# NEWS AND NOTES

IN A REPORT AT THE NEW JERSEY MOSQUITO EXTERMINATION ASSOCIATION MEETING in Atlantic City, Mr. Fred Reiley stated that 8,000 acres of typical marsh lands have been taken over by the United States Government as a wildlife refuge. For the past twenty years this area has bred mosquitoes and has required inspection and spraying in order to reduce mosquito annoyance there and in nearby residential areas. Since the Fish and Wildlife Service has taken over this land, the Service has refused to permit mosquito inspectors of Atlantic County to enter the area unless they are accompanied by Federal employees. Mosquito breeding in the refuge will have to be justified before mosquito control in the area is initiated. In order to help Mr. Reiley solve his problem, I suggested that he use *Gambusia* in all the water holes, but Mr. Reiley said he tried that but it did no good. All they did was to eat so many larvae that they turned their bellies up in the air and floated on their backs.—Tate Martin, General Foreman, Desplaines Valley Mosquito Abatemnet District.

AT THE ATLANTIC CITY MEETING there was considerable discussion by commissioners from the several New Jersey counties in regard to mosquito control needs in their respective counties. The people pressed them for better mosquito control, but this would require money which they don't have. However, the people and the commissioners could see that if they got rid of marshes by ditching them they would not have to go back each year to handle the situation, even though it would cost more money in the beginning. It seems that the commissioners were under pressure by the people who live near the marshes to drain them, and the commissioners all stressed draining and spraying as an essential part of their work.—Tate Martin.

THE MASSACHUSETTS RECLAMATION BOARD in March 1953 organized a new mosquito control project which encompasses a compact group of six communities located along the south shore of Massachusetts Bay. This organization, known as the South Shore Mosquito Control Project and directed by a local Board of Commissioners, will operate throughout an area of 81 square miles. Although the native population is only 157,461, during the height of the mosquito breeding season the native density of 1,828 per square mile is greatly increased by a heavy influx of summer visitors.

For its initial effort, the project has available approximately $530.00 per square mile for financing a complete mosquito control program. Several towns, bordering the perimeter of the control area, have exhibited an intense interest in the present endeavor. This aroused interest predicts a bright future and an almost immediate expansion of the South Shore Mosquito Control Project's area of operation.—B. I. Gerry

THE COUNTY COURT OF LANE COUNTY, OREGON, has authorized the expenditure of $5,000 emergency funds for mosquito control for the balance of the fiscal year 1952–53. Additional funds are being budgeted in order that a permanent mosquito control program may be conducted in Lane County.

The program of mosquito control will be under the jurisdiction of the Lane County Health Department with Mr. Milton H. Buehler as Director of the program. Mr. Buehler received his B.S. degree from the University of Arizona in 1941, majoring in Economic Zoology and Entomology. He has had several years experience in vector control as an insect and rodent control specialist in the U. S. Army and U. S. Public Health Service. Mr. Buehler is well known in Oregon where he served as Insect and Rodent Control Consultant for the Oregon State Board of Health for a period of two and one-half years. He is well qualified to take charge of the Lane County Mosquito Control Program.

The people in and around Eugene, the county seat, have become more and more conscious of mosquito annoyance. This, prompted by the encephalitis outbreak in California, crystallized the thinking of the county leaders to proceed with mosquito control.

The main species of mosquitoes with which the Lane County Court is concerned is *Culex tarsalis.* Breeding of this species is extensive in numerous log ponds and overflow areas. The program of mosquito control outlined is sound, and under the leadership of Mr. Buehler good results should be obtained.—A. W. Lindquist

AT THE NORTH AMERICAN WILDLIFE CONFERENCE in Washington, J. P. Linduska reported on March 11 that annual State and Federal expenditures for the restoration of waterfowl habitats exceed $8,500,000.

DR. BRYANT E. REES, Associate Professor of Entomology at Fresno State College and Technical Advisor to the Fresno Mosquito Abatement District has four namesakes. They are a crane fly, *Tipula reesi;* a mosquito, *Aedes reesi;* a rove beetle, *Staphylinus berberi,* and a son, Richard Bryant Rees. The insects were described respectively by C. P. Alexander, W. V. King, and R. E. Blackwelder. The name, *berberi,* was coined from Dr. Rees' initials.

THE FORTIETH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NEW JERSEY MOSQUITO EXTERMINATION ASSOCIATION was held in Atlantic City, March 4–6, 1953. A feature of the meeting was a panel discussion on the topic, Mosquito Control on Public Lands.

