

## NEWS AND NOTES

AUSTIN W. MORRILL, JR.

WE'VE BEEN SITTING AND LOOKING AT A MAP OF ORLANDO AND THINKING ABOUT WHAT A PRETTY CITY IT WAS WHEN WE WERE THERE LAST AND SUDDENLY WE NOTICED THAT THE HOUSE WHERE WE WERE BORN ON America St. is right under a FREEWAY. It was under a cloud already during WW II on account of the short-time hospitality that was being offered to Airmen there. Now it's under the East-West Parkway, running from the Municipal Airport, that used to be AAFTAC, through town to join I-4. It isn't that we think AMCA ought to put up a bronze plaque there or anything, you understand, but we *may* run up from DW to stand on the spot again and so we just might miss a thing or two at the Meetings. So if you didn't SEE us and didn't come with a pocketful of notes to slip into our hot hands, we'll have to ask that you submit some RIGHT NOW, double spaced and typed with wide margins. (A reasonable facsimile scribbled on a small piece of paper may, if legible, be submitted instead.)

ROY FRITZ THINKS MAYBE WE MADE IT SOUND TOO MUCH AS IF HE HAD SOMETHING A BIT TOO UNIQUE THERE IN SUN CITY WITH HIS 4-H KIDS. Well, he *has*. But he'd like us to say that this is something more of us could and should be trying, that it would be highly rewarding wherever and whatever the kids were and that (he says) anyone can do what he has. He writes, "A lot of help is available through the County Extension offices . . . and through the Boy Scout headquarters. . . . The satisfaction of helping these youngsters find their way in collecting and in learning about insects is so great!" In the Logan (Utah) area this last year, Roy had 13 boys and during July and the first two weeks of August they collected "enough bugs to win 12 blue and 1 red ribbons in the Country Fair. One second year boy has a collection of 16 orders and about 420 insects (more than 250 species). His collection will be entered in the Utah State Fair." Roy says he doesn't have to recruit his Boy Scout merit badgers and 4-H Clubbers, they come looking for him.

HELEN SOLLERS-RIEDEL ATTENDED THE VIII INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF INFECTIOUS AND PARASITIC DISEASES WHICH WAS HELD IN 1982 IN STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN and she writes, "The sessions on resistance of anti-malarials were of special interest. I also visited Dr. CHRISTINE DAHL's laboratory in Uppsala, Sweden and enjoyed my visit with her and her family. In Germany, I had a pleasant visit with Prof. HANNES LAVEN and his wife in Mainz." Helen's latest *Annual Review* (1979) is now available and at a Very Reasonable Price. 1980 will be out by fall.

CHUCK HANSEN PROUDLY WRITES TO LET US ALL KNOW THAT HIS SAN MATEO COUNTY (CALIF.) MAD SUCCESSFULLY PASSED A SPECIAL TAX MEASURE AT THE 1982 General Election. Politicians now having to face up to the State's woes, and particularly its rapid drop from a surplus to a deficit, love to blame it all on Prop. 13 and by inference on You Know Who, instead of on themselves. But a formidable 74 percent margin by

San Mateo voters showed that Prop. 13's provision for voting in special taxes works very well if one does what SMMAD did. "We worked very hard providing facts and information so our residents would be informed voters. They responded positively by voting to continue this vital health service and affirming that responsive government is ultimately determined by citizen satisfaction. We especially thank JACK FIORI—San Joaquin, STEVE SILVEIRA—Turlock, FRED ROBERTS—Alameda, and KEN WHITESELL—Colusa County Mosquito Abatement Districts . . ." (The best part of a special tax is that it goes to what it was voted for.)

RON WARD, YE ED, RETURNED IN LATE SEPTEMBER FROM ANGUILLA (W.I.) AND AN INTERESTING FIELD TRIP WITH TWO OTHER AMCA'ETS. ANDREW PARKER OF VSO, an entomologist with the Public Health Department of Anguilla and BRUCE KNUDSEN of PAHO. They found *Aedes aegypti* truly feral . . . in coral rock holes away from inhabited areas . . . though he said far away wasn't TOO far on an island that size. Andrew is doing some nice work on larvivoracious fish for control of mosquitoes breeding in cisterns.

STUART MCCAUSLAND SENDS AN URGENT REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE AMCA MOSQUITO CONTROL DISPLAY THAT VMCA worked so hard on and that graced the 1976 XV International Congress of Entomology in Washington D.C. Primarily consisting of three panels hung from a tubular frame, each of the plexiglas 2' x 4' sections showed mosquito control in its several aspects. We seem to think we saw it at a later AMCA meeting. Anyone?

