

NEWS AND NOTES

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WHILE WE'RE ALL STILL FEELING EUPHORIC ABOUT THE RECOVERY AND THE LOW LEVEL INFLATION AND ALL, WE WANT TO TELL YOU THAT THERE'S ONE THING TO BE REALLY GLAD ABOUT THE RECOVERY OF . . . THE GORGAS MEMORIAL LABORATORY. NIH has found that it could indeed, after all, fund the 62-year-old Gorgas Memorial Institute of Tropical and Preventive Medicine, particularly after it received scores of letters from all over, no doubt some of them from some of you. They hadn't seen it in quite that light, but favorable reports from the Office of Technology Assessment and the General Accounting Office also helped bring the whole thing into perspective, as everyone says these days. OTA "looked through the institute's publications, conducted a survey of U.S. scientists familiar with its work, and concluded that its scientific research is highly regarded."!! Good for them.

THE GORGAS MEMORIAL LABORATORY NEWSLETTER, ABOUT WHICH WE TOLD YOU IN SEPTEMBER'S ISSUE, is both informative and entertaining, even if your Spanish is 50-years rusty, like ours. In October, one article (in English . . . they're bilingual) told of the studies on arboviruses in the rapidly changing environment of development in what was forest, with pictures we wish we could bring you. One shows a "ladder" up an enormously tall tree (remember the boards you used to nail onto trees as a kid, when there weren't any limbs low enough?) and another of a rope "bridge" named in honor of the Smithsonian's Alexander Wetmore. There's another telling of the finding that the tree frogs, some only one centimeter in length, many so venomous that the Indians used them to tip darts with which to shoot birds, are beneficial in eating mosquito larvae and eggs. Dr. JOHN PETERSON supplied the mosquitoes, which were *Culex* spp. Perhaps you saw these wee brightly-colored *Ranas* on PBS film "The Rain Forest" late last summer, the larvae hatching in the raindrops on the tree and dripping as polliwogs to the puddles on the ground far below. Another article (both were by J. K. FRENKEL, of Kansas) discussing toxoplasmosis, links it to mosquitoes as infective agents for the cattle subsequently consumed raw or only partially cooked by the people falling victim to the disease, including infants infected via their mothers *in utero*. (We speak fluent Latin, too.)

ED CUPP, WORKING ON TROPICAL DISEASES, THOUGH AT CORNELL, HAS MADE TWO REMARKABLE ADVANCES IN THE TECHNIQUES NECESSARY TO STUDY THE TRANSMISSION OF *Onchocerca volvulus* by black flies. First he devised an improved "machine" for rearing black flies in the laboratory, hitherto virtually impossible, and then a method of infecting the black flies with the microfilaria, rearing them in the fly host and at the proper moment, freezing the fly, killing it but keeping the filaria in suspended animation until needed for the research; for years, if necessary. Ed's staff are able to inject 10 microfilaria per fly at a rate of 60 to

70 flies an hour and is supplying the filaria to people all over, including the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology in Washington, one of the world's leading tropical medicine research centers. WHO's in on it too.

IN THE MERRY CHRISTMAS SEASON JUST PAST AS WE WRITE THIS, TOMMY MULHERN THOUGHT IT WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA TO THANK ALL OUR ADVERTISERS WHO DO SO MUCH TO MAKE MOSQUITO NEWS AND OUR ANNUAL MEETINGS POSSIBLE. So he did, with a clever cartoon around the text showing a mosquito mixing it up with a word processor and finally *painting* "SEASON'S GREETINGS" across the top. We think it was a great idea, for they really get very little feedback from us, let alone a word of thanks. It'd be nice too, we should think, if we stopped off at their booths at the meetings to thank them in person, instead of just snatching the freebies and pamphlets. It would show them we *noticed*.

SPEAKING OF COMPUTERS AND WORD PROCESSERS AND SUCH, STU MCCAUSLAND WAS TACKLING THE TASK OF DOING A CORRELATION ANALYSIS ON A MS. HE WAS REVIEWING and so he turned to the available software and came up with the following programs: "Student's T-Test, Coefficient of Correlation, Multivariate Linear Regression, Standard Deviation, ANOVA!!???" He said an impolite word, adding, "I'm a standard deviant myself, but I always thought ANOVA was an exploding star!" Well, Stu . . . how about *developing* a program? It's obviously needed! (We just wish WE had been able to get a program for Standard Deviations when we were running field tests. All we had was a BOOK OF TABLES and a hand-cranked *adding machine*!)

