

NEWS AND NOTES

AUSTIN W. MORRILL, JR.

OUR PRESIDENT-ELECT, "MO" HIRST HADN'T BEEN IN HAWAII MORE'N A DAY or so when he characteristically found out some interesting local mosquito lore and also characteristically hastened to pass it along to the rest of us, languishing far from that Island Paradise. Commander Hirst says that the mosquito discovered the Happy Isles in 1828, arriving on a sailing vessel, as did the other missionaries of the day. The vessel, the *Wellington*, landed them at Lahina, first capital of Hawaii, on the Island of Maui, long noted among fresh-water seekers of the Pacific islands for its crystalline underground pools. "Makika," says Mo, spread from Maui to the other islands and tried to consolidate its position but has been wrestled to ignominious defeat by vigilant mosquito control people. Mo sends an "Aloha" to all.

ERNESTINE THURMAN SENT A HASTY NOTE VIA TED RALEY, which he has not expanded. Said she, "I'm rushing as usual. I've been invited to present a paper at the Ninth Pacific Science Congress in Bangkok, leaving here on November 8th, by way of Africa." It sounds mighty intriguing and we're awfully happy for Ernestine; she deserves a wonderful trip, and we hope to hear more about it when she returns.

DON M. REES HAS LEFT UTAH COLD; at least, *Utah* will be cold but Don won't. He's gone on a leave of absence to accept appointment as Visiting Professor of Medical Entomology on the staff of the Medical School of the University of Indonesia. The appointment was made through the University of California Medical School, which is assisting in the program of the Indonesian Government to improve medical training in their country. His address will be, with title as above, "University of California Medical School Field Staff, Universitas Indonesia Fakultas Kedokteran, Salemba 6, Djakarta, Indonesia," but fortunately he can be reached, if you forget all that, through the American Embassy, Djakarta.

RALPH C. BARNES OF THE U. S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE has left his former haunts in Atlanta to take up Life in the Rockies. He has recently transferred to Denver, Colorado, where he is now Chief, Communicable Disease Control Services, Region VIII, and his address is Room 517, New Customhouse, Denver.

AND GEORGE T. CARMICHAEL HAS MOVED FROM JACKSONVILLE TO SAVANNAH, GEORGIA, where he is the new Director of the first organized mosquito control program in Georgia. His new address is 12506 Woodley Rd., Savannah, and he writes to Ted Raley, "I'll tell you all about it in D. C.

. . . I've really been busy. To start a program in the middle of the season is a job." It surely is, as any of us who have tried it can testify and we hope he had a mighty successful one, and *does* tell Ted all about it so he can pass it on to us and we in turn can give it to you. (Unless you'd like to tell us direct, George? How about it? "News and Notes" would be mighty proud and happy to receive notes now and then from every member who does something of interest . . . and each of us is interested in what the others do.)

IN THE NEIGHBORING STATE OF VIRGINIA, V.M.C.A.'s "Skeeter" reports on the success of surveys to guide control efforts in mosquito control in areas of rapidly growing housing developments. Superintendent GILBERT of Kempsville District hired two high school students with proper qualifications to make a continual survey in his territory of roughly 20 square miles during the period from 10 June to 21 August. More than 9,000 premises were inspected, 8 percent were found to have breeding places and another 17½ percent to have potential ones. At a cost of less than \$1,000 these inspections enabled the control crews to know when, where and how much control to apply, a great factor for savings, and in addition gave valuable public relations indoctrination in mosquito control to the homeowners of his district.

IN ANOTHER ISSUE OF "SKEETER," a similar survey in Winchester, Virginia, is reported, in which, while the lagoons at a food processing plant were the obvious source of the principal mosquito population, hundreds of tires in a retreading shop were also found to contain water and to be breeding mosquitoes. Controlling the lagoons would have done little good to the folks who lived and worked near the tire shop and, of course, the personal contact of the survey served to bring to the people concerned their own responsibility for a situation they were no doubt blaming entirely on the conspicuous sources.

ACROSS THE COUNTRY IN ALAMEDA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA, CHET ROBINSON AND MARV KRAMER have been conducting similar surveys and public education and although they are still plagued somewhat by leaky plumbing under houses, their service requests have fallen each month from the number received in previous months and in corresponding months of previous years. This testifies not only to their increasingly effective area control but also to a very effective training of their "public" to detect and avoid or eliminate the back-yard type of breeding so prevalent in uninstructed areas.