STU ALSO SAYS THE YORK COUNTY MOSQUITO CONTROL COMMISSION (VA.) has become the first county in Virginia to join the electronic revolution by purchasing a TRS-80 Model III micro-computer. Remember when that sort of letters-and-numbers name meant a sprayer or a fogger? Stu opines, remembering how quickly the ULV's caught on, that it won't be long now before there'll be a LOT of 'em . . . computers. 1985 or 6 at the latest for a majority, he thinks.

LOUISIANA MCA'S SILVER ANNIVERSARY MEETING IN OCTOBER AT METAIRIE WAS AN OUTSTANDING SUCCESS, WE NEED HARDLY REMARK, AND NOT ONLY BECAUSE THE AMCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS HAD THEIR INTERIM MEETING THERE. After Prexy CHARLES PALMISANO opened things, there was a panel on riceland mosquitoes, presided over by GEORGE CARMICHAEL and made up of M. V. MEISCH, BOB WASHINO, C. L. MEEK, B. R. NORMENT and JIM OLSON. There were papers by such as DICK AXTELL, T. FUKUDA, D. A. FOCKS, TOMMY MULHERN, LEN TRAGER, GIL CHALLET, and others who appear frequently in our Index of Authors (Adv.). There was a silver buckle of absolutely stupendous beauty for a souvenir and a door prize at the banquet that you *had* to be present to win! We couldn't be but they sent us a buckle (which we wear proudly, though we're Floridian cum Texas cum

Californian) and a membership for which we are humbly grateful and thankee, suz! JOYCE CHESTER SENT US ALL THE LOW DOWN; we shore wish we were rich enough to travel more! When you *retire* from travelling so much you're supposed to have had enough but it gets in the blood . . . especially with such attractions!

FOR THOSE OF YOU IN THE EAST WHO REMEMBER GOING CLEAR TO NEW YEAR'S WITHOUT ENOUGH SNOW AND THOSE IN THE WEST WHO HAD TOO MUCH AND TOO SLIPPERY . . . BETTINA ROSAY sent word in late fall about the Utah Mosquito Abatement Association meeting, with a foot of clean snow in the parking lot at a mountain lodge nearly 9000 feet above sea level. She said that by the number of Californians present she judged UMAA to be a branch of CMCA. BOB BRAND is the new Prexy, STEVE ROMNEY is Prex-elec, JAMES NIELSEN is Vice-President and she puts forth SAMMIE LEE DIXON, a University of Utah student, as One to Watch. We aren't really WORRIED about the coming generation, the one right after OURS has done all right, but it's good to know there are more yet to look forward to. Some of the most exciting phases of mosquito control obviously lie immediately ahead of us, as one can see by the listings in the Index.

THE INDEX TO MOSQUITO NEWS THAT DAVE REED IS GETTING TOGETHER IS COMING RIGHT ALONG, WE UNDERSTAND, AND IN THE MEANTIME, DPMIAC IS COMPUTING AND ISSUING some fascinating stuff. DPMIAC is bureaucratese for Defense Pest Management Information Analysis Center, which is itself bureaucratese, we guess, for what used to be the Armed Forces' military information service. Anyway, they report that WHO has found corroboration in the field that transovarial transmission of yellow fever occurs in *Aedes aegypti* and has isolated the virus from male mosquitoes of the *Ae. furcifer* group, also. A further report will interest west coast MADs who regularly get calls to do something about wasps at picnic grounds. The German yellowjacket, *Vespula germanica*, first found in Maryland in 1968, is now among us, having been found in Puyallup, Washington. They build exceptionally large nests and in this country, rather than underground, have been building them in the walls of buildings. Not good.

COMMANDER FRED SANTANA IS THE FORTHCOMING HEAD OF DPMIAC, by the bye, having reported in as special assistant in October. He will follow Lieutenant Colonel RALPH CARESTIA whose "fine services to the pest management community" he is confidently expected to continue. (That's a quote and a deserved accolade to both of them.)

