

## NEWS AND NOTES

AUSTIN W. MORRILL, JR.

WE TRY TO STAY LIGHT AND NOT GET INTO CONTROVERSIES. . . . EXCEPT FOR OUR ADVERSARY CONFIGURATION WITH EPA, WHO WON'T ARGUE WITH US . . . but something lately has stirred us up. Really, guys! We think some of you sort of over-reacted to the ballot on a name change and some more of you sort of over-reacted to the over-reaction and gee. . . .! Let's all calm down and just vote and then pull together like always . . . OK? And we won't tell you how WE voted if you won't tell US!

SO LET'S GET ON WITH THE GOOD NEWS . . . ED LOOMIS, WHO HAS BEEN MANY THINGS, ALL NOTABLE, AND MOST RECENTLY FOR THE PAST TWENTY YEARS OR SO as cooperative extension program director at the University of California (Davis), was awarded in May the Distinguished Achievement Award for his research, teaching, extension work and public service. Congratulations, Ed!! GIL CHALLET also made the news about notables in the ESA Bulletin for being prexy of US and HARRY HOOGSTRAAL was noted as being elected president of the American Society of Parasitologists for the coming year. He has also moved to Senior Scientist at the USN Medical Research Unit #3 in Cairo. Salaam!!

FRIENDS OF STANLEY CARPENTER, AND THAT MEANS ALL WHO HAVE WORKED WITH HIM OVER THE YEARS, and those who have benefitted from his expertise in his book, will be glad to learn that he is making considerable improvement from his unfortunate disability. His wife Lorelei writes that it's slow but he is travelling the road with determination and we're sure we all join in wishing him every good thing. A short letter would help. 227 Valley Oaks Drive, Santa Rosa, California 95409.

JOHN COMBS MADE A PERFECTLY SPLENDID CONTRIBUTION TO AMCA'S SPECIAL FUND AT THE START OF THE YEAR but when he got a receipt that read, "(so many) dollars. . . . ONLY" he wrote to Tommy wryly, "Did you really want more? Here I thought I was making (at least for me) a rather substantial contribution! Only joking, of course, . . . it's commonly acknowledged that I have no 'sense.'" TOMMY sent back a suitable mea culpa and pointed out to us that forms may sometimes say what we don't really mean them to. John suggested, "\_\_\_ Dollars . . . Terrific!" or "\_\_\_ Dollars - PBTA (Praise Be to Allah)" would be nicer. We think a simple "WOW!" might be enough.

GEORGE CRAIG WROTE TO THE ESA BULLETIN TO SAY THAT THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES WORKSHOP REPORT can be obtained, while they last, from Ms Karen Bell, Workshop Coordinator, BOSTID, National Academy of Sciences, Joseph Henry Building, 21st Street and Pennsylvania Avenue N.W., Washington, D.C. 20418 (breathe). The Steering Committee for the Workshop consists of JOHN EDMAN, ROBERT GWADZ, EDWARD MICHAELSON, BOB WASHING and George, who is Chairman, and you can't do any better than *that* line-up.

IN THE SAME ISSUE IS A NOTE ABOUT BOB METCALF WHO HAS BEEN GIVEN THE FOUNDER'S AWARD recognizing outstanding work in environmental science from the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry.

JEROME FREIER SAYS THAT HE MISSES THE INFLUENCE AND SPIRIT OF RESEARCH OF GEORGE CRAIG BUT IS FINDING HIS RECENT MOVE TO YALE IS PERMITTING desired expansion of his research interests to include such things as yellow fever and SLE viruses, with lots of space for work on mosquitoes. His new address is: Yale Arbovirus Research Unit, Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, Yale University School of Medicine, 60 College St., P.O. Box 3333, New Haven, Connecticut 06510-8034. (Some of these names make plain old AMCA seem like an old-fashioned 5-number ZIP.)

AS A COUNTERBALANCE TO THESE LONG-WINDED DESIGNATIONS, ASTM ANNOUNCES THAT THE ACRONYM IS NOW ITS REAL NAME AS WELL AS ITS USUAL DESIGNATION. An actual shortening! We can't believe it. Well, getting over our shock, the announcement was chiefly about EDWARD EVANS, JR., who has been and is Chief of the Pesticide Monitoring Branch of the U.S. Army Environmental Hygiene Agency (USAEHA), and has been elected to a two-year term as Chairman of ASTM Committee E-35 (!) on Pesticides. He'll lead the 228-member committee in developing standards for pesticides and related agents and equipment. We certainly wish him well with getting a result out of a 228-member committee.

