

NEWS AND NOTES

AUSTIN W. MORRILL, JR.

THERE WERE OVER A THOUSAND PEOPLE AT THE ORLANDO MEETINGS IF YOU COUNT THE WIVES (and we DO, we DO!) and the husbands and the students and auditors and exhibitors as well as the 690 registrants. The facilities were grand and the banquet superlative (of that, more later) and the weather was terrible from the Florida point of view. . . . at first. It sunshined part of the last day and all of the days of the tours up and down Florida's east and west coasts to visit MADs. WAYNE MILLER, who was major domo of the arrangements committee(s), said the rain had been imported at great expense to make Californians feel at home. And we did, we did.

There was a big contingent of families and among the teenagers, and a handsome and attractive group they were, we saw NANCY and ROBERT AXTELL, LISA and LAURIE CHALLET, BILLY and AMY BENNETT and LINDA RAICHE'S MELANIE and BRANDON RAICHE, plus Mr. R. and Linda's parents. Linda, as some of you may not know, is not only our very efficient business manager but a FULL MEMBER of AMCA as well. She's also conquering that computer/word processor (with help from MARK DAWSON, who was there). There was a lot of computer language spoken, especially by STU MCAUSLAND and the younger types.

DRS. G. A. SURGEONER AND FRANK MANGAN REPORTED ON THE MEETING PLANS FOR 18-21 MARCH 1984 IN TORONTO. It doesn't rain in March there, there will be trips to Niagara Falls (they didn't think our calling it Niffles was very funny), room rates will be reasonable and there'll be a Henry VIII banquet.

THE JOHN BELKIN AWARD WAS PRESENTED TO KEN KNIGHT BY LEW NIELSEN, who pointed out the appropriateness of an award honoring a distinguished systematist going to another who had done so much to clear things up nicely. KEN also received the Medal of Honor (for 1982) from the hands of BOB WASHINO. HARRY PRATT, who was there with his spit-'n-image military son GEORGE, was presented one by CLAUDE SCHMIDT; JOHN MULRENNAN from PAUL HUNT who also gave the Presidential Citation to "BOB" KNOWLES, whose loyal support for AMCA goes back to the earliest days. JOHNNY, who couldn't deny Paul's statement that he was the founding father and nearly the single-handed builder of Florida mosquito control, modestly said that he could have tried no less hard than he did for the state to which his Irish grandfather came in the 19th century to clear the land and establish the orange grove that Johnny now manages in his "retirement."

RON WARD and DICK DARSEY received Meritorious Service awards and many encomiums for their monumental tome (Dick's was accepted on his behalf by BRUCE FRANCEY).

S. G. BREELAND, in his invitational lecture on mosquito control in Florida, quoted a scientific article published in 1863 which stated that malaria was caused by the vapours from the putrefaction of veg-

etation in the soil, causing acidity. The author advocated drainage to alleviate the acidity and reduce the disease. As with the anonymous author in Philadelphia who advocated putting oil on rain barrels to stop yellow fever in 1800, no one paid much attention, unfortunately, in 1863.

THE ERUDITE, COMPREHENSIVE AND ENTIRELY LISTENABLE MEMORIAL LECTURE HONORING HARRY STAGE WAS DELIVERED BY DR. MICHAEL SERVICE WHO SPOKE ON BIOLOGICAL CONTROL. By "listenable" we mean Michael translated arcane subject material into normal tho' elegant English, understandable by people like us who have a pretty tenuous hold on some of the more recent developments. You can (and should immediately) read it in this issue. UNCLE HARRY, who was pretty good at making the complex sound folksy himself, would have loved it and felt honored that it was delivered in his name. His daughter, Shirley Deutsch, incidentally, reports that there are two permanent names in the orchid lexicon which honor Harry and he was proud of his accomplishments in that line too, so it's only fitting. AMCA would not be what it is today without the many tasks he performed for us and the wise counsel he tendered.

GEORGE ALEXANDER TOLD US DURING A COFFEE BREAK ABOUT A STARTLING FINDING HE AND BILL BIDLINGMEYER are following up on: *Aedes sollicitans* in fresh water. . . . in the interior of the state! Like the males that suck blood and the *Aedes* that can do without water at BOTH ends of the larval period, this is a bit unnerving.

