGLY and Prexy BOB WASHINO. Karl was going on to Bangkok and its northern forests and the customs people at Narita took all his DEET away under the impression it was nitroglycerine or some such thing. Fortunately, Japan has DEET available and Bangkok, too, for that matter. We hope Karl stocked up on *katorisenko*: mosquito pyrethrum coils. Now THOSE work!

MEANWHILE DON PLETSCH, ON THE EVE OF TAKING OFF FOR TANZANIA to join, among others, DR. HERB DALMAT and CAPT. (RET.) JOHN EASON, (with whom Don worked under DR. LOUIE WILLIAMS, incidentally) wrote to point out an article in *Science*, which once again blamed avian population reductions on careless DDT use and disposal, without any mention of JACK ROGER's classic Presidential Address of 1972, "Eagles, Affluence & Pesticides."

Don also appended word on a source of the Guyana stamps of the series in which the 10¢ denomination honors Dr. GEORGE GIGLIOLI. It's packet GZA 564, from Gimbels' Stamp Department at Broadway and 33rd St. in New York City (10001) and it cost \$1.35 as of mid-August. The stamps for the Entomological Congress (especially the FDC) sold out the FIRST DAY. Of course, there were some 2,200 people there from over 30 countries but they're some stamp hounds, those Japanese. Still, one can always try the Philatelic Division of the Central Post Office in Marunouchi, Tokyo. We don't know the ZIP, but they'll know.

UP IN ALASKA LAST AUGUST ALASKA Magazine PUBLISHED A COLUMN ENTITLED, "LETTERS, NOTES & COMMENTS" THAT WE'VE GOT TO REPRINT and hope that DOUGLAS WEIR doesn't mind our plagiarism:

"The hazards posed by man to Alaska's unique wildlife are well known but concentration on glamorous species has led to neglect of others, such as Alaska's famous mosquitoes. Their international fame demands that measures for their conservation begin now. Given the lack of confidence in Alaska Department of Fish & Game by federal agencies and national

environmental groups, mosquito conservation must become a federal responsibility.

"Further, the movement of mosquitoes between U.S. and Canadian territory and the possibility that wind-drifted mosquitoes may cross the Bering Strait suggest an international Mosquito Commission may be needed to set quotas and harvest methods. The possibility that a rival Eskimo Mosquitoing Commission will be set up must be considered.

"Bag and possession limits and enforcement will be difficult to plan. Mosquito study area withdrawals and season closures by executive action are also bound to be controversial. Individuals might best be licensed by federal mosquito stamp (not to be confused with a now illegal hunting method).

"A higher fee should be charged for non-residents and the taking of some large, slow-moving and persistent bloodsuckers such as *Aedes depletinriouensis* must be carefully controlled in view of the high level of motivation of many resident hunters to take such a trophy.

"On the difficult problem of subsistence hunting by local rural residents, excavations at Cape Krusenstern have shown by carbon dating that both walrus hide mosquito whips and simple spray containers made from seal bladders were in widespread use 3,000 years ago so that any device used in subsistence hunting may be considered traditional. In line with present federal policy, no inconsistency is seen between unrestricted subsistence use of the mosquito resource and severe regulations applied to everyone else."

AND WHILE WE'RE QUOTING, LET US TURN NOW TO THE PRESTIGIOUS *TROPICAL MEDICINE AND HYGIENE NEWS* WHICH QUOTES *THE TIMES OF INDIA* under the headline "MALARIOLOGISTS, NOT MALARIA, ERADICATED:"

"NEW DELHI, November 14 (PTI).—Some public health experts laugh at the theory that malaria has returned to India because mosquitoes have come back and DDT is ineffective in killing them. They told PTI that the scourge is back because research on malaria has been given up since 1958 and because 'there are very few malariologists in the country today.'" The article appeared on 15 November 1978 and goes on to excoriate the lack of official interest in malaria in India; the Editor of *TM&H News* felt, however, that though late, it was "a unique contribution to the literature of malaria control. It is particularly significant in 1980, the centenary of Laveran's discovery of the malaria parasite."

WE LOVE PEOPLE WHO WRITE US LONG LETTERS FROM WHICH WE CAN LIFT PARAGRAPH AFTER PARAGRAPH OF QUOTES! One of the most faithful and quotable has been DON JOHNSON, who writes, "I have been in touch with several individuals during recent weeks (August) who are known to hundreds of present and former leaders of the anti-malaria campaigns around the world. During the years 1958 through 1963, the Malaria Eradication Training Center sponsored jointly by the Agency for International Development, World Health Organization, Pan American Health Organization and the Government of Jamaica was centered in Kingston, Jamaica. A total of 405 officials from 69 countries were enrolled in 24 separate courses, ranging from 8 to 11 weeks. Many of these persons are in key positions in public health work here and abroad and quite a few are members of AMCA. It occurs to me that they would enjoy hearing of the present whereabouts of some of the staff of the METC/Jamaica.

