

NEWS AND NOTES

AUSTIN W. MORRILL, JR.

WELL, FIRST THINGS FIRST . . . AND THE FIRST THING IS THAT TOMMY MULHERN IS PRETTY MUCH ALL OF ONE PIECE AGAIN, BACK AT WORK WITH HIS DOCTOR'S BLESSINGS AND ALSO OFF TO SALT LAKE CITY FOR THE UMCA/SOVE/AMCA interim Board Meetings. We're mighty glad about all this and know you are. Tommy thought you ought also to tip a hat to LINDA RAICHE our VERY efficient Business Manager, who handled the whole works without a hitch while Tommy was hors de combat.

WE HAD FULLY INTENDED to go to these meetings ourself but things intervened and we're depending on two trustworthies who DID, to give us some news of it for, we hope, a later paragraph. We never get started on typing this opus until the last minute in case something comes along to put in on an early page and right now we're typing like mad because the deadline got moved up on us. Suddenly, this issue, because Ye Ed is going to ISRAEL on 11 October; and hereafter it will be on the first of the month anyway, TWO MONTHS before publication date. And ple-e-e-ese, correspondents, please DO give us some correspondence by then!

OUR ZIP CODE hasn't changed . . . it's still 94109 . . . but YeEd's has. Yes, indeed. He's now in that computerland of NINE digits. It's now 20307-5100 in Washington D.C. and we hear that when the stamps go up to 23¢ next year, they'll add the other two. For the right or left side of the desk.

JOE MOKRY WHO, YOU REMEMBER WE TOLD YOU LAST TIME, IS NOW ADDITIONALLY "VECTOR CONTROL CONSULTANT" OF NEWFOUNDLAND, SENT US AN INTRIGUING REPORT FROM A FAR DIFFERENT CLIME. "Ask any entomologist what's going on in Cuban entomology these days and he's bound to tell you about the *Aedes aegypti*/dengue fever suppression program," he writes. "That, as it turns out, is old news and Cuba's young and energetic medical entomologists have turned their attention to more pressing potential vector studies. I've just returned from a four week invitational tour of the Pedro Kouri labs in Havana and have had the pleasure of seeing some of these programs first hand.

"Among the more interesting secondary effects of the anti-*aegypti* campaign has been that the ubiquitous *Culex quinquefasciatus* has moved into the former's typical urban breeding sites. Among other things, this has resulted in an excellent opportunity to study the population dynamics of this important filariasis vector in New World urban and suburban situations. In fact, the modern, self-contained 'mini-cities' which are the model for future development in Cuba are tailor-made field laboratories for such studies. It's as if you took a piece of a city, 3 blocks square, and plunked it in the field. The result is that not only are urban mossies warm and comfortable, but their country cousins such as *Anopheles albimanus*, *Psorophora* spp. and *Mansonia* spp. need fly only 100 m to be in 'town.' There are clearly exciting research possibilities here!

"Of the several other interesting projects underway, I'll just mention the genesis of a blackfly research program. There are four species of Simuliidae known from Cuba, but one in particular, *S. quadrivittatum*, demands special attention. Like blackflies in many places, this species can be an absolute pestilence at times. Work is now beginning on uncovering more of its bionomics with a view to eventual control. Cuba, by the way, is in the enviable position of having no *Onchocerca volvulus* (nor malaria, nor filaria, nor dengue) and, as such, research and control now is seen as an ounce of prevention. It appears that hard lessons were learned, and learned well, during the 1978 and 1981 dengue epidemics.

"At the Institute of Hygiene, integrated vector control is the order of the day. The Institute has at its disposal a variety of larvivoracious fish, a homegrown, field-tested BTI, *Coelomomyces* in mass culture, and *Romanomermis* nematodes. With primary responsibility for control of vector-borne diseases the Institute is engaged in field-tests using the above agents in tandem with conventional pesticides. This, as you may know, follows lines very similar to those laid down by Marshall Laird and myself in the integrated control program we developed in the South Pacific island-country of Tuvalu (really must write that one up one of these days).