DON JOHNSON WROTE AT NEW YEAR'S TO SAY THAT WE HAD MISREAD MRS. PAUL RUSSELL'S NOTE AND THAT DR. PAUL IS 88 YEARS OLD, and he sent along a copy of a lovely note from Mrs. Russell who says that she is "thankfully sufficiently well to care for the one with whom I fell in love when I was 12." What an inspiration both of them are to all of us! Dr. Russell, still *hors de combat* from his distressing ailments, is alert and notes to Mrs. Russell, marked "do not burden yourself to answer" would be welcome, we believe.

THE SECOND ANNUAL GREAT TEXAS MOSQUITO FESTIVAL ORIGINATED BY LINDA HILL LAST YEAR IN CLUTE, WAS A RESOUNDING (SMACK) SUCCESS, according to the Brazoria County (Texas) paper *The Facts*, which gave columns and columns to it, with a lot of pictures we wish we could run here. There was a Swat Team and the World's Largest Mosquito, a 1-mile and a 5-km mosquito chase, a haystack dive, a contest to judge what MAN present had the most mosquito-y legs, country and western galore and fun for all.

THEY'D BETTER WATCH IT, THOUGH. THE RUSSIAN PROPAGANDA NEWS BUREAU TASS REPORTS THAT OUR CIA HAS BEEN BUSY SPREADING dengue in India by breeding "killer" mosquitoes. TASS cites a "research center" near Lahore, Pakistan, tried them out on the local population, after having used them in Vietnam and Cuba. They said it is carried by a mosquito "hitherto unknown in India." We guess that after their success in agonizing people over Agent Orange they figured they could try for another hit. They had a dud in the Korean War, we remember, when they charged we were spreading tuberculosis in North Korea and China with *grasshoppers* as the vectors. They had pictures of the hoppers on the snow to back it all up and the SatEvePost printed it straightfaced. Seems like yesterday. Hoo Boy!

TEXAS STILL HAS A BAT BELFRY, THOUGH. IT'S A REMINDER OF THE GREAT 1930'S EFFORT AT "BIOLOGICAL" CONTROL. There were lots of them once and we guess it's still against the law there to kill bats. We had a mite of trouble once at Ft. Sam Houston.

WE FIND READING THE NEWSPAPERS FASCINATING AS YOU MAY GUESS. Our latest from the San Francisco *Chronicle*, on 27 October last, was headlined, "NUN TRIES TO BREED SEXIER MOSQUITO." That stopped our eye, you can bet. It starts off, "Wild female mosquitoes just don't seem to think laboratory-bred males are very sexy—much to the consternation of a Franciscan nun in Berkeley." Our own Sister MONICA ASMAN may not have cared too much for the start, but the article was actually pretty straightforward and gave a nice account of Sister Monica's impressive work with *Cx. tarsalis* some of which she and her colleagues have reported already in *Mosquito News*. (See Index.) In this case, the attempt is to make laboratory-bred males do what wild ones do because what they do *now* is swarm too close to the ground . . . about two feet too close. The most important part of a laboratory is the field trials, so now ALL they have to do is find out which factor to manipulate to make *b* match *a*. Stay tuned.

YOU DON'T MIND OUR ADVERTISING THE INDEX SO MUCH DO YOU? It makes fascinating reading, in case you missed something the first time out.

LAST JUNE *PARADE* MAGAZINE IN THE HOUSTON POST HAD AN ARTICLE by Rosaline Jackler which started off with a good picture of BOB BARNETT in the Harris County (Texas) Mosquito Control District laboratory. The unusually well written article goes on to tell about the lab tests on insecticide susceptibility, the use of bacteria and fungi as control agents, the

epidemiology of encephalitis in the Houston area, use of pigeons at the Houston Zoo as daily virus indicators, ovitraps in dengue surveillance and like that. JEFF FLOSI and Bob deserve a hand for this good bit of PR.

JOHN BEIER AND HIS WIFE ARE OFF TO CAIRO TO AIN SHAMS UNIVERSITY and studies on malaria and leishmaniasis under AID sponsorship. We aren't familiar with this program, John, and would like very much to hear more, so write home, OK? (ET, call home!)

OTHER MOVERS AROUNDERS ARE: DICK DARSIE who is going to Ft. Collins to the Vector-borne Viral Diseases Division, and BOB ALTMAN who isn't GOING anyplace else, exactly, but is moving into the position of President-elect of ARPE, the association of REGISTERED entomologists which has so successfully brought standing to, as well as understanding of the profession in the eyes of the world. And DON PLETSCH writes cryptically and with uncharacteristic brevity that he's now in Gainesville, Florida, at 8620-238 N.W. 13th St., to be exact. We expect more on this at Orlando so, again, stay tuned.