FRANK RADOVSKY WROTE A MEASURED AND REASONABLE LETTER TO THE ESA which was published in the April issue, and you may have noticed it, concerning the ESA's tortuous self-examinations on how to publish and under what name(s). ESA had said that, "a number of specialty journals have been started by other groups" which might have been interpreted as meaning that these had recently started up as a response to the lack of such journals published by ESA (or, rather, their continuing to be lumped together in ESA's two journals). Frank pointed out that the Bishop Museum's *Journal of Medical Entomology* had been published for twenty years and thus long before there was any need felt for such a publication by ESA. He might also have noted that *Mosquito Systematics* has been filling a felt need for some time. He continued, "It might be most economical for all journals to be centralized (e.g., under the ESA), but I do not think that it would contribute to the progress of entomology as a science. In the future, we may expect that there will be more competition among journals, and this should be viewed as a good thing." Yes.

OUR NAMESAKE MOSQUITO NEWS PUBLISHED BY THE 6147th TAC. CON. GP. KOREA issued a call as we went to press for the reunion of that Tactical Group of the 5th Air Force, to be held 12-15 July in Orlando, Florida. The release starts out, "An unusual,

highly-aggressive, hardy breed of Mosquitoes will gather in Orlando this summer. These are not the usual variety of mosquitoes that Floridians deal with when the weather gets warm. These Mosquitoes are former members of the 6147th Tactical Control Group, pilots and ground control troops for more than a dozen nations that were part of the police action called the Korean War." The group had as its insignia a mosquito rampant, with the name "Mosquito" subscripted, and did include men from Great Britain, Australia, Canada, France, the Philippines, Thailand, Turkey, Greece, the Netherlands, Colombia, Ethiopia, Belgium, New Zealand, Luxembourg, the Union of South Africa and the U.S. Sid JOHNSTON sent the word, from Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Of interest to those who remember Korea, is the recollection that these energetic sky-warriors, who flew into combat zones in light, single-engine, two-man T-6's, with no guns and just above the tree tops to zero in on targets high-flying bombers could never see, used the call signs of "Mosquito Able" and "Mosquito Baker." Within 6 months, their effectiveness as reconnaissance had earned them a Distinguished Unit Citation from the Far East Air Force.

JOE MOKRY, TURNING INTO YE ED HIS MANUSCRIPT ON CALIFORNIA VIRUS notes that his Research Unit on Vector Pathology address, still valid, should presently be listed under Vector Control Consulting, Ltd., P.O. Box 966, St. John's, Newfoundland, A1C 5M3. The VCC is his own company, which is being established to contract out as consultants on integrated control methodologies for blackflies and mosquitoes. Good sailing, Joe!

DR. MARTIN YOUNG GAVE THE EULOGY ON DR. CARL JOHNSON'S GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY in Panama at the Gorgas Memorial Laboratory and it was laudatory indeed and concurred in by all present, including representatives of the Panamanian community and Government. Dr. Calvo, Minister of Health, added that Dr. Johnson's accomplishments were greater than any eulogy could encompass, no matter how great and sincere.

WE WAITED FOR CONFIRMATION BEFORE RUSHING INTO PRINT AFTER TORONTO but now we can tell you that CDRS LARRY LEWIS and LANCE SHOLDT have been selected for CAPTAIN and we don't know two nicer guys for it to happen to. What with so many of our shining lights deserting the military for equally-productive but elsewhere jobs in private industry and all, we had sort of worried about the continued viability of military entomology. We needn't have.

THE SIXTY-FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PACIFIC DIVISION OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE was held at the San Francisco State University (California) in June and the affiliated societies and principal program sponsors were a full panoply of sciences, ranging from the Acoustical Society of America to the Western Society of Soil Science. The Society of Vector Ecologists, with so many AMCA'ers, was prominent among them.

Subjects ranged from "Philosophical Issues in Human Sexuality" ("What is sex and what is it for? What is the meaning of 'good' sex?") to "Urban En-

tomology." The latter symposium (but NOT the former) was made up of JAY GRAHAM, STANLEY WILLIAMS, BERNARD NELSON, BEN KEH, MAJOR DHILLON, DON WOMELDORF, JOHN HAVERNIK, FRED ROBERTS and BOB DOWELL.

