

NEWS AND NOTES

AUSTIN W. MORRILL, JR.

PERHAPS WE SHOULD HAVE GONE TO ATLANTA THIS YEAR. . . THERE'S BEEN SO MUCH SCIENTIFIC GATHERING THERE. (PACE, TEXAS . . . WE'RE ONLY KIDDING!) We had two nice long letters from JOHN EDMAN and HARRY PRATT about the meetings of the ESA last November 30 to December 4. Fortunately, their letters don't overlap, so between them we can tell you quite a little. Harry estimates that over 50 AMCA'ers were there, including Prexy BOB WASHINO, BOB HARWOOD, in his second year in Africa, ANDY SPIELMAN, GEORGE CRAIG, GENE DEFOLIART, FRED KNAPP, JIM SMITH, PAUL RICE, DON JOHNSON and NEWELL GOOD. DAYTON STEELMAN replaces JOHN EDMAN as Section D (Medical & Veterinary Entomology) Chairman, JOHN ANDERSON is the new vice-Chairman and SUSAN MCIVER is Section Secretary, while BRUCE ELDRIDGE becomes Section rep on the Governing Board. According to Harry, John arranged an outstanding program; there was standing room only in a room meant for 200-300 people, for John Anderson's "Highlights of Veterinary Entomology" and DUANE GUBLER's "Highlights of Medical Entomology." Also, an excellent morning on tree-hole mosquitoes and invitational papers by G. B. WHITE, on the "Importance and Control of *Culex quinquefasciatus*," and R. E. MEOLA and M. J. KLOWDEN on the "Physiology of Mosquito Biting Behavior." John commented that some of this important pioneering work was published recently in *Science*. The tree-hole symposium included papers by Gene Defoliart, DICK GARCIA, DURLAN FISH, BILL BRADSHAW and PHIL LOUNIBOS and brought out the startling information of multiple evidence that *partial* reduction (our emphasis) of container breeding may actually serve to enhance mosquito populations and competence to vector pathogens.

In other words, reversing the cooking-with-herbs dictum about too little is better than too much, in this case too little is worse than none. The old population pressure bit, we presume. Gives to think, doesn't it? Environmentalists to the contrary notwithstanding, biological control *alone* may work against us. (Here in California, they're currently up in arms for fear that spraying with malathion against the medfly may give them cancer! No, not the medfly, the Ists.) John also says that in addition to a symposium and invitational paper on tick

research, there were 98 submitted papers, 7 poster presentations dealing with medical and veterinary entomological problems and over 2,200 people in attendance.

MEANWHILE THE ISTS IN FLORIDA WERE ENLISTING THE AID OF EPA TO PROHIBIT MOSQUITO CONTROL WHERE IT WOULD "INTERFERE" WITH CRABS OR SHRIMP THAT WERE CONSIDERED A "VALUABLE RESOURCE." A nice, definite phrase, easily defined. In October, a working group appointed by Governor Graham to develop some definitions and chaired by SAM BREELAND and including V. G. Perty and Dan Shankland of IFAS, Dts. JOHN MULRENNAN (JR.) and SAM B. of HRS, WAYNE MILLER JR., of a leading Florida Mosquito Control District, CDR LANCE SCHOLDT of the Navy's DVECC at NAS Jacksonville, and DON WEIDHAAS of the good ole USDA (we don't know what half those initials mean, but we know who our FRIENDS are) and we're glad it was that kind of Working Group. Others in attendance and assigned various and important tasks were: RAY PARSONS, GEORGE WICHTERMAN, HERB BOLTON, DAN HAILE, DAVID DAME, RAY LANIER, SAM FLUKER, RICHARD LEVY, JAN CHIZZONITE, JAN CASSANI, JONATHAN HORNBY, E. J. BEIDLER, B. W. CLEMENTS, HR., DAN GORMAN, NORMAN THOMAS, W. L. BIDLINGMAYER, J. H. FRANK and DON HALL.

JIM GAHAN, OUR DISTINGUISHED EMERITUS MEMBER KNOWN TO MANY, SHOULD RECEIVE THE THANKS OF MANY NOW for his extraordinarily generous gift of \$500 to our AMCA Foundation Fund and, as TOMMY MULHERN wrote him, it gives us extraordinary pleasure to thank him here.

