

## ASSOCIATION NEWS

THE AMERICAN MOSQUITO CONTROL ASSOCIATION FIELD TRIP THROUGH THE NEW ENGLAND STATES

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A summer field trip, through the New England states for members of the American Mosquito Control Association, started at Hotel Garde in New Haven, Connecticut at 9.30 A.M. on Tuesday, 11th of July and terminated on Saturday, 15th of July at Brandon, Vermont.

During the first day of the tour, Mr. R. C. Botsford, Engineer for the Connecticut Mosquito Control Commission, exhibited a diked salt marsh and discussed the manner in which effective mosquito control is accomplished through water level manipulation. This was followed by a demonstration of the-SCAVEL, a device for ditch cleaning, invented by Mr. Botsford. After a luncheon, the group traveled by automobile to Rhode Island where Mr. William Bartosewitz, State Mosquito Control Supervisor, reviewed mosquito control operations on the salt marsh located in the vicinity of Mt. Hope Bay. The motorcade then continued on to Cape Cod where an old-fashioned clambake topped the first day's activity.

On the second day, Mr. Oscar Doane, Superintendent of the Cape Cod Mosquito Control Project demonstrated, at a cat-tail fringed pond in Provincetown, their technique for collecting *Mansonia* larvae and also the Cape Cod method for control of the *Mansonia* nuisance. After a quick look at some of Provincetown's best known landmarks, the party proceeded to the Plymouth Airport to witness a helicopter spraying and dusting demonstration. This was followed by an inspection of the Marshfield-Duxbury Great Marshes (Fig. 1.) where greenhead fly control work had been completed within the previous two days. Immediately upon arrival, Mosquito News Editor Collins of the New York Science Service, with a nose for news, ferreted out an expiring greenhead fly, and called upon his collaborators for a diagnosis. No one will ever know how many cadavers the "Herr" Doctor collected while unobserved, or how many he smuggled out of Massachusetts. In the evening, participants gathered at the Hotel Commander, in Harvard Square, Cambridge, for dinner and a general discussion of the exhibits including their significance.

Early Thursday morning, Mr. Robert Armstrong, Superintendent of the East Middlesex Mosquito Control Project led the group to a dewatered area known as Purgatory Swamp and located in the city of Newton. This area, consisting of about seventy acres of stagnant water containing an abundant cat-tail growth, is imme-

diately adjacent to the Charles River. However, drainage to the river cannot be effected because the water level in Purgatory Swamp is several feet lower than that of the river. In 1949 a lift pump was installed between Purgatory Swamp and the Charles River. The Swamp was then ditched and the surplus water drained into a sump under the pump house. As the sump fills, the pump goes into operation automatically, lifting the water and discharging it into the river. At the same location, Mr. Armstrong demonstrated a rather unique type of flat bottomed river boat equipped for use in the shallow water



FIGURE 1. Group viewing Marshfield-Duxbury great marshes in Massachusetts where greenhead fly control work is being carried on.

FIGURE 2. Boat equipped with spray unit. Propulsion furnished by forced stream of water from same pump used in spraying.

areas along the Charles River where *Anopheles* breeding occurs. (Fig. 2.) Propulsion is furnished by discharging water at the boat's stern. This forced stream of water is derived from the same pump which is used for spraying. The party then traveled by automobile to Pittsfield, in the western part of Massachusetts, where the Berkshire County Mosquito Control Project operates. After a short rest in the hotel lounge, the more sturdy adjourned to the American Legion Home where dinner was served in a private dining room. As the evening progressed, it became increasingly evident that Roy Wilson, Superintendent of the Morris County Mosquito Extermination Association of New Jersey, had not the slightest acquaintance with a well-known adage, namely, "no souls are saved after the first five minutes," for brother Wilson continued proselyting throughout the evening. The fact that the Pittsfield dinner was the high point of the entire tour was due in no small degree to "Parson" Wilson's zeal.

On Friday, or the last day of demonstrations, the group left Pittsfield about 8.00 A.M., and enroute to Vermont, inspected a series of beaver dams located in Williamstown, Mass. Because beavers are protected by the State of Massachusetts and cannot be molested, and because these animals can replace their dams nearly as fast as man can destroy them, a drainage program for a beaver inhabited area is impractical. As an alternative, these wet areas are kept under constant surveillance and the borders treated whenever mosquito breeding becomes evident. After a luncheon at Manchester, Vermont, the group proceeded to the town of Proctor, where at the insistence of "Chris" Williamson, the extensive

marble collection of the Proctor Marble Works received a brief but thorough perusal. Upon arrival at Brandon, Vt., Mr. John Scott, Mosquito Research Engineer of the Vermont Department of Agriculture, demonstrated a mist blower unit used for mosquito control in the vicinity of Brandon. Later in the afternoon, the party continued on to Lake Dunmore where Mr. Scott, and Mr. Harold Bailey, Deputy Commissioner of Agriculture, explained the manner in which a TIFA fogging unit, and a small three hundred pound hand propelled mist unit, are utilized in the protection of the several boys' and girls' camps located along the shores of Lake Dunmore. About 6.00 P.M. all adjourned to the palatial home of Miss Shirley Farr for cocktails. In the evening, dinner was served at the Brandon Inn. Those attending included Miss Farr and Mr. and Mrs. Landon, who represent the principal sponsors of the Brandon mosquito control program.

Throughout the trip, Mr. Maxmilian Stallman, Commissioner of the Essex County Mosquito Extermination Association of New Jersey, acted as mentor for over-exuberant youth and also guided the party through the social mazes. Since this was the first New England tour of its kind ever attempted, those involved in its organization were somewhat apprehensive of success due to possible conflicts with peak season operations. However, it soon became evident that an inspection of project activities during the summer provides, (1) a greater insight into the individual problems of the various projects and (2) a better understanding of the varying methods used in attacking and solving these problems.

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The numbers needed are VI#1, VI#2, VI#4, V3#1, V7#2, V8#1.

Thomas D. Mulhern, Sec.-Treas.