WE REACT WITH ALARM WHEN A NEOLOGISM SUDDENLY BURSTS FULL-BLOWN ONTO THE SCENE, LIKE ATHENA FROM THE BROW OF JOVE and so our reactions against new coinages may not be altogether reliable as a guide to future usage. We fought bitterly but unsuccessfully against *arbovirus*, though the original proponents did drop the middle r; we are still not happy with biodegradable, which ought to mean lowering the life of something, and the use of flammable when *inflammable* is meant. Now comes ZOECON with *biorational*, which we suppose means intelligent about life. Be that as it may, we want to report AND APPLAUD Zoecon's formation of a new Division of Professional Pest Management, aimed at promoting by their use materials which alter the insect rather than using potentially dangerous toxins.

"Zoecon formed the division at this time," said Dr. G. T. Bohmfalk, "because no other manager had committed itself to the field of biorational control and because there is a need for more environmentally sound methods." Zoecon, besides nobly supporting AMCA with regular ads in MN, makes a *Bti* product, as we all know, and several others which are blessed

by EPA and safe for mosquito control uses in urban and rural situations. The new Division seems like farsightedness on their part and a good lead toward "biorationality." And they can use that new word if they want to.

WE TEND TO BE RATHER A HAWK OURSELF WHEN IT COMES TO KEEPING RUSSO-CUBAN TROOPS AT BAY BUT WE CAN'T HELP NOTICING THAT DENGUE is reported to have been low in the Caribbean this past year EXCEPT in Puerto Rico, Trinidad and Jamaica, where it was more or less normal, while it INCREASED in San Salvador and showed up in Honduras, no mention of Nicaragua. Now, of course, it increased in Mexico, too, and was unreported in Grenada, so maybe all this doesn't mean a thing. Still, perhaps we ought to check our programs.

WHAT MAY BE ANOTHER STRAW IN THE WIND. . . . THE AMERICAN CYBERNETIC SOCIETY HAS PUT US ON ITS MAILING LIST. Their Twentieth Annual Meeting in October was labelled, "Societal Transformations in the Systems Age" and included a special tutorial session designed to provide non-experts with a sophisticated introduction to the systems field, focusing on the theoretical and pragmatic features fundamental to the field and the way in which its insights have been and can be applied to complex issues, conducted by some of the world's major cyberneticians and systems scientists and leading-edge people from the public, private, academic and governmental sectors of society who examined such topics as management, consciousness, public policy, technology transfer, human rights, global modeling, net-working, personal development, human factors, the nuclear dilemma, computing energy, artificial intelligence, war & peace, simulation, and future studies. We quote.

KEN KNIGHT WAS ELECTED SECRETARY-TREASURER OF THE ESA SO THAT'S IN GOOD HANDS, though we aren't sure whether it's an honor, except it's a mark of great confidence. Well deserved, we add hastily, for Ken was the Society's first with that title and brought ESA to the greatest fiscal surplus in its 30-year history.

BILL RAPP RETIRED A YEAR AGO BUT WE JUST GOT WORD OF IT AFTER THE LAST ISSUE and have had no word as to what he's doing now. Perhaps he'll enlighten us at the Toronto Meeting. (Are you listening, Bill? A FULL run-down, please.) We trust he isn't planning any retirement from AMCA! Another retiring AMCA'er is MICK GILLIES, who took leave of the University of Sussex (England) in October, leaving a void there vis-à-vis mosquitoes, alas. And R. C. Muirhead-Thomson, who is not an AMCA'er but known to many, has ended his research contract with the United Kingdom Medical Research Council at the University of London. This ends, also, the running water research on simuliids and on insecticides in running water, a matter of some concern to the EEC.

A. B. WEATHERSBY, FAR FROM RETIRING, RECEIVED ESA'S AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN TEACHING, a signal honor in view of the competition, and was noted in *ESA Newsletter* also for the consistently outstanding student evaluations he has been in

the habit of receiving over the years. This, from both his entomology students and non-biology, non-entomology majors, who take his *Insects and Man* course and learn of the role of insects not alone in disease transmission but in food production and other insect-related beneficences.

BOB ELBEL SENT US A POEM ON MOSQUITOES WRITTEN IN 1966 TO COMMEMORATE THE GREAT MOSQUITO MASSACRE CONDUCTED BY (LT.) JIMMY OLSON and his merry men. (Olson, Elbel and Smart, *Mosquito News*, 28:512-516):

SWAMP DIRGE

Out in the swamps of Callao
Where the largest and meanest mosquitoes grow
One long hot night in the month of May
Aedes dorsalis went out to play.
Bored with her usual humdrum flights
She longed for the bright and wordly lights
And a feast of horse or a rump of steer
(But where in the world would she find that here?)
As she flew on and met her friends
Culiseta inornata and *incidens*.
The news they brought then gave her heart
For E & E had played its part.
Providing an orgy of food and fun
That had already that night begun.
They made for yonder twinkling light
And livestock from which they could take a bite.
With glee and abandon in they flew
To light trap 1 and stable trap 2.
They spent the night in ignorant bliss
But in the morning they were just a stasis. . . .
. . . tic. So from this they learned a lesson hard
They should have stayed in their own back yard!