TO N. H. LIN, ALSO, GO OUR FERVENT THANKS FOR HIS FINE GIFT OF NEARLY AS LARGE AN AMOUNT to the Foundation Fund. Coming from Saudi Arabia (geographically, only), since his office is Sanitary Engineer with WHO in Riyadh, this illogically makes us feel even better than if he had mailed, say, from Geneva.

AND ZOECON, OUR STAUNCH SUPPORTER AND DEPENDABLE ADVERTISER, has come across with \$1500.00 to help in the publishing of our

Supplement #1 to Mosquito Systematics: "Identification and Geographical Distribution of the Mosquitoes of North America, North of Mexico" (that's too much title, fellas, we're going to have to take in Mexico next time around), by DICK DARSIE and R. A. WARD and edited by LEW NIELSEN. As Tommy notes, "this book of about four hundred pages is the result of more than two years work by the authors and is much more than a field guide. It should be a primary reference for specialists and technical workers for many years and its profusely illustrated style should make it also suitable for management and operational personnel, less specialized in taxonomy."

ALSO FROM TOMMY . . . OR, RATHER, FROM FRED BEAMS of Orange County (Calif.) MAD, we have a new Logo and a very handsome one it is, indeed, with quarterings showing in outline each stage of development of *Culex (quinquefasciatus)*, we presume?.

AND SPEAKING OF LOGOS, DOUG WHITE OF MERCED (CALIF.) MAD HAS A VERY EYE-CATCHING AND VERY DEFUNCT MOSQUITO O.U.O. in appropriate blue, lying RIP with a daisy on her chest and the motto, "It wasn't sprays that brought this mosquito down, but good water management . . . on the farm and in town."

STILL IN THE PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT, WE HAVE HERE A MIGHTY NICELY PRINTED BROCHURE FROM THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES (THAT'S what those letters meant!) It's cover features an *Aedes* in feeding position and there are pictures illustrating larviciding, virus reservoir (if it's an ibis) or sentinal chicken (if it's a leghorn) sampling, ULV adulticiding and dipping for larvae and pupae. It gives a concise rundown on self-protection and ends with a frank statement that the brochure cost John Q. .0406 per copy and that HRS complies with the nondiscrimination provisions of Title VI and Title IX, which we suppose may mollify the Ists who may object to the statements that some chemicals and water management are needed in addition to biological controls. Incidentally, the California papers had a squib that the Ists were objecting to the use of mosquito fish now, in Florida. Any truth to that, Johnny?

TO GET BACK TO ATLANTA . . . WE WERE THERE, REMEMBER? . . . THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF TROPICAL MEDICINE AND HYGIENE had their annual meeting there, too, in early November. This was summarized in the December *News*

and we won't go into it here too much, except to say that the Third Annual lecture honoring FRED SOPER was delivered by Dr. WILBUR DOWNS who was introduced by Dr. BILL REEVES. There was also a nice picture of CALISTA and OTTIS CAUSEY (taken by HAROLD TRAPIDO) to illustrate the note about their receipt of the Richard M. Taylor Award of the American Committee on Arthropod-Borne Viruses, given in recognition of their years of work in Brazil and Nigeria. And finally, Dr. JOHN SCANLON was elected to the working honor of Secretary-Treasurer.

SADLY, THERE WAS ONE OTHER "ARTICLE" IN THE NEWS . . . ONE WE HAD FAR RATHER NOT HAVE SEEN, NOT FOR MANY YEARS YET . . . the obituary of a good friend and fine officer and scientist H. C. BARNETT. We had been apprised by their son of Barney's and his wife's deaths in an automobile accident in Bahia, Brasil, yet seeing it in print did not make it seem less unlikely. RON WARD's fine summary of Barney's career, the mention of his lightning humor and his insistence on verifying by observation the sacred pronouncements of our professional journals and military scriptures, made a whole panorama of memories come flooding back, from the training camp days when he was a Lieutenant to the overseas rugged days in the Philippines and Japan, to the calmer but no less energetic days as a Colonel in the Hub. Dr. Barnett was not one to let his associates be lazy, either, and we were the better for it.