MEL BOREHAM HAD SOME UNNERVING NEWS, TOO, FROM PANAMA, where many people were counting on the gentle Italian bees to calm the fierce reactions of the African "Killer" bees. It seems it ain't happening. What IS happening, as they slowly progress northward, is that they are building nests in . . . and even ON . . . buildings. Did we say slowly? One swarm arrived in Baltimore, on a container ship, that had also stopped in Savannah and Miami, left the ship and was captured in a nearby chasset or carrier. The bees react far more violently and for a longer period to the pheromone released by the initial sting and will follow the victim for a very considerable way after they are aroused. If you think bees aren't in your bailiwick, *regardez!* There have been over 200 africanized bee incidents since they arrived in Panama last March and Mel's staff is devoting far more time to bees than to mosquitoes, though of course the routine control goes on. They've had no malaria transmission for some ten years.

GENE GERBERG REMINDED US THAT WE NEED FAR MORE PEOPLE TO SEND IN NAMES AND ADDRESSES FOR OUR FINE BUT STILL NOT COMPLETE, "World Directory of Vector Research and Control Specialists." Of course, you're world-renowned, but just the same, if you haven't sent in your name, our book won't be complete until you do! ALSO. . . . YOUNG EN-

TOMOLOGISTS and such, new to AMCA, who feel diffident and "out of it". . . don't be shy. We want and need you. Send your name to the Chairman of the Committee of your choice.

AT THE BANQUET, WE WERE ENTERTAINED and we mean ENTERTAINED by cowboy bands, country western bands, gay nineties bands, roaring twenties bands . . . all on *three* stages in different parts of the room . . . and on the stage nearest us, three young singers—and-sort-of-acrobats who put out so much energy it could have lighted Disney World all evening, and maybe *was* doing. The speaker of the evening was Dr. Marcelino Gonzalez, an Ecuadorean of impeccable scientific credentials and a wide knowledge of insect vector control problems and methodology, who was introduced, also impeccably, as always, by Dr. MO HIRST. Dr. G. was pretty well into his speech before we began to realize that his excellent (and rather "inside") jokes were coming a *little* close together and were lasting into the body of the speech a *bit* long. But, unlike other imposters and other banquets, REV BAUMEL'S jokes (for that was his real name) were wholly inoffensive unless some of our *notables* took offense at being ragged a bit, and we are sure they didn't. Mo introduced the real Rey with a resumé every bit as distinguished, if not as scientific, as "Dr. Gonzalez's."

THERE WERE EIGHTEEN PAST PRESIDENTS PRESENT, IN ADDITION TO MO: DICK PETERS, ARCHIE HESS, BILL BICKLEY, DON MICKS, JOHNNY MULRENNAN, JAY GRAHAM, HARRY PRATT, TOMMY MULHERN, GEORGE CARMICHAEL, GLEN COLLETT, KEN KNIGHT, BRUCE FRANCY, LEW NIELSEN, PAUL HUNT, BOB WASHINO, CLAUDE SCHMIDT and DICK AXTELL, who was both presiding President and Immediate Past President in succession.

TONY BROWN COULDN'T COME BUT WAS HONORED IN ABSENTIA BY BEING MADE AN HONORARY MEMBER which we don't do for everyone, so it IS an honor and, we needn't add but will, a well-deserved one.

ROLLIE DORER, ALAS COULDN'T MAKE IT EITHER BUT WAS NOT FORGOTTEN BY THE MANY WHO REMEMBER HIS YEOMAN'S LABORS ON THE BEHALF OF AMCA. VMCA remembered them also, making him Honorary President "for as long as he desires." The citation read, in part, "Whereas, Rowland E. Dorer was the driving force and founder of the Virginia Mosquito Control Association and . . . has carefully guided this organization over the past thirty-five years . . . and has garnered more honors, certificates and recognition than any normal person would in ten lifetimes; and whereas the Virginia Mosquito Control Association has always benefitted by its close association with Mr. Dorer; now therefore be it resolved. . ."

THERE WAS ONE SAD NOTE: DR. WILLIAM VISSER GAVE A HORRIFYING ACCOUNT of the events in Paramaribo, Surinam, where civilization utterly broke down, and from which Dr. R. S. PANDAY barely escaped with his life and with no chance to ascertain the fate of his family. He may be reached through Dr. Visser and we'll all hope for an eventual better outcome.