Joy Eastland
Dugway, Utah

THE PRESS HAS BEEN UNUSUALLY BUSY ON OUR SUBJECT RECENTLY, ESPECIALLY CONSIDERING THAT THERE HAS INDEED BEEN OTHER NEWS AVAILABLE TO THEM. *Medical World News* in its 12 December 1983 issue had a spread on buffalo wallows entitled, "No mud on buffalo herd may reduce malaria rates in India and Pakistan." It quoted Dr. DAVID NALIN as saying that during the course of studies when he was Director of the University of Maryland's Pakistan Research Center in Lahore, he came to the conclusion that since *Anopheles culicifacies* really prefers buffalo blood to human, washing off the mud with which buffaloes like to protect their skin from drying might give our culicine antagonists a better chance at their favorite blood meal and divert their minds from US. They found that there was a correlation between the weeks of peak mud-coating and blood meals from humans. Dr. JESSE HOBBS was quoted as agreeing that it was a ripe idea worthy of study. Dr. Nalin is now with Merck but he recommended to his successor at Lahore that controlled studies be initiated on washed and unwashed vs. malaria rates. For what it's worth, we can add that in the Philippines, where we did a certain amount of malaria control once, the local buffalo owners wash their buffalo about twice a DAY (as they do themselves) in the many rivers, keeping them

cool. Buffalo traps worked far better than human ones besides being easier to get subjects to bait them with. Unfortunately for Scientific Knowledge, however, we did some (ahem!) VERY efficient other controls too, so perhaps that's really no help. We don't think we ever *saw* a muddy buffalo . . . carabao, to you Tagalogs . . . except when it was a sun-shade on a working one, as a matter of fact, and even then it usually got a shower bath (splash bath?) every row or so. No, not much help.

MARJORIE HOY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AND HER ASSISTANTS are working, according to the *San Francisco Chronicle*, on breeding a super-mite to predate on lesser mites, red-spiders and such. She says that this approach has not been used much because of the fear that the laboratory-reared predators would get used to being hand-fed and living in plush surroundings and not act well in the wild. But she has an insecticide-resistant mite that does fine. Has anyone tried genetic enhancement of mosquito predators and parasites? How about it?

NOT A PRESS ITEM BUT AN IM-PRESS-IVE ONE IS THE *NEW MOSQUITO CONTROL TRAINING MANUAL* put out by the LOUISIANA MCA for the commercial pesticide applicator candidates for certification in category 8A, and subtitled *Public Health Pest Control*. It's informative, interesting and concise besides being well-arranged. And the pictures are carefully chosen to be illustrative of their points and well-reproduced. Drs. LAMAR MEEK and ROY HAYES edited it and it may be obtained from GEORGE CARMICHAEL, 6601 Lakeshore Drive, New Orleans, Louisiana 70126. A donation to LMCA of a mere little ten bucks is suggested and if you've bought any books lately, let alone *technical* ones, you know this is a BARGAIN!

THE REPORT PREPARED FOR AID BY THE MALARIA STRATEGY WORKSHOP UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF DRs. GENE GERBERG AND DON WEIDHAAS AND MR. AL FARWELL AND UNDER THE AEGIS OF GENE'S INSECT CONTROL AND RESEARCH INC., is more like a manual than a mere report and will no doubt be used as such. Addressed to AID as a critique of its proper functions and protocols, it is also a guide in preparing programs both to receive assistance and to be more efficient. The arrangement is in outline form with underlining *à la U.S. News & World Report* with lengthier exegesis and discussion as required. Gene was Project Director, Don was Chairman and Al was *Rapporteur*, which is a pretty fancy word for reporter but sort of means one-who-brings-it-all-together, we guess. Gene went off at once to Detroit to the ESA meeting, where he collected the ARPE "Outstanding Medical/Veterinary Entomologist Award" and then to San Diego to the Society of Vector Ecologist's meeting, which he uncharacteristically didn't give us any dope on. (WE know it was a good meeting on account of the roster of speakers and their subjects, but we didn't hear from any other attendee either.) Then Gene was off to Japan. He'd better report on THAT in Toronto.