"So, the major problem facing the Cuban entomologist is not subjects to work on. Rather, the problem is something we tend to take for granted (unless you live at the end of the known world = Newfoundland), namely, the terrible isolation of Cuban scientists unable to communicate freely and easily with their overseas colleagues. The sad truth is that most of Cuba's young and enthusiastic entomologists simply have no idea of recent research in vector biology. Nature, we are told, abhors a vacuum, and natural scientists cannot work in one, yet political suction appears to define the parameters of our natural and metaphysical worlds. One can only marvel, then, at the warmth and hospitality, second to none, displayed to visiting researchers. This American, arriving in Havana on the slenderest thread of apprehension and the unsinkable buoy of curiosity, found the reception overwhelming. And the rum is really incredible." Joe obviously had a good time.

It all seems to point up once again, as with the Russians, that ideology needn't enter into human relationships if we don't force it to. Baseball, anyone?

DON PLETSCH HAS (OF COURSE) BEEN TRAVELLING, TOO, AND SENT US A WAD OF HETEROGENEOUS NOTES FROM ALL OVER. WE THINK WE'LL JUST QUOTE HIM, TOO. He starts off with a quote, "Project teams detest weekly progress reporting because it so vividly manifests their lack of progress." We won't comment.

"I'm still catching up on things accumulated during the 2-month period spent in Taiwan last year," he wrote in FEBRUARY, but we just received it in SEPTEMBER. "An end-of-1983 greeting card from Dr. Toyohi Okada of Tokyo, told of his two-month study of *Drosophila* in the People's Republic of China. But he

was not always a *Drosophila* specialist. My file cards on mosquito and malaria research in Taiwan show that he published a number of interesting papers in 1942 and 1943 on water-mites and mosquito larvae and adults, on the metamorphosis of what was then called *A. hyrcanus sinensis*, and ecological notes on *Aedes aegypti*. Later he served as a most effective translator/abstractor in the Scientific and Technical Division of McArthur's Headquarters (SCAP) in Tokyo, when I had the task of providing abstracts of WWII Japanese scientific papers to *Biological Abstracts* and other abstracting journals. (Don was, of course, THE entomologist for SCAP. . . . irreverent Occupation military households had cross-stitch mottoes, "God Bless Our SCAP" on their home walls, as you may remember and my military types had secret "God Bless Don, too" for keeping the channels open for us.)

In memory of MARCO GIGLIOLI, we include the next paragraph, written before Marco's sad and untimely demise: "The Postal Service of the Cayman Islands issued 4 stamps to celebrate the 200th anniversary of manned flight. The stamps featured a Catalina, a Boeing 727, a Hawker and the ULV-outfitted Cessna of Marco's Mosquito Research and Control Unit! Date of emission was October 10, 1983, but Scott's 1984 stamp catalogue has not yet assigned numbers to the new issues.

"And writing of stamps, AMCA'ers may not all be aware of Guyana's issue of September 4, 1978 (Scott #275) presenting Dr. George Giglioli (Marco's father) and an *Anopheles* mosquito." (cf. N&N for 1979!)

"Going back further, how many caught the Swaziland May 21, 1973 issues (Scott's 197, 198) showing male mosquito and sprayman and 'Malaria vaccination'(sic)?"

"Or the four Solomon Islands issues of July 27, 1977 (Scott #352-355) showing a sprayman, taking blood samples, microscope, and messenger delivering medicine to a malaria patient?"

"Indonesia's November 7, 1977 emission (Scott #1013) showed an *Aedes aegypti* and child, reflecting the importance of dengue haemorrhagic fever, but erroneously titled by Scott's as referring to 'National Health campaign to eradicate malaria.'" We thank Don Pletsch for that roundup, very useful; though we think the members of the Society of Malaria Philatelists (adv.) may not need it, some of you desultory stamp collectors may be glad to know what you missed and have the fun of looking them up. No?

WELL, NOW THAT THE WINTER DAYS ARE HERE AND THE VOICE OF THE MOSQUITO IS NO LONGER HEARD IN THE LAND, LET'S SETTLE BACK WITH A BRANDY IN HAND AND THINK OVER THE SUMMER PAST. The first two times the *Chronicle* ran the same story quoting GEORGE CARMICHAEL and JIMMY OLSON, we were pleasantly surprised at its foray into real news but the third time the identical story appeared, we were almost moved to write to tell them that the *katorisenko*, which are pyrethrum punk (like for firecrackers) coils we used in Japan and brought back to use here, work fine and MUCH better than citronella or wood smoke. (And besides EPA has now decided burning wood causes cancer and they're going to ban it as soon as they figure out how to tell environmentalists they can't have wood stoves.) But anyway, we didn't, because we know George and Jimmy KNOW that and just

thought the coils were too exotic to recommend here and unobtainable, too, but it turns out they AREN'T, but are made here in the US of A, too, and sold in lots of hardware stores and even LUCKSAFE. We use them all the time in the summer at breakfast on our deck in the Mendocino mountains (we don't smoke pot, though) against *Aedes sierrensis* and a newcomer *Aedes* . . . could it be *communis*? It sure looks like it but you know I'm no taxonomist.