"Dr. Walter C. Earle, who was Director of METC until the end of 1959, continues to be active in ham radio and is thinking of giving up his home at 2750 Redding Road N.E., Atlanta, Ga., 30319. He is in good health but would like to have a smaller place to live as he is now alone. . . ." (Our Aside: Why don't you HAM's send us your call letters?? You could have quite a network, we bet, if you knew who each of you is? Helen Louise Durkee??? Walt???)

"Dr. Paul L. Rice, Deputy Director of the METC and his wife, Elfriede, are retired from the CDC and continue to live at 2373 Burnt Creek Drive, Decatur, Ga., 30033. Currently, he is recuperating from surgery and is doing very well.

"John W. Shipp, who probably knows more about the use, maintenance and repair of the Hudson X-Pert sprayer than anyone else outside the company, trained all the physicians, entomologists and other senior officials how to spray houses, disassemble and repair tanks with silver soldering and many other related important jobs not usually performed by professional public health personnel. (WOW! We'll say!) John and his wife Millie live on a farm near Warm Springs, Georgia, where FDR had his Little White House. Millie is Chief Nurse at the Warm Springs Foundation, and John keeps busy with the farm, as well as with his hunting and fishing. Their address is: Route 1, Box 185, Shiloh, Georgia 31826.

"Several of the former staff have died, including, Dr. Jaswant Singh in India several years ago, Dr. (A.J.) Johnny Walker in the U.S.

and Mr. Cyril Pires, in Beckenham, Australia. If any of the many alumni of METC now scattered around the world want further details about the above or others, I'd be happy to try to obtain further information." (How about you out there sending in little items on YOURSELVES??) Don, by the way, was the one who sent us the note on Alaskan mosquitoes quoted above.

YE ED IS ALSO THE SOURCE OF A FEW NOTES ABOUT AMCA'ERS ABROAD IN THE LAND, SWAPPING CHAIRS AROUND. DICK HAYES has recently joined the Frank E. Basil Company which does engineering research and design for a multitude of governments including Ours. (Their work for Saudi Arabia, right now very important to us, ranged from an impressively beautiful riding club to water exploration.)

RALPH E. HARBACH has left N. C. State University in Raleigh and has joined the Medical Entomology Project at the Smithsonian.

CHARLES BAILEY has moved from WRAIR to Ft. Detrick, Maryland.

BOB ARMSTRONG HAD A VERY SERIOUS BOUT, WHICH HE WON, WITH CANCER SHORTLY BEFORE WE WROTE THIS AND WE HAD NO WORD OF THE OUTCOME, BUT NOW WE HAVE: he wrote us a nice, long letter on 15 October to give us the goods news. He was released from the hospital on the first of September and has been puttering around his garden and gaining in strength daily. He wanted to thank all the good friends who wrote him letters, which he says really helped. He hoped to get the NMCA meetings in Sturbridge and we hope he did. You can still write to him. 141 Carlisle Road, Westford, Mass. 01886.

WHEN THE NEW JERSEY MOSQUITO CONTROL ASSOCIATION HONORED HELEN SOLLERS-RIEDEL LAST MARCH they presented her with a solid GOLD mosquito stickpin . . . those things men used to wear in their ties and ladies now wear in their lapels. This was reported in the *TM & H News* and we hereby inform Helen that we expect her to WEAR it in San Antonio next year and hope (and expect) that she wore it in Kyoto. In her hat? Helen says she spends 50 hours a week sometimes (probably every week!) and still gets a thrill out of the vicarious visits to far places and then MAKING those visits in reality and getting to know other scientists in the field. Needless to add, as she modestly did not, the pleasure and profit in these visits is not all on *her* side.

CURT SABROSKY NOT ONLY ATTENDED THE ENTOMOLOGICAL CONGRESS IN KYOTO AS WE SAID ABOVE, HE WAS ELECTED AN *HONORARY MEMBER* OF THE CONGRESSES at that time, which is a Real Honor. That's not Curt's only honor, as we all know; the list is far too long to enumerate here. Curt officially "retired" on 30 September but you know these retirements. He will stay in the Washington area and remain available. A card might be nice, eh?

FOR THOSE OF YOU IN THE WASHINGTON AREA, WHO ARE NOT ALREADY MEMBERS, WE QUOTE: "The Tropical Medicine Association of Washington, D.C. is a local organization with a membership of area scientists that share a mutual interest and concern for the advancement of tropical medicine research. Meetings are held on a monthly basis (September through May) at the National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD." During the 1979-80 calendar year, invited speakers included, Dr. HERBERT DALMAT (*q.v. supra*) and HARRY HOOGSTRAAL. All persons interested in joining the Association are welcome. If you're in the Washington area, you can phone Dr. Peter Jackson about it, at (202) 576-3792.

VISITORS TO TOMMY MULHERN'S OFFICE THIS PAST SUMMER INCLUDED ERNIE FETZER and JIM OLSON. Jim arrived back in Texas just in time for their prolonged Hot Spell (but missed ours. . . oh, yes, California had one, though tourists to San Francisco would never believe it. Though July and August are ALWAYS foggy and chilly in the Bay Area, this year even the Natives were cold. THEN came the Heat!) Another visitor, to return to the subject, was BHUSHAN BHARAT UPPAL, a WHO Fellow and malaria engineer of the Directorate National Malaria Eradication Program of India, who spent seven weeks here, in Louisiana and around studying bio-environmental control, source reduction, water management and all contained in that term.