THE PROCEEDINGS AND PAPERS OF THE FIFTY-FIRST ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE CALIFORNIA MCA came

out on 18 November 1983 and, as always, is a scientific publication worth referring to. It is dedicated to the memories of JACK KIMBALL and GORDON SMITH, long active in both CMCA and AMCA, whose passing left real gaps in our professional and personal lives. The papers in this issue, as before, are arranged in groups of like subject matter and are especially heavy on biological control and ecology (you know California) but those are, of course, no longer fringe concerns of anybody, really.

WE SHOULD HAVE ADDED *THE HUNGRY HORSE NEWS* OF KALISPEL, MONTANA TO THE LIST UP ABOVE OF NEWSPAPERS honoring The Subject with good and long articles. Reporting on the Northwest MVCA meetings of 13 and 14 October, 1983, at the Outlaw Inn, under the aegis of JOHN CALICRATE, emeritus Editor Mel Ruder brought it all together very inclusively and succinctly. He mentioned Dr. DICK LEVY's surfactant work with his "Arosurf" and told of *Gambusia* and the use of fill and water management and he interviewed TOMMY MULHERN in depth on the opportunity for energetic young people to become involved in the world-wide control of mosquitoes. Very good PR.

AND WE SHOULDN'T OVERLOOK *THE SKEETER*, VMCA'S LIVELY NEWSHEET now under the editorship of PHIL MEEKINS. We wondered if the Skeeter logo on its masthead hadn't maybe been "computer enhanced" while STU MCCAUSLAND had it. It seems a little larger.

NINETEEN EIGHTY-THREE SAW THE PASSING OF SO MANY OF OUR STALWARTS OF YEARS GONE BY—DR. PAUL RUSSELL, DR. GEORGE BRADLEY, DR. JOE GINSBERG, DR. LEO JACHOWSKI. Other and better chroniclers are writing of them but each of them influenced and taught us and are vividly remembered. PAUL SIMMONDS writes that to this list is added the name of PAUL PATTERSON whose untimely death took him at the peak of his career and leaves a sad gap in the ranks of Public Health workers in Florida and around the country. Paul, like the others, had been an active member of AMCA for many years during his service in several mosquito abatement districts in Florida and during his service as Superintendent of the Jacksonville, Florida Mosquito Control Branch of the Department of Health. He was born in Georgia but was an almost lifelong Florida resident except during his service in the Navy Medical Corps with the Marines during WW II and in Korea. He will be sorely missed.

DR. LEO ALBERT JACHOWSKI, FOLLOWING HIS SERVICE IN THE NAVY, from which he retired as a Commander, was a major contributor in the field of arthropod-borne disease research, and in teaching those who were to enter the field, and his work ranged from the tropics of Guatemala and Samoa to the cold regions of Alaska. In one major contribution, he demonstrated that a periodic *Wuchereria bancrofti* in the South Pacific was primarily transmitted during daylight in the boondocks as contrasted with the nocturnal transmission of the periodic form domestically. During his 16 years at the University of Maryland, 13 students earned MS degrees and 11 earned their doctorates under his tutelage.

AS A HAPPY PORTENT OF OUR FORTHCOMING VERY SUCCESSFUL MEETING, LET US TELL YOU ABOUT SEVERAL VERY SUCCESSFUL MEETINGS OF regional MCAs. Alphabetically listed, let us start with Louisiana's, which had 24 commercial exhibitors, 176 registrants and some 50 papers spread over the three days in October. (The title we liked best was, "The Solipstic Approach to a Solipstist's Interpretation of the *Aedes vexans* Problem.") There was a videotape from the DoD University of Health Sciences in Bethesda, Maryland, entitled, "Mosquitoes, Flies and Combat Power" narrated by LTC. C. B. KENISON, which we would guess may be available to others: and a Cajun Jamboree "formis par la Compagnie de Chevron Chemical et l'Association de Louisiana Mosquito Control" and a Seafood Fest, which we are sure ISN'T. (How come not l'Association pour le Demoustication Louisianée?) They sent us a picture of Dr. HAROLD C. "Chappie" CHAPMAN receiving the first Hathaway-Ritter Distinguished Service Award . . . and looking at least 38 . . . from 1983 LMCA Prexy LUCAS TERRACINA.

OHIO MCA's meetings, also in October, brought in over 100 registrants to Deer Creek State Park Lodge. PEG PARSONS says that OMCA Prez SCOTT GORDON had the shortest term in history for after he was elected he got tapped by the Army, so he'll be mosquito controlling at Ft. Bragg while LEE MITCHELL carries on for him. ROY RINGS was presented with a plaque honoring him for his long service in medical entomology (the Army had a role in THAT, too) and DICK BERRY received the coveted Golder Dipper award for his part in the statewide ovitrapping program . . . especially for having had the patience to count out 50,000 *Aedes triseriatus* eggs, one by one!