FRED ROBERTS AND GEORGE CHARMICHAEL BOTH CAME IN FOR SOME NATIONAL TV COVERAGE ON THE 6 O'CLOCK NEWS IN JUNE when a lead story was about the mosquito menace to come from the spring floodings. George was shown speaking but what he said was wiped out by the announcer. (HE said George said the best thing to do was wear light-colored, long sleeved shirts, which we're pretty sure wasn't all of what George said!)

What we think he was PROBABLY saying was a list of personal protective measures plus personal clean-up of mosquito sources in yards, to match the integrated pest management outlined in the New Orleans Mosquito Control 1983 annual report, the cover of which is a colorful display of treatments: aerial, adulticidal, larvicidal, water management, drainage, larvivorous fish, "tox" (*Toxorhynchites*; see below), Bti, light traps, truck traps, CO<sub>2</sub> and landing counts, surveillance and public education. The surveillance included 1374 sparrows, mostly caught in "walk-in" traps shielded from rats, cats and such; a few birds, caught in mist nets, ignored the walk-in invitation.

The *Toxorhynchites* tests were of interest because results with this predator have been so variable elsewhere. They were run in conjunction with the USDA Insects Affecting Man and Animals Lab in Gainesville . . . a four-year study, the results of which are soon to be published. In general, they found that "Tox" WAS probably able to play an important role in conjunction with ULV adulticiding, the insecticide having a far greater effect on the target *Aedes aegypti* than on the *Toxorhynchites*, a sufficient number of the females of which survived to restock breeding containers successfully.

STILL IN LOUISIANA, we thought we had told you last issue (but in re-reading don't find that we did) about LMCA's Main Event at their meetings a year ago. This was the presentation of the first annual "Hathaway-Ritter Distinguished Service Award" to Dr. HAROLD C. CHAPMAN, then recently retired from USDA's Gulf Coast Mosquito Research Laboratory at Lake Charles. BILL RUPP and ROY HAYES and LMCA's efficient Secretary JANE TORTORICE were also honored at the meeting, at which there were 176 in attendance from 15 states besides Louisiana and at which there were 23 commercial exhibitors. They sent us a photo of LMCA's then-President LUCAS TERRACINA presenting the award to Chappie, who, as usual, looked like a grey-haired (but modish) twenty-five-year-old. How he DO that? And accomplish so much.

HENRY RUPP WROTE A LETTER TO HIS LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVES, ABOUT A BILL LIMITING USE OF PESTICIDES, THAT TOMMY MULHERN COMMENTED MIGHT WELL SERVE AS A MODEL FOR MUCH WIDER USE. Tommy said, in part, "The experience of California with the Med Fly in Santa Clara County a couple of years ago should be cited as a horrible example of the cost of listening to unqualified scare-publicity instead of lis-

tening to the qualified experts: because California did not promptly air-spray about 1000 acres when the medfly first was discovered, at a cost of a few thousands of dollars, but delayed for a year while patchwork alternatives (ineffective) were tried by legislative edict, the following year several millions of public dollars were spent in treating over a million acres, and several million people were exposed instead of the originally proposed several thousand! Economics????? A former governor had helped stall things too, but no matter: California still hasn't learned; there is now a stoppage of spraying with CARBARYL against gypsy moth as being too hazardous to unborn babies. (The forest devastation moves apace.) Is "For Whom the Bell Tolls" self-evident and redundant?

PREXY GIL CHALLET ALSO WROTE A LETTER . . . TO SENATOR PETER B. WILSON OF CALIFORNIA (We didn't know Senator "Pete" Wilson HAD a real first name, let alone an initial. . . . that's politicians for you) asking him to cosponsor a resolution proclaiming 9 to 13 December as National Entomology Week. Gil pointed out that we play an important role in protection not only of food, clothing and shelter, but the HEALTH of an expanding population. He might have but didn't point out that much of the expanding population, otherwise worthy, is coming from areas where arthropod-borne disease is far more prevalent than it is here. And, for all our sakes, require health protection once they get here by whatever means.

AMCA GETS LETTERS TOO and the Commonwealth Institute of Entomology wrote Tommy in April to announce that our "World Directory of Vector Research and Control Specialists" (compiled by GENE GERBERG and noted last issue) has been listed in the prestigious all-encompassing *Review of Applied Entomology* and also in the *CAB Abstracts* computer database, the bibles of all researchers or should we call them the *Oxford English Dictionaries*?