ALSO IN CALIFORNIA, LES BRUMBAUGH REPORTS ON HIS INCREASINGLY EFFECTIVE SURVEY AND PUBLIC INDOCTRINATION ACTIVITIES, which persuaded one property owner to install 1,400 feet of drain at his own expense, and also led to pleasant statistics such as 33 percent reduction in mosquito adult populations, 50 percent reduction in service requests, and a reduction of premises found breeding mosquitoes to a mere 1 to 3 percent of those inspected. Drainage of irrigated areas is a big problem to Les, as it is in much of California, and one of his projects was to take eight property owners from one area to see and discuss the drainage control work being done in another.

TO RETURN FOR A MOMENT TO ALAMEDA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA, CHET ROBINSON ALSO REPORTS that his District cooperated with other public agencies on a cattail control program using aminotriazole and dalapon, with which they appeared to have good success and greatly reduced the need for larviciding in the area treated. Marv Kramer and DR. BEN KEH, of the California Bureau of Vector Control, reported on a survey of the County Water District's percolation ponds, where Clear Lake gnat breeding was found and, following the lead of DON GRANT, of San Mateo County, began surveys of biting gnat populations, which point up the fact that communities are increasingly expecting their mosquito abatement organizations to abate other dipterous nuisances as well. Chet's Twenty-Sixth Annual Report, for 1956, contains more detailed information than we can possibly report here, and a lot of mighty fine pictures of his operations, too. If you haven't seen a copy, better ask him for one, because the supply is limited, but it's good, stimulating stuff.

BEFORE WE LEAVE CALIFORNIA, DICK PETER'S BUREAU OF VECTOR CONTROL's very worth-while publication *Vector Views* has an article for November in which RUSS FONTAINE reports on recent indigenous malaria in Sutter County, California. Four cases occurred during August and the "outbreak" is noteworthy principally because it underlines the fact that we have not really conquered malaria, we have merely driven it out, or back. Wherever the carrier has not been exterminated and a host reservoir is introduced (in this case a summertime farm laborer group is suspected), we can expect our old enemy to attempt to infiltrate back among us. We can't slack off the battle yet.

HERBERT P. HERMS, SON OF THE LATE FAMED MOSQUITO CONTROL PIONEER IN CALIFORNIA, reported on his summer campaign to conduct a mosquito breeding survey and canvass and indoctrinate the householders of his Sutter-Yuba Mosquito Abatement District. Ten teams of two members each were formed from among the members of a 4-H Club and in addition to visiting homes, various mass media of information were used.

BLEABAY BEDELL AND JAMES NIMLEY FROM THE MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICTS OF LIBERIA and now at the University of Kansas, whom we mentioned last issue as having visited DON GRANT and others, have now become full-fledged members of our Association and we hereby take occasion to welcome them into the fold, or to keep our metaphor straight should we say flock? We hope that their associations with us strange birds who control mosquitoes will be as pleasant and productive for them as we think they are ourselves.

ALSO TO BE WELCOMED INTO OUR RANKS (THOSE METAPHORS AGAIN!) ARE OWEN HUGH GRAHAM, late mosquito control man for the Army in Panama and now with U.S.D.A. in Kerrville, Texas, and Cdr. (DR.) RICHARD T. HOLWAY, new Insect Vector Control Officer for the Navy on the Pacific Coast.

WHILE WE ARE ON THE NAVY, YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED TO KNOW THAT THE NAVY FIELD RESEARCH LABORATORY has recently published the results of development studies by a unit at Camp Lejeune, N. C., which resulted in a practical, inexpensive rig for dispersal of insecticides by helicopter. This was reported to be easily constructed of parts available at any repair and overhaul facility, except for the nozzles, and does not interfere in any way with the navigability of the helicopter. These studies are of interest to all of us, for when aircraft dispersal by means of craft capable of close, low-level maneuvering, is finally developed, it may well provide the answer which many of us are seeking to the knotty problem of control in inaccessible areas.

SPEAKING OF THE NAVY, YE ASSISTANT SUB-EDITOR FOR NEWS AND NOTES HATES TO CALL ATTENTION TO HIMSELF (however modestly!) BUT . . . feels he must reprint the following from a Stockton (Calif.) paper: "Dr. (!) Austin Morrill, Entomologist for the 12ND Public Works Office at San Bruno, visited the Annex last Wednesday and Thursday. Assisted by Charles Tausig, Annex Sanitation Specialist, Morrill was studying the invective control measures here." No swearing now, . . . please!!