UTAH MCA'S MEETINGS IN LOGAN attracted the usual panoply of out-of-staters Utah always inspires, including DR. LUIS VARGAS from the Distrito Federal. Besides a lot of papers about the environment, there were a number on *Bti*, Serotype 14, "Arosurf" and other new arrivals on the control scene.

FOOLISHLY RUSHING IN WHERE ANGELS (AND WISE MEN) FEAR TO TREAD AND NOT CASTING ANY PEJORATIVES AT ANYONE, we are reminded of something we've meant to bring up if you'll bear with us. A good number of the regional meetings publish proceedings and more than one is internationally indexed in the scientific publication card files of libraries, but our own lil ole MN is beginning to feel the drain of having papers read at our joint meetings published in the local mag. It's a matter for each author to decide for himself, of course, but it's also a policy matter for AMCA that needs some deep thought by all of us. And, too, it DOES make it a bit hard if you want to reread a paper you liked the sound of, or one you missed or, especially, if you didn't GET to the meetings and hate to miss out on *all* of it.

OF COURSE STU MCCAUSLAND IS SOON GOING TO HAVE IT ALL ON A DISC ANYWAY AND YOU'LL HAVE JUST TO PHONE HIM, SWITCH IN YOUR MODEM AND BE THERE. Stuart is also one of our faithful correspondents, as you may have noticed, and he sends word of another old-time faithful correspondent ROLLIE DORER, also

variously known as Mr. Mosquito Control and Mr. Indestructable. Rollie chaired an *ad hoc* committee, set up by the Virginia Health Department to comment on their proper role in vector control, which came up with the recommendation that the HD should provide technical assistance in the form of an entomologist employed by the HD, to the mosquito control districts and the public at large through them. Has this idea's time come?

COMING BACK TO LOUISIANA, WHICH IS ALWAYS A PLEASURE, WE ARE INFORMED BY MICHAEL CHAMBERS THAT THEY WILL HAVE A JOINT MEETING WITH TEXAS MCA on Toledo Bend Reservoir on 7, 8 and 9 March, alas probably just too soon for you to read this and go. It should be a worthy workshop. LMCA's next annual meeting, incidentally, will be 29, 30 and 31 October of this year, at Lake Charles and they hope to attract the usual Others from even more than the 16 states from which people came this year.

THE FIFTEENTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE SOCIETY OF VECTOR ECOLOGISTS, held in the Aztec Center of San Diego State University (Calif.) in December last, had so many papers on Our Subject that we can't list them all, but had some of especial interest. CHRISTOPH ALY of Heidelberg Univ. (West Germany) reported on *Aedes vexans* larvae in that area; President MIR MULLA discussed *B. sphaericus* as did B. DES ROCHERS and R. GARCIA. Prexy-elect is JAY GRAHAM and PCA Certification credit of 16 hours was given.

MICHAEL SERVICE CONTRIBUTED SOME INTERESTING INFORMATION ON British mosquitoes to the SOVE Newsletter. Apparently the notoriously rough crossing of the English Channel is too much for *them* too, because while on the adjacent continent there are about 45 species, in England there are a mere 33 and some of them (including *Aedes communis*!) have not been seen for many years and may be extinct. They do have *Aedes vexans*, as who doesn't, but no *Aedes aegypti* and *Culex quinquefasciatus*, lucky people. None of their species is known to transmit disease or dog heartworm, although malaria was certainly known there at one time, Shakespeare and Defoe both mentioning it under the then-name, ague, and notables such as James I, Cardinal Wolsey, Charles II, Cromwell and John Bunyan reputedly having suffered from it. There ARE some 1500 to 2000 cases of imported malaria reported a year, but, unlike the situation following WW I when invalidated troops brought malaria into Kent, there has been no transmission, perhaps because most of the cases have been in Leeds, Birmingham and Bradford "where no self-respecting mosquito would live." Urban Cowboys but no Urban Mosquitoes.

AS WE PREPARE FOR THE MEETINGS IN TORONTO, WALL STREET WEEK CAME FORTH WITH A DISCUSSION OF MUNICIPAL BONDS. Being retired, we have more than a passing interest in tax-free investment and of course the word Toronto made us come awake fast. In the 14 months ending in November of last year, Toronto's bonds rose 74% . . . more than any other city, even some with AAA ratings. Yes, despite what you read about the Big Apple, some American cities have AA and AAA ratings. Toronto topped them all. Bring money.