The moderator was Dr. Louis A. Stearns of Delaware, and representatives of seven federal and state agencies participated. Dr. Bishopp presented his annual review, Mosquito Work throughout the World, prepared with the help of Harry Stage and Helen Sollers. The incoming president of the Association is Mr. Charles T. Foulk II, of Bloomfield.

IN PORTSMOUTH, VIRGINIA, larviciding catch basins and many road ditches is done by mosquito workers from the rear platform of a jeep. Due to traffic and parking conditions in the downtown area and on the streets adjacent to entrances to the Naval Shipyard, it has been necessary to work this section on a night shift from 11:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. Headlights of the approaching jeep would pick up such spots; but when the rear platform came opposite the place, there was no illumination to guide the spray operator. This led to faulty performance and sometimes a complete miss, which could be remedied only by backing up the jeep in the dark—an invitation to accident.

As a cure for this situation, an adjustable spotlight has been installed about half way down the back of the right front fender to shine back on the gutter or catch basin as best suited to the needs of the rear platform worker. It has seemed that an amber or fog lense is best suited for this purpose as it is easier on the eyes of the operator while he is spraying and does not reduce his vision afterward.—A. P. Page, Jr.

IN SOUTHEASTERN VIRGINIA, a new organization called the "Superintendents' Round Table" has recently been formed. Although the Virginia Mosquito Control Association holds a yearly meeting, it was decided that there was a need for a monthly meeting of the different commission superintendents so that they could discuss in an informal manner the problems of the various commissions.

They hold their meetings once per month at the various offices of the mosquito commissions. The first meeting was held at the office of Mr. R. E. Dorer, where Mr. Dorer was unanimously elected Chairman and Mr. A. P. Page, Secretary. At the second meeting it was discovered that a large amount could be saved by ordering each commission's insecticides in one group.

In the short time it has been organized, the Round Table has solved quite a few problems and brought the different commissions in closer unity.

DR. MARSHALL A. BARBER died on Jan. 15, 1953 at the age of 84. His distinguished career as a malariologist with the International Health Division of the Rockefeller Foundation, with the U. S. Army and with the Public Health Service led him into many phases of malaria control work throughout the world.

HERMAN L. FELLTON, for the past seven years Orkin Exterminating Co. vice-president in charge of technical operations and also vice-president of the Orkin Institute of Industrial Sanitation, is no longer with that organization and has gone into business for himself as a sanitary engineer and entomological consultant. His office is located at 15 Peachtree Place N.W., Atlanta, Ga. He will be available for consultation on all aspects of insect and rodent control and related matters.

Prior to joining Orkin, Mr. Fellton served for 5 years as a commissioned officer in the U. S. Public Health Service. He was one of the original staff of the Malaria Control in War Areas organization. Before that he was in charge of insect and rodent control activities at the New York World's Fair, particularly mosquito and midge (chironomid) control. He has been active in insect control work since 1934.

Mr. Fellton was one of the founding members of the Eastern Association of Mosquito Control Workers, which has since become the American Mosquito Control Association. He was a member of the Executive Committee from 1944 to 1946 and also served on the Publications Committee.

THE CALIFORNIA MOSQUITO CONTROL ASSOCIATION held its twenty-first annual conference in Sacramento, Feb. 11–13, 1953. Considerable emphasis was given to problems relating to agriculture and mosquito control. Among other subjects discussed were water conservation programs, encephalitis, the measurement of mosquito populations, and effectiveness of some of the newer insecticides.

DR. JOSEPH HILL WHITE, retired Assistant Surgeon General of the U. S. Public Health Service died in Washington on Feb. 28, 1953. According to the Washington Post he is credited with the first successful control of a yellow fever outbreak in the United States by controlling mosquitoes at the Hampton, Virginia, Soldiers' Home in 1899. His work preceded that of Dr. Walter Reed with whom he was later associated for many years.

MR. NELSON H. RECTOR, who was a member of the A.M.C.A. for several years, retired from the U. S. Public Health Service in December 1952. Mr. Rector served in malaria control work for 31 years with the Rockefeller Foundation, Alabama and Mississippi State Boards of Health, and the P.H.S. He played an important part in the organization and development of the Malaria Control in War Areas program. Mr. Rector graduated in civil engineering from The Johns Hopkins University.

DR. L. L. WILLIAMS, JR., an honorary member of the A.M.C.A. recently retired from active duty with the Public Health Service. His many contributions in the field of malaria and mosquito control are well known. He had been chief of the Division of International Health, P.H.S., since 1948.

DR. MARTIN D. YOUNG recently received a Rockefeller Public Service Award. This grant

will enable him to have a "sabbatical leave," and he plans to visit laboratories and schools in England, France, Italy, Turkey, Egypt, Israel, India, Pakistan, the Philippines, and Australia.