THERE WERE 41 EXHIBITORS WHO DESERVE OUR PROFOUND THANKS and who sent along an average of two registrants each, but several had four and BIOCHEM had six! MAD's also sent large contingents, of which WAYNE MILLER'S LEE COUNTY MCD sent SEVENTEEN and his county sent 4 more. (He's sure got them scared.) Two exhibitors dropped out at the last minute and without either a warning or an apology and you won't see THEIR names in our pages again.

THE BILL HORSFALL MAFIA (+BILL) and another contingent of CARROLL SMITH ALUMNI (+ CARROLL) were much in evidence. Both Carroll and Bill looked mighty hale and fit . . . and furthermore feisty . . . in a dignified, scholarly and gentlemanly way, of course. Our new Prexy JIM OLSON graduated BS from U of Idaho and joined AMCA at the same time and then went on to earn his PhD under Dr. Horsfall, after which he became professor at A&M of course. OSCAR FULTZ is our new VP, incidentally, but we don't know if he's mafioso or smithy.

WE'VE COMMENTED FAVORABLY BEFORE ON THE RISE AND SHINING OF LADY BUGISTS IN AMCA and now in addition to MARY CHANCE of Canada, we have MEG PARSONS as Director for the Central Region. There were fine papers presented by the lady laboratory and mud-on-their-boots contingent and if we're chauvinist enough to say we admired both their scientific attainments and their grace, we hope they'll forgive us. We was brought up that way.

WHICH LEADS US TO SUSAN McIVER and HER TORONTO WORK ON NEUROLOGICAL RESPONSES OF BLACK FLIES AND MOSQUITOES, which you may get to see next year. She's been secretary, vice chair and chair of Section D of ESA, was president of the Entomological Society of Ontario in 1980-81 and is now second vice-president of ESC (the Canadian society), which will make her president-elect in 1984, when we are there. She was recently honored by the ESA Newsletter, as well she should have been, after being local arrangements chair for the combined ESA-ESC-ESO meetings.

THE PHOTO SALON CHAIRED BY JOHN BARBER WAS A DELIGHT TO ALL AND HAD SOME BANG-UP GOOD SLIDES, SCIENTIFIC INTEREST AS WELL AS ARTISTICALLY. The winner of the plaque for best mosquito slide was won by LEN MUNSTERMANN with his photo of pupae of *Haemogogus equinus* and he won again for best slide by an AMCA member with a slide of *Aedes mediovitatus*.

IT WAS REPORTED THAT JESSE B. LESLIE of Bergen County, N.J., at age 91, is still going strong and is now Honorary Commissioner of Bergen County. He began mosquito work at Rutgers in 1913 and then moved to Bergen County Mosquito Commission, being a Commissioner long before most of us were more than lab assistants doing dipping surveys.

BILL WIRTH RETIRED FROM USDA in February and plans to continue working on ceratopogonids for the foreseeable future. The report was that he plans to visit Australia next year and we envy him that, entomologically, scenically and for meeting nice people. (The *Thorn Birds* wasn't even MADE in Australia.)

WE TOOK THE TRIP DOWN THE WEST COAST BECAUSE WE COULDN'T BEAR NOT TO SEE WHAT WAYNE AND FRANK WILSON AND DAN GORMAN AND BRANDT WATSON have made of the problems which were so horrendous for us in protecting military areas in WWII. Our party included TOMMY and HELEN MULHERN, GEORGE MORRILL and DOUG JOHNSON of the Cascade County (Washington) Pesticide Program, BOB TAYLOR of the Wellcome Foundation in Berkhamsted, England, DAMIEN REGAN of Beak Consultants, in Vancouver, B.C. and ANDREW PARKER of the Public Health Department on Anguilla. GLENN PORCIAU and MARK SLAFF showed us the work around Bartow (Polk County) and we dashed onward to Tampa and Dan's team of experts, GALE MURDOCH, on source reduction, and DOYLE TAYLOR on entomology. The 1000 sq. mile district encompasses a lot of dredge spoil areas and swamps next to "developments," as well as a "wilderness park" for environmentalists who take mosquito control for granted. (The 1000 sq. miles impressed US but didn't faze George and Doug a bit; their district has 1,799,000 acres. Ah, Canada!)

