

found ranging from 60% to 83%, malaria rates have been held down for the last five years to less than 5%.

Given the continuing support of an enlightened Government and an intelligent interest in malaria control, it is not too optimistic to hope that by a process of attrition, and without the expenditure of sums beyond the economy of the island, malaria may yet disappear completely from the Colony within the next decade.

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## THE PEST CONTROL OPERATOR'S PLACE IN MOSQUITO CONTROL

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Before being specific regarding the part that the pest control operator might have in the field of actual mosquito control service work, it seems to me that there should briefly be submitted two general observations.

In the first place, very little basic research work can be expected to be done

by the PCO. Essentially the PCO depends upon governmental research personnel as well as manufacturers of chemicals and equipment to provide the answers regarding formulations and acceptable techniques of application for the elimination and control of mosquitoes.

Secondly, there is the common denomi-

nator that not only affects many attending this meeting, but also affects the pest control operators; namely, MONEY. Obviously for those who *are not* engaged in commercial or private enterprise, appropriations primarily derived from taxes must pay the bill. The PCO's must look to property owners, various industrial and business enterprises, and, occasionally, municipalities to pay for mosquito control services.

In short, *money* is perhaps the important factor for all of us. Accomplishments altogether too frequently hinge on available funds. Newspaper stories constantly remind us of what I commonly refer to as the "Battle of Appropriations." In connection with publicity early last month about the New Jersey Mosquito Extermination Society meeting, there also appeared an editorial in the Philadelphia Inquirer entitled "*Skeeter Bite Versus Tax Bite.*" To quote one paragraph, "If the choice for Jersey folk is between a skeeter bite and a tax bite—maybe they'd like a little more evidence that suffering from the second will really cure the first."

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Having, therefore, made these two observations regarding the PCO's relation to basic and field research, and the "money" problems, I have no hesitancy to say that responsible pest control operators, and certainly the National Pest Control Association, recognize the fundamental aspects and need for continuing mosquito control programs. Spelling this out even further, I would like to emphasize our genuine interest in supporting sensible mosquito control programs involving appropriations. Without area-wide and/or permanent large scale maintenance, which we do not consider the pest control industry is in position to do, it would be folly on our part if we did not support such programs. To be selfish and very practical, it is to our advantage that we get behind the fundamental aspects of continued mosquito control programs, because the jobs to which I will subsequently refer can then be more satisfactorily done by pest control operators.

In short, at the National Association level we have opposed the efforts of a comparatively few PCO's who have resorted to high pressure methods or who have unjustifiably criticized some of the county mosquito control projects. Our attitude is that of supporting appropriations for area-wide projects but at the same time we expect that similar cooperation will be given to pest control operators to take over jobs for which they are qualified. The latter must naturally be based on the assumption that the pest control operator will give evidence of knowledge regarding mosquito control procedures. By "rubbing elbows" together we will both have greater appreciation for doing an all-round better job of mosquito control.

That now brings us to the type of jobs which might well be done by trained and experienced pest control operators. In discussing the specific type of jobs, I realize at times that there may be a little overlapping but generally speaking, I am convinced where there is an honest desire to cooperate, ways and means can be found to overcome possible misunderstandings. I shall enumerate and assign broad classifications of the type of jobs that are of interest to the PCO.

1—Control on fringes of area-wide projects: On the assumption that a county project is being done, there are also nearby areas or "spots" involving private homes or even small block-areas that might well be taken over by the PCO.

2—Large estates and private homes (the latter usually with spacious grounds) that do not necessarily comprise a part of a general mosquito-infested, large-scale or county project area, should be done by private enterprise. Lawn parties and out-of-doors picnics often become the basis for requests being made for mosquito control. Such services should be done by PCO's rather than a special service paid for out of general taxes.

3—Business and industrial properties that come within the same category just mentioned in the previous paragraph should be the job of the PCO.

4—Resort areas including hotels and

motels, private picnic areas, drive-in theatres, baseball parks and sports parks, fair grounds and the like: Should be done by PCO's. If complete cooperation prevailed, it would be a big step in the right direction toward a closer working relationship between government supervised and commercial mosquito control.

5—Summer camps, especially private camps, with their vested interests and operating for profit (or otherwise) should not expect general tax funds to pay for necessary mosquito control. To be sure, the overall problem may be due to certain conditions prevailing elsewhere on the lake remote from the actual location of the camp. It still should become an obligation of property owners on the lake to have mosquito control done by commercial enterprise.

6—Miscellaneous nuisance situations: A greater number of such exist than perhaps is realized and for the most part the PCO today receives nothing for his time but considers it a part of good customer relations to assist. I am thinking of the many ways in which stagnant water is allowed to accumulate and breeding areas in unusual places exist. Poor drainage conditions, careless sanitary practices, pools of water that continue to remain, etc. are a few of the situations. This type of service primarily calls for advice. It is easy to see that it costs money for PCO's to inspect

when such complaints are made and discuss remedial measures which do not involve any chemical or pest control services. There should also accrue a few mosquito control jobs. The important point I am trying to make is that the PCO should be expected to provide this type of service.

In summary, therefore, I cannot help but repeat in perhaps somewhat different language that pest control operators cannot expect to do ditching, draining, etc. for salt marsh mosquitoes or engage in large operations such as dredging, stream straightening, dikes, dams, water level regulations, etc. for the fresh water groups. On the other hand, these and related operations are sometimes so expensive and spectacular that they overshadow other methods and give the impression that nothing less can be done. It would appear that the public and pest control operators themselves may for too long a time have been accustomed to this attitude, whereas all of us should realize that there is room for small scale mosquito control operations (on a contract basis through commercial enterprise) to provide mosquito control services. My purpose will have been served if I have offered specific types of jobs that can and should be done by competently trained and experienced PCO's who in turn would also recognize the importance of working cooperatively with Mosquito Abatement groups.

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techniques have a special applicability to work with mosquitoes, or who have discovered some special manipulative detail for handling mosquitoes in experimental procedures, have also been more or less frequent contributors to *Mosquito News*. But the field workers who make an improvement on a ditching machine or overcome, on the spot, an unanticipated floodwater or tidal problem, are inclined to consider it all in the day's work, and to let it go unrecorded.

The Editor urges all field workers, therefore, to record their observations, accomplishments and ideas for the meetings and for *Mosquito News*. Only in this way can we achieve the desired balance between "scientific" and "practical" articles.