After this, the Chron ran a full article one Sunday on the growing mosquito menace, which they should have run in the SPRING when appropriations were being handed out. In this one, they quoted GEORGE CRAIG as saying we were going backward in our fight against mosquitoes, meaning we were losing ground. (We're glad he didn't say we were going about it backward . . . but he wouldn't say that, would you George? What he *would* say, and did say at Toronto, was that we are slipping backward in funds to encourage young people to be researchers and teachers for future needs).

Besides the Georges and Jimmy, the articles quoted GIL CHALLET and DON WEIDHAAS. It was a good article and we hoped that readers here in northern California were drawing the right in-the-back-of-your-mind knowledge from them, that will mean more support in the future, and not just equating it all with the usual Sunday articles in the same paper.

AND HEY! DO YOU READ DEAR ABBY PERCHANCE OR EVEN OCCASIONALLY? Let me quote her (and I hope it's legal), "Dear Abby: You just saved my summer! You had letter in your column about duck hunters using Avon's Skin-So-Soft as a mosquito repellent. I have always used that product, but this summer I didn't order any, and now I know why the bugs are having a feast every day on my person!

"In past years when I used Skin-So-Soft I never had trouble with mosquitoes. I never knew it was an insect repellent, but that's exactly what it did for me. I've already ordered a bottle. Thanks a million." By the way, Abby, didn't you read the article by Lou Rutledge, Bob Wirtz and Mike Buescher (*Mosquito News* 92:557-559, 1982)? They told all . . . about "a proprietary bath oil."

AND MAYBE YOU'VE NOTICED the rash of ads in the wish-book catalogues this summer for all sorts of mosquito control items. On ONE page in a Miles Kimball catalogue (but repeated in many others scattered about) THREE items: a "Mosquito Beater" packet of dry granules that "create an invisible curtain that keeps mosquitoes and flies away," a "Screen-Pruf Insect Spray" that leaves a residual coating (Horror!) Could it be a chlorinated hydrocarbon? Surely not! that "lasts for several weeks" and a "Spider Not" spray that also works by "residual action." Also in these catalogues, were the recurrent "electronic" high-frequency inaudible sound boxes that are guaranteed to keep mosquitoes away from the patio and lights that will lure them to their deaths. One prudently advised putting it up some distance away from the patio in order not to attract MORE mosquitoes to the area, though that shouldn't be a concern if it gets them all, should it? Can it be that reducing funds for MAD's has increased the pest mosquito problem in patios? One does hope not.

LOUIS L. WILLIAMS III WROTE TO HARRY PRATT TO AGREE THAT THE PLAQUE HONORING "DR. LOUIS" SHOULD BE PLACED IN THE CDC ROOM WHERE SUCH ITEMS AND OTHER HISTORICAL MATERIALS ARE BEING ASSEMBLED. His letter is so warm and evocative that Harry and Tommy and we all agree you will want us to share it with you.

"I am delighted," he writes, "That 'Dr. Louis' is still remembered and particularly his warm personality. I think it was a big factor in his ability to move diverse and sometimes fractious groups toward a common goal. One of my favorite memories of him took place at the Waldorf Astoria, just before the signing of papers creating the World Health Organization. It was not known if all 51 countries would sign and the delegates were milling around aimlessly. I was sitting in the observers' gallery and I saw Dad put his arms over a couple of the men's shoulders and a circle formed and then the heads started nodding. Pretty soon he left that group and started another circle without my seeing him leave. This procedure must have been repeated seven or eight times and then the doors opened and they all filed in and signed without any fuss.

"Dad told me many times that the only opinions he was concerned with were those of his peers in the field he worked in. Therefore, I think the plaque should be sent to CDC . . ."