WAYNE MILLER'S DISTRICT BESIDES A SET-UP OF BUILDINGS THAT LOOKED LIKE A U.S.D.A. RESEARCH CENTER and besides so many planes and helicopters that we lost count, has an IBM 34 just to keep track of INVENTORY, of which there are 14,000 line items plus an electronic computer scale that does the inventory-just by weighing *one* item and then shucking out numbers as fast as the subsequent boxes are put on it. They have a fuel-management system which mixes formulations ALMOST automatically and VERY accurately as they are dispensed and a plastic card system for doling out gasoline and stuff on weekends and overtime hours and recording what went with what truck and all without the harried and tired operator having to scribble anything down and look for keys and a pencil and like that. So much for mechanics. . . . that wasn't ALL there was but our arthritic hand got tired trying to take notes as fast as facts were flung at us.

And (this should go in diamond point type we're so ashamed) we committed the cardinal reportorial sin. . . . we lost a whole PAGE of notes about that time. AND NAMES make news. SORRY.

LEE COUNTY ALSO DOES RESEARCH ON MACRO- AND MICRO-BIOLOGY LIKE SEVERAL OF ITS NEIGHBORS but on a pretty big scale. Under the guidance of GEORGE WICHTERMAN, entomologist in charge of field operations, we had discussions of macro- as in carp to control aquatic weeds (JOHN CASSANI) and mer-mithids, *Planaria*, hydra and anemones (RICHARD LEVY). Also work on surface tension adjustment. The micro-part is *Bti* and *Bacillus sphaericus* which, interestingly is what came in some cultures from Israel itself, though it's not doing too well against salt-marsh mosquitoes. BEN HERTLEIN showed us how they make up their own cultures in quantities that would astound you and then freeze dry them so they last and last. Drs. Levy and Hertlein have published extensively, as you know, in MN, WHO, etc.

There's also research on SLE surveillance as well as the surveillance itself, using sentinel chickens and wild birds, among which JIM BURGESS casually mentioned brown pelicans, egrets and herons! Two truck

traps make regular collections driving various routes in rotation.

IN NAPLES, BRANDT WATSON, NOT TO BE OUTDONE, USES FOUR C-47's and three choppers and also has a research lab. He flies off a nearby public airport which, if we aren't confused, was one of our Army Air Bases (later Air Force), which is what Wayne's private strip was too. We don't mean to skip nimbly through Naples, for we spent a very instructive time browsing around, but we were en route to a catfish lunch (*our* choice, the catfish, but our British Commonwealth colleagues polished them off a bit more expertly than we did, to our chagrin. We *used* to be expert.)

MARSHALL LAIRD HAD SOME ABSOLUTELY FASCINATING INFORMATION TO PASS ON DURING CORRIDOR CHIT-CHAT AND DID NOT FORGET WHEN HE GOT HOME TO SEND US A NOTE ON IT. But it's too long to fit here and too good to summarize, so we'll save it for next issue.

ALSO IN A COFFEE-BREAK CONVERSATION DON PLETSCHE REMARKED THAT THE 218th MALARIA SURVEY DETACHMENT OF WWII days is holding its 6th reunion (they must be septennial) in late July in Dexter, Missouri. More than half the original personnel, which is to say 11 enlisted men and 2 officers, have been attending the reunions—many with their wives and children (and no doubt grand-children by now?) to recall the now-rosily-remembered joys of mosquito fighting in the South Pacific and up to Japan.

THE COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH GRANTS, BOARD ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, (breath), supports research in developing country institutions on selected scientific questions of wide applicability (their words). They propose to fund a small number of field research projects related to defining the natural history of mosquito vector populations and points of vulnerability which may lead to control strategies. Vectors of important arboviruses are of special interest. They'd like to hear from investigators in developing country institutions. They're particularly interested in vector ecology studies in areas where agricultural practices and human settlement patterns are changing rapidly (as they are HERE!). Write to Dr. Michael P. Greene at the above named institution, 2101 Constitution Avenue, Washington D.C. 20418. Or call KAREN BELL (202) 334-2646.

COL. JOE WEBB AND HIS WIFE LOIS ARE STILL HEALTHILY AND QUIETLY RUSTICATING IN NORTHERN GEORGIA, with occasional forays to Arizona to see grandchildren there. Like us, he's still avidly interested in Our Subject, though inactive, and he'd like to hear from those of you other retired types who worked with him in Washington, in the Southern States and overseas.

GEORGE DAVIDSON RETIRED FROM THE LONDON SCHOOL OF HYGIENE AND TROPICAL MEDICINE at Christmas last, after having been on the technical staff there for 37 years, ending as Head of the Department of Entomology. We hope he'll be back soon,

after the novelty of retirement wears off, actively experimenting and writing more classics as Emeritus Professor. It was especially nice having an AMCA'er as Head and we'll be eager to hear who is succeeding Dr. D.