WE BRING YOU NEWS THAT MIR MULLA AND LAWRENCE LACEY PUBLISHED A STIMULATING PAPER in the *Pan Pacific Entomologist* which we think you may want to look up, if you didn't get it. It's not remarkable that they published so interesting a paper, nor that they made the prestigious pages of the PPE. What interested us was that it was the October issue and we got it the last day of *November*. So MN isn't so bad after all, is it? But as we said, the article is interesting, too. It's some observations on *Simulium tescorum* in California and adjacent areas and records that the larvae found in some desert streams were in water which sometimes exceeded 30°C. and flowed at velocities as low as 2 cm/sec.!

WE ARE IN RECEIPT OF THE PRE-PUBLICATION COPY OF THE FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT, (1 JULY 1979 TO 30 JUNE 1980) of the UNOP/WORLD BANK/WHO SPECIAL PROGRAMME FOR RESEARCH

AND TRAINING IN TROPICAL DISEASE, a magnificently detailed outline of their program in some 360 pages. We are happy to have been afforded the opportunity to see this review and while we cannot claim to have read all 360 pages in detail, we did peruse the parts of Our Subject with great care. Unhappily, the work betrays an all-too-common bias in the emphasis it places on the medical aspects of "control" (i.e., amelioration by drugs) while relegating to secondary position that control which is the only true means of preventing all but leprosy, (i.e., control of the vectors). Indeed, the chief mention of mosquito-borne disease begins with the resigned statement that resistance has made vector control all but impracticable.

Similarly, the wholly worthy aim of developing scientific capabilities in the people of the less developed countries emphasises primarily the laboratory training of research scientists in epidemiology, immunology, and the study of antigens. Unfortunately, this approach reinforces the turn-of-the-century notion that scientists wear white coats and work in laboratories, while it is "field workers" who get mud on their shoes. That notion, which I am afraid the European and American pioneers were all too responsible for (although it was, of course, deplored by many of them) has been nobly combated by such modern-day unassailably eminent scientists as TONY BROWN, PACO DY, BILL REEVES and MANABU SASA, to name but a few, but it still persists.

This is not to say that the Programme is unaware of vector control. Indeed a good 25 pages are devoted to it. The present biological parts of integrated control, from *B. thuringiensis* through *Coelomomyces*, to mermithid nematodes are all mentioned. But vector control does seem just a little secondary. Perhaps we are being over-reactive and over-sensitive . . . like the person who strikes his thumb with a hammer AGAIN. Nonetheless, we do feel that vector control should be fairly major in a program for the prevention of tropical diseases, just as prevention should be primary over treatment. Is vector control not really the only true basic concern in relation to filariasis, malaria, Chagas' disease, Leishmaniasis and African trypanosomiasis? We feel so. Comment?

JOHN OSMUN RECEIVED THE ARPE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD FOR "OUTSTANDING SERVICE towards advancing professionalism in entomology" and as one who began arguing for such professionalism in 1944 (and got

laughed out of the room . . . who needed it? We all KNEW who we were) and has watched the movement grow slowly to its present accepted place among the scientific disciplines, we feel that we can fairly say no one has done more than John. His professionalism and integrity were right up front way back when he was a young Army officer and an outstanding member of the "fraternity."

JOYCE CHESTER SENT US A NICE NOTE ON THE TEXAS AND LOUISIANA MCA MEETINGS, both of which she attended and the programs of which she enclosed. Joyce said the highlight of the meeting in Louisiana was the *cochon de lait* (roast pig, for you mono-linguals) but we'd like to have heard her paper on "Preventive-maintenance techniques for Staying Union Free." Has the Confederacy risen again and we didn't know it, half-Yankee that we are?

Well, there were many papers on riceland management, too, and on biological control and invitational ones on filariasis in Haiti and on the control of birds at airports, as well as one that suggested that financially hard-pressed MAD's might make it by diversifying.