What we remember about Dr. Louis was his sensitive kindness to those who were NOT his peers in his field, in his sharing his wide experience and good judgments with us in a calm matter-of-fact way that made it seem that his suggestions were things we had of course already thought of too and were merely being brought into the discussion for the general review. We were very much the neophyte at that point and we certainly HADN'T thought of the things he suggested, though we hoped the Big Brass didn't realize that.

HARRY PRATT WROTE ALSO OF SENDING COPIES OF THE OBITUARY OF DR. BRADLEY in the March 1984 issue, to Mrs. Bradley. "Her daughter-in-law, who is helping take care of her, wrote me that they were all pleased with the write-up and had made additional copies for various members of the family." The letter included one very sad item. Dr. Bradley's son, George Bradley, died this spring of cancer at age 60.

He continued, "Dr. Walter Earle, for whom *Anopheles earlei* was named, died May 23 in Atlanta. He was about 86 or 87."

WORD REACHED US AS WE SENT THIS OFF THAT STAN CARPENTER HAD SUCCEMBED TO THE ILLNESS HE HAS BEEN FIGHTING OFF FOR SO LONG and had seemed at times to be mastering. His passing leaves a gap we will notice for a long time in the ranks of systematists but also in the world of those of us who knew and worked with him. We first knew him in Atlanta during WWII, when we hardly knew *crucians* from *quinquefasciatus* and dipped for them both in swamp water flowing through Camp Stewart headquarters area. Gently he corrected our mistakes and helped us remember how things really went and gave us definitive decisions when we were baffled in our surveys. Vale, Stan!

STEPHEN T. JARONSKI HAS JOINED THE CHEMICAL AND AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS DIVISION OF ABBOTT LABORATORIES in North Chicago, as of last December, as you may have seen noted in the ESA Bulletin. He was previously at North Carolina State.

IN CONJUNCTION WITH OUR MEETINGS IN NEW JERSEY NEXT MARCH WE HAVE BEEN ASKED TO REQUEST YOUR ATTENTION TO THE FLYER SENT OUT WITH THE NEWSLETTER, the item about the video-tape on old-time mosquito control. Please scour around, if you have any film footage and send it pronto to WAYNE CRANS (that's DR. Wayne Crans, of course) at Mosquito Research and Control, Cook College, P.O. Box 231, New Brunswick, NJ 08903. Tommy Mulhern says the AMCA film/tape is ready now, too, and we think it'll also be shown at Atlantic City. Copies for use in your PR are in progress.

LOUISIANA'S ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE ARRIVED TOO LATE FOR INCLUSION IN THE LAST ISSUE, IN CASE YOU MIGHT HAVE GONE, AND OUR DEADLINE IS BEFORE the meetings so we can't report them. They sounded good in prospect and, of course, the annual sea food bash sounded scrumptious. Maybe a little report might be sent us in time for the March issue (deadline ONE January!)? ROGER NASCI? JOHN BILLODEAUX? MATT DAKIN? CHAPPIE???

THE WEEKLY MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY REPORT SOUNDS PRETTY GRIM and it IS about grim statistics, but they're very interesting to mosquito control types, just the same. From 1973 through 1983, 2,575 cases of malaria were reported, it says here, among U.S. citizens who were infected while travelling abroad. This was 33% of all imported cases during the period. During this period the number of *P. falciparum* infections among U.S. travellers rose almost sevenfold from 21 cases in 1973 to 139 in 1983. The increase was especially marked among U.S. travelers who visited east Africa: in 1973-74 only nine cases occurred among such travellers, compared with 88 cases in 1982-83 (a nearly 10-fold increase). We weren't the only ones, of course. Great Britain's rates increased, too. What especially interests us, however, is the conclusion: "Travelers who acquire malaria generally do not take appropriate chemoprophylaxis." It goes on to extol the virtues of chemoprophylaxis, which we are far from denying or denigrating, but there is NO mention of repellents or proper clothing. The article calls for more (better) distribution of information of chemoprophylaxis to travellers leaving the country for furrin parts. Somehow our message isn't getting through.

Now in the matter of SLE, WEE, California encephalitis and EEE: outbreaks of SLE are reported due to flooding of the Colorado River and un-named situations in other areas. In the Colorado River situation, mention is made of *Cx. tarsalis*, but in no other is a vector mentioned, although some of the reporters, like Wayne Crans for New Jersey, were from among Us. Maybe CDC could suggest to M & MWR that it would be informative to include a word about vector prevalence and control to make the stats on M&M more meaningful?