NO SOONER HAD THE ONTARIO CONTINGENT RETURNED HOME THAN THEY HAD A MEETING TO FORM THEIR COMMITTEES FOR NEXT YEAR: The Overall Directors are Dr. Surgeoner and Miss K. Currie (Overall Directors sounds like a *working group* to us . . . good luck!) The Exhibits and Printing are under G. L. Hutney, Audio Visual is Dr. J. George; Gord Surgeoner and K. Currie are stoutheartedly taking on the added duties of Ladies Program and Entertainment, respectively, and G. Rogers on Registration. Potential exhibitors will shortly be getting packets of information and application forms; their fee probably in the area of \$450.00 INCLUDING the registration fee, a bargain.

OH, ABOUT NIFFLES. That's the old joke about the American who visited his English cousins and couldn't find them because the "Notcham Taws" he asked for along the way turned out to be Nottingham Towers, so when *they* came to New York and wanted to see Niagara Falls, he acted bewildered and finally said, "Oh, you mean NIFFLES!" (You don't think it's funny?)

AT THE SOCIETY OF VECTOR ECOLOGISTS ANNUAL MEETING IN DECEMBER AT RIVERSIDE (CALIF.) of which RUSS FONTAINE was Prexy this past year and MIR MULLA President-elect and Program Chairman, a paper was presented on the identification of Chagas disease in California for the first time, which may be a portent for mad's with growing numbers of "second homes" in the wilds. LEW NIELSEN and GENE KAUFFMAN presented papers on *Reesimermis nielseni* and *Romanomeris culicivora*x for use against snow melt and rice field mosquitoes respectively. This year's meeting will be during the third week of December at San Diego State U. in where else, and JAY GRAHAM, V-P, will be Program Chairman; GIL CHALLET, Local Arrangements.

BRUCE CHRISTENSEN, ONE OF OUR LEADING EXPERTS ON DOG HEARTWORM, LEFT MURRAY STATE A YEAR AGO

this month and is now at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, in the Department of Veterinary Science. His address: 1655 Linden Drive, Madison 53706.

DON JOHNSON SENT US AN ADVANCE COPY OF *PEST CONTROL* MAGAZINE'S ANNUAL MOSQUITO CONTROL ISSUE AND THOSE OF YOU WHO WERE AT THE MEETINGS UNDOUBTEDLY GOT ONE OF THE FREE COPIES THERE FOR IT had two excellent articles by worthy AMCA'ers, TOMMY MULHERN, SAM BREELAND and JOHNNY MULRENNAN, Jr. Tommy's article was the lead page, "In My View" and concerned the well-known fact that preventing something doesn't leave any evidence of what you prevented. . . . namely mosquitoes and mosquito-borne disease. Sam's and Johnny's was a comprehensive description of Florida mosquito control as it has been carefully constructed over the years. And some of those prevented diseases were exotic ones whose carriers needed only a vector presence to turn into a medical disaster.

IN A LETTER TO LAMAR MEEK AND MICHAEL CHAMBERS, OUR DOUGHTY AMCA HISTORIANS, TOMMY MULHERN CITED THE SHORT HISTORY COVERING 1935 TO 1959, which was published in MN Vol. 20 (4):390-401. Of the 25 people who met in Trenton, N. J. on 26 June, 1935, Tommy is the only one still active in mosquito work and the only one continuously a member from that distant date of formation. The Association was called the "Eastern Association of Mosquito Control Workers" and Dr. THOMAS J. HEADLEE was elected President; it became AMCA in 1944, with the election of BOB VANNOTE, which is where we came in.

JIM KITZMILLER BECAME THE PARENT OF A FINE AND USEFUL BOOK entitled, "Anopheline Names: Their Derivations and Histories," which covers over 700 names from *aberrans* to *ziemannii*. Like Fowler's *English Usage*, it is a reference book which is fun just to read, a bit here, a bit there, in odd moments, or in big slices. It's published by the Thomas Say Foundation of the ESA.

JOHN SHIPP WAS SENT A CARD FROM ORLANDO SIGNED BY 62 AMCA FRIENDS and he was mighty cheered by it and wanted all to know he was with us in thought as we were with him at the meetings. Continued best wishes, John!!