LCDR JOHN M. HIRST, who is now stationed in Alameda, California, visited naval installations at Port Lyautey and Tripoli in December. He is editor of the *Ther-Mal Air-O-Sol* at the Naval Air Station. This news sheet dispenses "more hot air from the land of the sun." In March LCDR Hirst accompanied 2200 flies on a trip to Honolulu aboard the Philippine Mars. The purpose of this jaunt was to test the efficiency of a new system for releasing insecticides in the plane. The aerosol is released automatically when the pilot pushes a button. The treatment of the caged flies was successful.

THE EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DADE COUNTY (FLA.) ANTI-MOSQUITO DISTRICT emphasizes the many problems involved in water management in that area. A ten-year plan known as the Army Engineers Flood Control and Water Conservation Project has been put into effect. It calls for many miles of levees and canals and other works which will result in the impoundment of vast acreages. Aside from organized efforts, private land owners are attempting to control water and salt infiltration by building dikes, dams, ditches, tide-gates. The purpose is to keep the land flooded in the summer to prevent salt contamination and weed growth and to destroy certain crop insects. This standing water is, of course, a source of large numbers of mosquitoes. The removal of excess water prior to and during the growing season also constitutes a mosquito-control problem. The effect of so much water storage in some of the larger Conservation Districts cannot be predicted, but it is possible that vegetation will flourish and that *Mansonia* mosquitoes will have favorable conditions.

In salt marshes it is planned to emphasize ground spraying rather than airplane larviciding. To supplement hand spraying the power sprayer must be mounted on a tractor that will not bog down. An Oliver tractor, OC-3 model, was purchased. The frame has been elevated to give a ground clearance of 35 inches. Width from center to center of tracks has been increased to 72 inches. The track has been lengthened and there is less ground pressure per square inch due to two ⅜"x 4"x 30" wood extensions bolted to the track shoes. The tractor is equipped with a 400-pound pressure sprayer capable of delivering 7 gallons per minute. It can also be adapted for ditch maintenance work.

Space spraying with Buffalo turbines was continued in 1952. Good results were obtained by applying 2½ per cent DDT emulsion at the rate of one gallon per acre. Around 55,000 acres were treated by airplane with 5 per cent DDT in fuel oil at the rate of 2 quarts per acre.

THE DESPLAINES VALLEY (ILL.) MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT is now in its twenty-sixth year of operation. The report for 1952 states that after being used for seven years, DDT and kindred chemicals have lost little of their lethal effect. The cost of mosquito control per capita is about 42 cents. Five routine foggings were made in heavily populated areas during the season. Truck speed was 3 m.p.h., and 8 per cent DDT oil solution was distributed at the rate of 0.123 lbs. of DDT per acre. The four machines averaged 141 gallons of material and 725 acres per night. Treatment of 29,505 catch basins was made with 25 per cent DDT in E-407 at the rate of about one-half pint per basin. A single application appeared to be adequate. Eighteen light traps were operated and collections reached a peak on August 1 when 3873 females were trapped. Over 97 per cent of these mosquitoes were *Aedes vexans.*

THE 1952 REPORT OF THE UNION COUNTY (N. J.) MOSQUITO EXTERMINATION COMMISSION marks the fortieth anniversary of control work in the county. Over thirty photographs are used to record work that has been done. Some of the large areas that were prolific sources of mosquitoes in 1912 are still troublesome. The North Elizabeth meadows which were diked and tide-gated in 1914–15 have dried out and sunk from three to four feet. This area is now covered with fresh water, heavily contaminated with sewage and industrial wastes. *Culex pipiens* moved in after the salt marsh mosquitoes moved out. At the present time drainage maintenance accounts for about 65 per cent of the man hours of labor, and the other 35 per cent is used in applying insecticides. There is a picture of eight employees who have worked for the commission 20 years or more.

AMCA PRESIDENT Dr. F. C. Bishopp, was given an Award for Distinguished Service by the United States Department of Agriculture, on May 19, 1953. Ezra Taft Benson, Secretary of Agriculture, in presenting a medal and scroll, made the following statement: Dr. Fred C. Bishopp, Assistant Chief of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, in charge of research, is a noted authority on medical and veterinary entomology. During World War II, he activated and coordinated research on disease-carrying mosquitoes, lice, and flies, and was awarded certificates by the Army and Navy, and received from Great Britain, His Majesty's Medal for Service in the Cause of Freedom. He is being cited today for his work in organizing, conducting, and directing research which has resulted in the development of effective methods of controlling plant pests, thereby contributing to the welfare of all mankind.