THE BULLETIN OF THE SOCIETY OF VECTOR ECOLOGISTS (Vol. 9, No. 1) just received, has so many papers by AMCA'ers and such good ones, we can't comment on them all, but there were two on biological control that we found stimulating to our imagination. One on the "Impact of Copepod *Mesocyclops leucharti pilosa* and the Green Alga *Kirchneriella irregularis* Upon Larval *Aedes albopictus*," by GERALD MARTEN was a possibility we had never heard of, though there have been papers on blue-green algae; another, "The Potential of Flatworms as Biological Control agents of Mosquitoes" by SUSAN PALCHICK was further info on a possibility only recently brought up in our own *Journal*. We think they're both exciting.

WHICH BRINGS US TO THE UTAH/SOVE MEETINGS IN SALT LAKE CITY THAT WE LAMENTABLY MISSED BUT WHICH GLEN COLLETT ABLY REPORTED. There were about 130 in attendance, about half from out of state, and 180 at the banquet which, of course, included wives . . . or husbands. The meetings opened with a Presidential Address by JAY GRAHAM of SOVE, who also gave the talk at the banquet, with ge-or-geous slides of his hiking trip in Nepal. GIL CHALLET reported on AMCA (all the Executive Committee were there and most of the Directors) and DUANE GUBLER of CDC in Puerto Rico, gave the invitational address on "Dengue in the Americas, 1983-84." DON WOMELDORF was the Director coming the shortest distance (still it is mighty tough wading along H-80 under water from the Lake) and BRANDT WATSON probably came the farthest, being from SOUTH Florida. TOMMY was looking his old self, with unbelievable stamina, and all our leg-men (Tommy, Glen and Ye Ed) commented on the pleasure of seeing and hearing Dr. ROBERT FONTAINE, RUSS's able son, of CDC in Atlanta, who spoke on *Anopheles* and malaria in El Salvador; another pleasure was having BOTH the PETERS men there, BOB and DICK, once again.

SOME STATISTICS: it was a cool 70's in SLC whilst LA (Calif., you know) was in the upper 80's. The Lake, at 42'3" is higher than at any time in the last 100 years and has played havoc with the wild life refuges, as well as the highways and railroads, leaving the migrating birds little to eat and NO place to stand.

GLEN INTRODUCED AND MODERATED A SYMPOSIUM ON THE ECOLOGY OF THE GREAT SALT LAKE and although it is nice to have it all back, something MUST be done. There were then papers on ecology of mosquitoes, on *Bti* (H-14), arboviruses, plague, Chagas' Disease, *Simulium* and underground mosquitoes. (We'd like to hear more about that. San Francisco mosquitoes are almost entirely from storm drains carrying car-wash run-off in our "summer" . . . September and October. Once in Osaka, Japan, we had them inside a HOTEL from the elevator shaft.)

CHESTER MOORE OF CDC IN FT. COLLINS GAVE A PAPER ON DETERMINING CHRONOLOGICAL AGE OF MOSQUITOES, TOO, WHICH BETTINA ROSAY pioneered in California, we remember, and there was a paper by DON MURRAY on mosquitoes in dairy waste water systems, which would sound familiar to anyone from PAT NAKAGAWA's department in Hawaii, where that has been at times a primary problem until they won the dairy people over to prevention. And a paper on evaluation of mosquito production associated with water hyacinths for treatment of sewage effluent (are they PLANTING those things to treat sewage?) and others by EARL MORTENSON and KENNETH TOWNZEN and CECIL MARTIN and RUSS FONTAINE, who moderated the panel. AND LOTS MORE.

STOP THE PRESS!!! HEY, FELLERS! DON'T THROW OUT YOUR COFFEE DRESS! SAVE YOUR TEA BAGS! Did you see the one about the research being reported today in *Science* by James Nathanson of Harvard, that caffeine is "a potent natural insecticide?" Well, it seems, he says, that caffeine must have been developed by plants as a means of warding off insects, not just helping us get started in the morning. Tests with caffeine and the related compounds, both pure and in INSTANT COFFEE and tea (we knew there had to be SOMETHING good about instant coffee) disturbed the behavior and growth of numerous insects and their larvae. "The mosquito larvae, for instance," it says here, "became so uncoordinated with exposure to these compounds that they could not swim to the water's surface for air and drowned." Let's have some volunteers out there to check this out right away! Black, no sugar or cream.