IRVIN M. HALL, JR. has retired to the status of Professor Emeritus at the University of California, Riverside, after quadruple-bypass open heart surgery, from which he says he is thankful to be recovering nicely, and we wish him well.

DON SUTHERLAND was appointed Director of Mosquito Research and Control of Cook College (Rutgers) and the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station. SOME PEOPLE have suggested that this shows New Jersey occasionally does SOMETHING right, but we think that's mean. Just the same this promotion is really something right!

THE NAVY DISEASE VECTOR ECOLOGY AND CONTROL CENTER AT ALAMEDA CALIFORNIA HELD A VECTOR CONTROL WORKSHOP THE FIRST PART OF DECEMBER which was attended by 25 Navy entomologists. Dr. BILL REEVES was principal speaker and highlight, with a discussion on field evaluation of vector equipment and operations. Also in December was the first 2-week operational entomology class, with students in attendance from as far away as Okinawa (Japan). Instructors included California Department of Health notables BOB DOTY, BERNIE NELSON and DICK YESCOTT.

A Department of Defense Operational and Research Pest Management Workshop was held the end of January in San Antonio, too, but we haven't had word about what went on, since we're writing in mid-month.

WE CAN'T BRING YOU ANY WORD OF THE MEETINGS THIS YEAR UNTIL JUNE, YOU UNFORTUNATES WHO COULDN'T COME but there was one thing we *can* tell you this time, because a little bird told us and we can't keep things to ourselves: HARRY PRATT was recipient of the AMCA Medal of Honor by which AMCA honored ourselves for having the perspicacity to honor Harry. He is in his eighth year as Director of Training

for Stephenson Services, training for certification and giving refresher courses for those needing recertification. Harry's manuals and those written with other AMCA notables are still extensively used by CDC and elsewhere in similar certification training, and he was invitational speaker at the 27th Annual Conference of the Georgia Pest Control Operators in January.

STUART MCCAUSLAND SPRANG TO THE DEFENSE OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE IN A LETTER TO HIS CONGRESSMAN SO WELL WORDED THAT WE WANT YOU TO READ IT, TOO. Stu may not have meant it as an "open letter" but it deserves to be sent to many a congressman from all around the country. After saying he was alarmed at the plan to reduce CDC, he continued, "In this day of miracle cure (e.g. the artificial heart), many people have forgotten the old but still true adage 'an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.' Federal cutbacks in 1974-75 forced Wallops Island to drop its subsidy of the Chincoteague Island Mosquito Control Commission. The Commission subsequently folded because the local residents could see no reason to continue to fund mosquito control if the feds wouldn't. In 1975, two (2) persons on the island died from Eastern Equine Encephalitis and in 1976 the Mosquito Control Commission was reactivated with local funds. That same year, the largest epidemic of St. Louis Encephalitis ever recorded occurred in the United States, to the utter amazement of those complacent persons who believed 'if it ain't broke, don't fix it.'

"It is obvious that the field of preventive health is one which, if effective, *appears* useless. All those billions of dollars of MX missiles and nuclear subs *appear* useless, but hopefully will prevent the even greater expenditures necessitated by war. Just so with public health. A strong preventive public health program can prevent far greater expenditures on after-the-fact control and/or cures."

Following the line of reduction from Federal to States (states rights) and from state to locality (local option), Stu points out that "A local city councilman is under the gun to reduce expenditures and begins eliminating programs that don't *seem* to be functioning (e.g. we don't have mosquitoes right now so why should we pay for mosquito control . . .) If this councilman could see that the state was concerned with preventive health programs, he would be more likely to fund local programs. And the state looks to Washington."

INASMUCH AS THE UNITED STATES STILL FUNDS TWENTY-FIVE PER CENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS WE CAN AT LEAST BE PROUD THAT WE ARE NOT FALLING DOWN AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL: one of the most valuable and interesting of the WHO programs must surely be that of N. H. LIN in Saudi Arabia, where he has been since about 1970. He writes, "The malaria control programme in the Kingdom has been expended to cover the whole country since late 1977, when a new Malariaiologist, an Entomologist and a Technical Officer joined me. . . . Our main weapon used in the vector control in these areas has been DDT, which is still highly effective against the main vectors of the area: *An. arabiensis* and *An. sergenti*." In other areas, Western, Northern and Eastern re-

gions, Abate emulsions and granules, ULV with pyrethrin formulations have been combined with advanced surveillance and the use of the larvivorous fish, *Aphanius dispar* is being studied. Retaining trained personnel is, as everywhere, a major problem. Incidentally, ALI I. DABHOUR of the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Riyadh, and JAN KRANCHER of Arabian Bechtel also represent AMCA in Saudi Arabia.