NORTHWEST MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL ASSOCIATION'S 20TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE at Richland, Washington, on 7, 8 and 9 October, 1980, went in heavily for environmental and biological factors, although there were papers on aerial application and ULV and such, too. The paper we'd like to have heard, though, was by BRUCE ELDRIDGE, DARYL WAY and CLARK BROWN, entitled, "Short Notes—Weird & Wonderful." There was one, too, on mosquito problems at Mt. St. Helens! All that ash didn't fill up the snow pools and tree holes?

BOTH THE SOUTHERN AND NORTHERN REGIONS OF THE SOCIETY OF VECTOR ECOLOGISTS met in September and October to discuss Public Education efforts in making folks aware of vector control and how to increase this awareness and participation. (One way is to get more members in our Society.) ASTM had a meeting, too, for educating the public, though theirs was toward pesticide application, naturally. But every little bit of public awareness helps in our business.

THE BACK PAGE OF VMCA'S *SKEETER* FOR JUNE AND JULY 1980 HAD A PLAY BY PLAY ACCOUNT OF HOW A MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT COULD WORK IF IT WERE COMPUTERIZED and we'd sure like to reproduce it here, but it would take several pages. If you get *Skeeter*, re-read it and if you don't, see if they have a remaining copy to send you. Of course, it's only a dream, but let us tell you, it's a mighty near real thing. We live within a hoot and a holler of Silicone Valley and computers are Here to Stay and are going to be household equipment as well as (swear) words shortly. We know more than one small business who have them making estimates on all sorts of complicated factors to make operations more efficient and some people are buying their own program chips and renting time on a computer nearby, some of them at schools where the whole morning is free (open time, not free computer.) Coming, coming!!

WE MAY BE PREJUDICED AND WE'RE NOT TRYING TO BUTTER UP OUR PREXY BOB WASHINO but the newly-published *Proceedings and Papers* of the Forty-eighth Annual Conference of the California MVCA seem to us to present a complete round-up of Mosquito Control Today and ought to be on every library shelf. We mentioned it far too briefly in March and should have told you that papers covered Public Health and Disease (5), General (4), Biological Control (14), Genetic Control (5), Chemical Control (11), and Ecological (14), and were presented by distinguished AMCA'ers from around the country. They are grouped as given above, in the publishing, a boon to the reader. We've often thought, without any intent to demean any OTHER proceedings, that some way ought to be worked out to bring out the CMVA *Proceedings* and those of her transcontinental sister, New Jersey, as special issues of *Mosquito News*, so these wonderful publications could be indexed with MN (WHAT are we saying!!) and more widely distributed too.

GIL CHALLET, WHOSE PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS IS ALSO IN THE *PROCEEDINGS* HAS ADDED A NEW "VECTOR" TO THE LIST IN THE SEPTEMBER *Report* on the District Activities of his Orange County (Calif.) District. RUDY GECK, his vector ecologist, says rattlesnakes fit the definition, too, for they carry pain, injury and death in their fangs. (Not to mention striking fear into the heart and causing heart attacks.) And they ARE a factor sometimes in mosquito control! We met a King Cobra in Pangasinan once.....

NEW JERSEY COMMENCED THIS YEAR A *MOSQUITO SURVEILLANCE REPORT* TO SUPPLEMENT ITS *VECTOR SURVEILLANCE* NOW IN ITS FIFTH VOLUME. In September, the latter, reflecting on the fact that the small Passerine birds (such as Warblers, Chickadees and Flycatchers) showed no evidence of antibodies or viremia until the epizootic was well begun, suggested that perhaps the small ones were succumbing while larger Passerines survived to show a high incidence of antibodies in the spring. As in DAVE REED'S Fresno Westside District (Calif.) among others, the strange weather pattern this past summer appeared to keep mosquitoes relatively lower than normal in most areas, and hence kept the encephalitis potential only a potentiality, however threatening.

NATHAN CHAMPAGNE WON A SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD IN THE NATURE DIVISION FROM THE PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY OF AMERICA for the outstanding handling of the 1980 AMCA Insect Photo Salon and the medal will be sent to him . . . or us (AMCA) . . . along with Helpful Hints in planning our Second Annual Salon for San Antonio. PSA's standards are understandably high, so their congratulations MEAN something!!

EPA, OCCASIONALLY ON THE RIGHT TRACK WHEN THEY CALL ON THE RIGHT PEOPLE, CALLED FOR JIMMY OLSON, CHUCK SCHAEFFER and our Prexy, BOB WASHINO. Well, you can't get righter than that. The Integrated Pest Management Research Summary, which dealt mainly with Agricultural Pest management, nevertheless contained a succinct and factual run-down on water management and mosquito control in marsh wetlands, irrigated areas and urban ones. We're told that a similar major project on salt marsh mosquitoes is being considered, probably with DICK AXTELL heading it. We hope it flies!