TEXAS MCA'S PROGRAM FEATURED AN ADDRESS BY PREXY BOB WASHINO AS DID LOUISIANA'S, AND ALSO ONE BY TOMMY MULHERN, DICK AXTELL, CHESTER MEEK, WILLIAM RAPP, GIL CHALLET and others. Tommy's was entitled, "I am an Environmentalist" which is certainly the point for all of us. We're ALL environmentalists and have been since long before the Ists discovered the word, without discovering much of the meaning, and made an instant pejorative out of it. The program also had a number of papers on ricelands, dredge spoil areas, storm residues and the like, as well as a good many on REAL environmentalism and bio-control.

THE OHIO MCA MEETINGS WERE ATTENDED BY HARRY PRATT, WHO SENT US A PROGRAM. LIKE THE OTHER TWO, THIS ONE MADE US ALMOST WISH WE LIVED CLOSER AND CERTAINLY DID MAKE US WISH WE COULD TRAVEL ANY TIME WE LIKED AND TAKE THEM ALL IN. Harry gave a resume on past and present vector control in the U.S. and GEORGE CRAIG and GARY CLARK delved into *Ae. triseriatus* and what makes a tree hole productive of them and how well ovitraps work in surveillance for them *vis-a-vis* La Crosse virus. There was a panel on arbovirus activity with Gary and also DON NEWSON and RICHARD BERRY; there were some cogent comments from PEG PARSONS and an out-

standing program arranged by ELLEN PETERSON as Chairwoman, which included papers by CHARLES ANDERSON and FRED KNAPP.

AN ADDENDUM TO HARRY'S INITIAL REMARKS ON THE MEETINGS OF THE ASTM & H in Atlanta: he reported that the meetings honored the 100th anniversary of the discovery of *Plasmodium* by Laveran in North Africa and that there were also, in addition to Wil Downs' fine and authoritative Fred Soper Lecture, good papers on Dengue I, which is now found from Central America and Brownsville and Laredo, Texas. DON ELIASON had a fine paper on *Aedes aegypti* breeding places in two cities in Mexico, with "excellent color slides." Among those attending, he saw BILL REEVES, of course, and TOMMY AITKEN, HAROLD TRAPIDO, GEORGE CRAIG, BRUCE FRANCY, ROY CHAMBERLAIN, DANNY SUDIA, LANCE SCHOLDT, JERRY LANG, DON ELIASON, as mentioned, and BOB TAYLOR.

JOHNNY MULRENNAN JR. WROTE US A WONDERFULLY LONG AND NEWSY LETTER ABOUT FLORIDA GOINGS-ON, INCLUDING THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE FLORIDA ANTI-MOSQUITO ASSOCIATION. As usual, it was a very successful one. "The informal nature of this meeting allows considerable discussion and interchange of information which always proves beneficial to all," he notes. "The topics that generated the most interest were the ones concerning the Governor's Mosquito Control Working Group and Mosquito Control IPM Subgroup, the use of bacteria and monomolecular films as larvicides, and the mechanical flow control system for ULV machines. A simple and inexpensive

spray system which has been developed by Jim Robinson of the West Pasco County Mosquito Control District was also discussed."

Of the IPM Group, Dr. Mulrennan pointed out that, the "Group's primary purpose was to deal with environmentalist's complaints in a positive way," at first, but is now part of the whole. "It's the first time ever that all of these groups have worked together for a common purpose," he continued, "We are in the process of putting together a document which will outline the mosquito control program in Florida, the resources available and the requirements for implementing environmentally sound IPM programs tailored for specific species of mosquitoes in specific habitats." *Bonne chance, Johnny!*

DR. SAM BREELAND JOINED DR. MULRENNAN'S STAFF IN JULY, LEAVING FMEL AT VERO BEACH TO DO SO, AND NOW HEADS THE MOSQUITO CONTROL SECTION in the Office of Entomology of FDHRS. Johnny says his Dad, our generation's Johnny, is enjoying his retirement but is still available for consultation and "It's sure nice to have him around."

THE SOCIETY OF VECTOR ECOLOGISTS HELD ITS TWELFTH ANNUAL MEETING IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE CALIFORNIA MCA'S ENTOMOLOGY AND BIOLOGICAL CONTROL COMMITTEES with a significant discussion on non-herbicidal methods of control of aquatic vegetation, a hot topic in California if there ever was one. But, like SOVE itself, this is not limited to California by any means. You have our undivided attention, SOVE!