WELL WE HAVE ANOTHER BIT OF NEWS ABOUT DON GRANT, TOO. HE'S BEEN BUSY FOR A.M.C.A. AS PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REPRESENTATIVE and has sent out a very fine news letter to some 80 or more administrative and technical people in control agencies, public health personnel, professional, research and academic people in universities and research centers, representatives of chemical and equipment firms dealing with mosquito control operations, and others. His letter is a strong invitation to join, if they are not now members, and to participate more actively if they are (especially in the matter of getting new members). It is too

early to count the returns, but if the letter doesn't result in at least a goodly handful of new subscriptions to *Mosquito News*, we miss our guess.

WE HAVE RECEIVED THREE WRITE-UPS FROM THE I.C.A. CONCERNING THEIR PEOPLE IN MOSQUITO CONTROL and we reprint portions of them here, since many of our members may know these mosquito control workers and be interested to hear about them.

THE FIRST ONE IS DR. MELVIN E. GRIFFITH, A.M.C.A. MEMBER, FORMERLY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA and the Oklahoma State Department of Health's malaria control project. Dr. Griffith, like the Dr. Butler we reported on last issue, is following in the footsteps of the Thurmans and pushing forward the great accomplishment of malaria control in Thailand. After spending six years as chief malaria adviser to the Thai Ministry of Public Health, he returned in August with his family for some home leave. When they returned in September, it was to an expanded program to which, during his period in office, has been added the responsibility for advisory assistance to Laos and the further stimulating and developing of the intercountry anti-malaria coordination among Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam and Malaya on which HARRY STAGE and others have labored. Dr. Griffith reports that the work is beginning to show real progress.

Mr. John W. Shipp and his family have returned to the United States after spending two years in Libya with the I.C.A. Mr. Shipp was assigned to Tripolitania as Regional Sanitarian. Mr. Shipp has had 12 years of foreign experience, having served with U.N.R.R.A. in Egypt and Greece and with the I.C.A. in Burma and Pakistan. After visiting their several relatives in Wisconsin and Texas, the Shipp's plan to leave for another overseas post.

Mr. Edward Najjar, parasitologist from Virginia and West Virginia, has also returned for a visit to the United States, after two years' work on malaria control in Ethiopia. After visiting his and his wife's parents, the Najjars will return to Ethiopia. Mr. Najjar was born in Beirut, Lebanon, and lived there until he was eighteen, graduating from the American University there. He also holds a B.S. degree from Concord College in West Virginia and an M.S. from the University of North Carolina. He speaks six languages and in addition to a period with the county health department and the Mullens Medical Laboratory in West Virginia, he has served in the I.C.A. mission to Iran. Altogether a rather valuable man and, perhaps, a good prospect for Good Neighbor Club membership in A.M.C.A. as a starter! Any sponsors?

FRED STUTZ SENT US A LETTER AND SOME INTERESTING CLIPPINGS. The clippings are a sort of suspense story about a riled-up resident who took some pot shots at a mosquito spray plane and not only brought it down (on its wheels, but down)

but also critically wounded a passenger who, ironically had gone through World War II and the Korean War as a combat pilot, "without a scratch." The assailant, who claimed to be a "sensible fellow" (!) and to "know right from wrong," nevertheless fired his gun at the plane but "didn't intend" to hit it. (Amazing, these people who shoot off guns but don't "mean" to hit anything!) He claimed the plane had made four or five passes, but the pilot said it was on its second run. Seems as if in this day of trucks, passenger planes and other noise makers, that even four or five passes would hardly excuse this fellow. He obviously wasn't bright enough to understand mosquito control, anyway! Fred tells us the fellow is out on bail awaiting final sentencing and he'll give us the end of the story when it happens. (In the Philippines, once, the Huks fired at one of our spray planes and the Philippine Air Force went right over and fired back. Got 'em, too.)

FRED ALSO SENT HIS 1956 ANNUAL REPORT FOR DADE COUNTY ANTI-MOSQUITO DISTRICT. It's an interesting and illuminating report and points out the expansion that is happening to mosquito control in the addition of the *Culicoides*, tendipedid and ordinary house fly problems. Fred also gives a bow of acknowledgment to the construction men and their housing "developments" which are changing the landscape around so many American cities now, but points out that while the land-filling is useful in terms of mosquito control, it does not end the swamp problem and may make it worse by leaving inaccessible pockets or moving more population into areas the mosquitoes formerly had to themselves, sort of. The builders have even taken over the airports so that Fred says he's got a real problem finding a take-off place for his spray planes.