WHILE GIL WAS WRITING LETTERS, HIS STAFF WERE BUSILY WRITING A NEWSY AND HIGHLY UPBEAT IN-HOUSE NEWSLETTER CALLED "The Vector Reporter" and featuring on its March cover a lovely drawing of a villainous rat seated on a spray of orange blossoms. (It's the Year of the Rat, you recall.) April's cover featured Gil as Napoleon of AMCA, flyswatter for a scepter. Gil obviously runs a happy and energetic ship, but a tight ship as regards efficiency, for the reports of District Activities show elimination of rat and mosquito problems commensurate with the huge extent of the (Los Angeles suburban) District. Monitoring for *Ixodes pacificus*, incriminated as a carrier of Lyme Disease, participation in studies of pediculosis in the schools and educational presentations in schools and at the Los Angeles Arboretum Environmental Education Fair, a showcase of educational resources available to Southern California teachers, are also part of their expansive vector control program.

IN THEIR REPORT APPENDED TO GIL'S, RUDY GECK, JIM WEBB and GARY REYNOLDS, commenting on a

report from U.C. Berkeley's DICK GARCIA, pointed out that recent research in northern California implicates coyotes as reservoirs of canine heartworm, a fact of importance in expanding communities, which may find themselves pushing into territories already inhabited by both the reservoir and the vector. Of course, coyotes are not uncommon in much of the U.S., having learned concealment and adaptation to urban life, including freeways.

WE GET LETTERS, TOO. STUART MCGAUSLAND WROTE EXULTINGLY TO SAY THAT A LADY HAD ACTUALLY ASKED HIM FOR A SNAKE (to chase rats) instead of phoning in hysterically to be saved from a beneficial blacksnake mistaken for a viper. Like Gil, he's been making the rounds of schools and enclosed an attention-getter . . . do-it-yourself paper airplanes with dotted lines to fold on (kids need THESE guides nowadays?) and when folded bearing a mosquito insignia on the side. . . . shades of the abovementioned 6147th . . . and "have nothing at all to do with mosquito control, really, except they get the kids' attention." Stu won first place in a recent state-wide college competition with a world climate map with numerous LED's flashing and a tune synthesizer. And he sent us a copy of *Mosquito Pseudoscience* (not for everyone certainly) containing such articles as one comparing (with copious lit. cit.) the efficacy of ULV with a truck-mounted large-scale Insecticutor, and another on the synthesis of a potent insecticide from standard fluoride toothpaste. Somebody over there's getting a mite tired of highfalutin' baffleleg we should say. Stu calls it pure format with no real substance. But entertaining. Try one.

THE VECTOR ECOLOGY NEWSLETTER ON THE OTHER HAND IS ALMOST PURE SUBSTANCE AND MINIMAL FORMAT . . . or at any rate unobtrusive. Edited by RUSS FONTAINE with assistance from GAIL GRODHAUS, DAVE REED, SUSAN PALGHICK, FRED BEAMS and JOHN SHANAFELT, it contains too much to even be summarized properly. MIKE SERVICE, however, writing from Liverpool wonders how many of us realize that in the White House Green Room (is that a *theatrical* green room?) is a picture by John Singer Sargent, painted about 1908, entitled, "The Mosquito Net" and depicting the painter's daughter asleep in bed with her head and shoulders surrounded by a mosquito net. But not a mosquito net covering the whole bed, just the exposed parts of the sleeper. He wonders, and so do we, whether it was ever a common practice to use mosquito nets in this fashion. We suspect the painter did it for pictorial effect but, then, we remember so little about 1908.

UTAH MOSQUITO ABATEMENT ASSOCIATION (AND SOVE's) MEETINGS THIS YEAR will be 30 September through 3 October at the Hilton Hotel in Salt Lake City, as we noted last time. Cut off date for reservations is one month prior. There is to be a program on salt marsh management as exemplified by the Great Salt Lake Restoration Project, which last spring's runoff will have done much to restore, no doubt. Two sessions on vector control and mosquito control are scheduled during the following two and a half days.