UTAH MOSQUITO ABATEMENT ASSOCIATION'S *STING* SHOULD HAVE BEEN QUOTED BACK THERE AWAYS FOR AN INTERESTING HISTORICAL NOTE IN THEIR AUGUST ISSUE: On John Wesley Powell's first expedition down the Green River, O. G. Howland recorded in his journal of 27 June 1869, "We have been nearly eaten up by mosquitoes since lying in camp here, our principal amusement having been fighting and smoking the pests." At the same moment, about 63 miles downstream from Green River City, Wyoming, George Y. Bradley, anticipating his famous namesake of our times, wrote, "Our camp tonight is alive with the meanest pest that pesters man—mosquitoes. Yet they will be as quiet as death in an hour or so for the night wind is too cool for them and they take shelter in the grove."

On 2 July, he wrote, "... as the mosquitoes drove me away before, I thought I would get ahead of them this time so I put a piece of mosquito bar over my hat and fastened it around my waist. . . . The mosquitoes were perfectly frightful. As I went through the rank grass and wild sunflowers sometimes higher than my head they would fairly *scream* around me. I think I never saw them thicker even in Florida than at this place.

"... Our camp is on a little bluff about ten or fifteen ft. above the river between the lake and the mouth of the Uintah, and strange to say the mosquitoes trouble us but little compared to what they do if we leave our camp." Early observations on the effect of altitude and temperature on biting patterns, perhaps?

In an UNCONTROLLED PART of the same Green River area last year, two light traps collected *seven* pint cartons of mosquitoes, of which a 1/64 part of one carton was counted and found to be 936 mosquitoes, giving an extrapolation of over 400,000 mosquitoes caught in a single night. The bulk was *Aedes*

*spencerii idahoensis*. Who says mosquito abatement isn't worth it?

WE THINK THEY TRIED TO KEEP US FROM KNOWING BUT . . . THE SHADOW KNOWS!!! About the California MCA meetings at San Mateo on 24, 25 and 26 January. Actually, the way we knew was because WAYNE MILLER phoned us from Florida. He was at the meetings. We were, too, by the second day, and the meetings were darn good. There were 262 (THREE with US) in attendance and a good many from Utah MCA, perhaps to show CMCA reciprocity. Besides GLEN COLLETT and JAY GRAHAM, there were BOB BRAND, LARRY NIELSEN, KEITH WAGSTAFF, JACK WEBER and no less than six trustees. DAN ARIAZ and JIM WOOD were there from Nevada, STEVE CHEYNE, EUGENE PAPINEAU and MIKE POULSON from Oregon and, to balance Florida, BOB SJOGREN from Minnesota. Subjects ranged all over, of course, but there was big emphasis on biological and genetic control and a new sort of chemical control . . . working through the fatty acids and things to find that there may be a winner in Oleic Acid. (Hold the butter!) The sign outside the Villa Hotel said, "Hello, Chubby!" as well as "welcome, CMCA!" We DID notice that the increasing presence of young female entomologists in our deliberations lent not only a clarity of tone to the discourses but also a markedly increased pizzazz to the kodachrome slides of field activities. (We hope PAT GILLIES, a pioneer who was right in there in the decorative department, too, won't think we're chauvinist.)

THE NEW JERSEY M.C.A. ANNOUNCED ITS 1983 MEETINGS ON 16, 17 and 18 MARCH IN ATLANTIC CITY and while there is no special theme, papers on surveillance, computers, water management, genetics and vector-borne diseases predominate on the program. Now, if some good New Jerseyite will let us know what went on, we'll tell you all about it in JUNE. Deadline is 10 April, though, guys! See you in June.

AND TO END ON AN UPBEAT NOTE . . . A REALLY FLYING ONE . . . OUR REVISED BULLETIN No. 1, "The Use of Aircraft for Mosquito Control," by NORM AKESSON and W. E. YATES is OUT . . . READY . . . AVAILABLE!!! This is the absolutely up-to-the-minute REPLACEMENT, NOT A MERE REVISION! The latest thing. And it all can be yours. Don't delay, chums.