DON PLETSCH REPORTED THAT THE 55TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE FLORIDA ANTI-MOSQUITO ASSOCIATION, held in Key West, was outstanding. "Key West was delightful," he added, enclosing both the program and a flyer for Mel Fisher's well-publicized (see the *National Geographic*) treasure Exhibit and ongoing Treasure Hunt. "A F.A.M.A. member or two even put up \$1000.00 for 2 shares in this openly-declared 'speculative venture,'" he wrote in exclamation points, "Fingers crossed." Of course! JOHNNY MULRENNAN was outgoing Prexy and DON WEIDHAAS is current Prex.

THE FAMA *Journal* recently (Vol. 54, No. 1, 1983) had an article by MIKE SERVICE on an aquatic light trap for mosquito larvae, a new idea to us. The article includes a diagram and statistics on its effectiveness in Ghana and in England. Has anyone here made and tried one? Are we just ignorant while "Science marches ON!" or who is about to burst into print with recent studies hereabouts?

MEANWHILE, THE ANNUAL SUMMARY OF THE MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY WEEKLY REPORT OF THE USPHS, in connection with *Ae. aegypti* distribution data, lists 144 cases of dengue-like illness in 28 states and 45 cases imported in 14 states, confirmed. No indigenous transmission was reported.

DR. CARL MITCHELL'S COMPREHENSIVE PAPER ON MOSQUITO VECTOR COMPETENCE WHICH SHOULD HAVE BEEN MENTIONED HERE EARLIER BUT WASN'T, appeared in *Current Topics in Vector Research*, edited by Kerry Harris and published last year, though received by us THIS. He defines vector competence as synonymous with McKelvey's "vector effectiveness" which is, "The combined effect of all the physiological and ecological factors of vector, host, pathogen, and environment that determine the vector status of a given arthropod population." We sort of understood it better *without* the definition but his exegesis is straightforward and covers the subject right up to the last minute before publication. It makes you understand, too, just how complex Our Subject really is, even though he explains it so clearly.

HARVEY SCHULTZ PUT OUT A LIVELY AND INFORMATIVE NEWSLETTER, stated to be unscheduled and entitled inelegantly, *The Northdiv Gotcha*. That's a Naval Facilities Engineering Command Applied Biology "in" joke, but his program is no joke, for it encompasses an area formerly covered by two or maybe three former Divisions. Not part of the mosquito

control program, he notes that the Forest Service of USDA is funded for 1984 with \$3,675,000 in connection with Gypsy Moth (California please note). Harvey also notes, closer to home, that dimilin, an IGR, has been found to STOP the growth of malignant skin cancer in mice, our ever-ready indicators. It's now being tested, he says, against human melanomas. As skin cancer seems to be rising, especially among those who, like us, are out in the sun a lot, this sounds like good news and also, as Harry suggests, a counterbalance to the prevalent fears of all "pesticides."

THE ARTICLE, "Notes of a Mosquito Hunter" in last year's *Atlantic Magazine* has been given in brief in the *July Reader's Digest* so if you missed it first time around you can still read it. The original was better, but this is worth reading. The author's advice (give up!) may not be everyone's idea, though, what? Never say die!

SISTER MONICA ASMAN GOT TOP BILLING IN A JULY ARTICLE IN THE SAN FRANCISCO *CHRONICLE* ON WOMEN IN RELIGIOUS ORDERS WHO ARE ALSO PROFESSIONALS IN SCIENCES AND ARTS AND BELLES LETTRES. Heading the page was a full-spread photo of Sister Monica in her University of California Berkeley laboratory and a very fine write up accompanied it. The story, written by AL Morch, an *Examiner* staffer, (the Sunday papers in San Francisco are one and the same, so you have to look at the by-lines) started off "On TV, they've been portrayed as the 'Flying Nun,' and they've suffered through the sugary 'Singing Nun.' Over the years, there has always been the spectre of the schoolteacher-nun who was as hard as the ruler she used on the knuckles of inattentive students." Well, we've never even *connected* any of those stereotypes with Sister Monica and we certainly enjoyed reading about her and seeing her get a chance to explain to the Public about genetic research and how it is going to lead to better mosquito control without the constantly increasing dosages of chemicals. She surely burnished up our image for us.

WE'D LIKE TO END ON THAT UPBEAT NOTE BUT THERE'S AN ECUMENICAL ONE YOU MAY HAVE MISSED. Jordan and Israel have patched up their differences and joined forces in one area: mosquito control in the Gulf of Aqaba twin cities of Eilat and Aqaba. So our "low-level official" (we quote) counterparts have brought about a de facto peace. . . . something the diplomats have failed to do for the thirty-six years! Selah!