STAN CARPENTER HAS ARRIVED FOR HIS SECOND TOUR OF DUTY AT THE SIXTH ARMY MEDICAL LABORATORY, Ft. Baker, California, a part of the Presidio of San Francisco. He brings us word that Capt. R. A. HEDEEN has joined the staff at Ft. Sam Houston, Texas, the Medical Field Service School. Col. Carpenter is looking around for a house and is planning (we Californians hope) to settle down here for keeps. While we're at it . . . we might as well start our Who's Who with him:

STAN WAS BORN IN OLD KENTUCKY in 1904 and went to school there and in Tennessee, getting his Master's at the University of Tennessee and then going on for his further work at Ohio State. He was Medical Entomologist for the Arkansas State Health Department from 1937 to 1941, and published the still-definitive *Mosquitoes of Arkansas*. In 1941 he entered the Army as a Captain and saw duty as entomologist of the Seventh Corps Area, the Persian Gulf Command, the Fourth Service Command Laboratory (Atlanta, Ga.), the Ninth Service Command Laboratory (San Francisco), the Second Army Medical Laboratory (New York), the Caribbean Army Com-

mand and the Laboratory of the Medical Field Graduate School at Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, D. C. He also worked or travelled on advisory tours in Western and Central Africa, Egypt, Iran, Kuwait, Central America, Western Europe, Japan and Korea, so you can see that there are very few places mosquitoes go that Stan hasn't been. His *Mosquitoes of North America* is, of course, a modern classic. He is a member of the Entomological Society of America, the A.M.C.A. the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, the Entomological Society of Washington, D. C., the California Mosquito Control Association and other learned societies, but he speaks perfectly understandable English.

DON COLLINS, OUR EDITOR, has heretofore forestalled our writing anything laudatory or otherwise about him, not by censoring it out but by the simple process of not furnishing it. We finally cornered him and he gave up and promised not to depart too much from his policy of non-interference with associate editors' contribution. If this appears in print, you'll know we either eluded him, or he kept his word. So: . . . DON was born, not in the Education Building of the Empire State but in Union Springs, N. Y., wherever *that* is. He attended Hobart College and then received his M.S. and Ph.D. from Harvard in 1930 and 1933, respectively. While in college, he not only majored in chemistry and biology but studied a great deal of English and history. He has had a highly varied career, which included field work with the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station and the U. S. Department of Agriculture, teaching at Hobart College, research at Cornell, being chief of the agricultural chemical research for Pennsylvania Salt Co. and finally State Entomologist of New York. He is author of fifty or more papers on subjects ranging from codling moth, bark beetles and Dutch elm disease, through ticks, blackflies, mosquitoes, etc., to aerosols, insect physiology and other abstract and higher level matters. He is a past member of the Council of the American Association for the Advancement of Science as well as a Fellow of that organization, past President of the Albany club of Sigma Xi, past President of the Harvard Association of Eastern N. Y., member of the Entomological Society of America, the Northeastern Mosquito Control Association, the Northeastern Forest Pest Council, and several others. (He is also a member of the American Mosquito Control Association, in case you didn't know it—M.G.S.) His hobbies are skin diving, swimming, rose culture and painting, a mixture of the athletic and the thoughtful—and he must spend long hours on *Mosquito News*. . . . We'd tell you more but he's hell on deadlines. . . .

NEW MEMBER OWEN HUGH GRAHAM, whom we mentioned earlier, was born in Thorndale, Texas in 1917 and received his B.S. and M.S. from Texas A. and M. College. He began his work

in entomology with the U. S. Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, working on arthropod transmission of plant virus diseases and on the control of the alfalfa weevil. In 1942, he transferred to the investigation of insects affecting man and animals but in less than a year the Army snatched him to be a First Louie in the Sanitary Corps. He was overseas, in New Guinea, for two and a half years, ending up in the Philippines with the Fifth Malaria Survey Unit (which also worked on schistosomiasis, fly control and such). After the war, for four years he was with the Livestock Insects Laboratory at Kerrville, Texas, and then for six years was entomologist for the Headquarters of the U. S. Army Caribbean Command, stationed at Ft. Clayton in the Canal Zone. He is now the Assistant Station Leader of the U.S.D.A. Kerrville Lab. Welcome to A.M.C.A., Hugh!

ANOTHER TEXAN (BY ADOPTION) IS PROFESSOR OSMOND P. BRELAND of the University of Texas in Austin. He was born in 1910 in Decatur, Mississippi and attended Mississippi State for his B.A. degree, moving on to Indiana University for his doctorate. From 1936 to 1938 he taught at North Dakota State College in Fargo, but in 1938 he saw the light and moved to Texas. He has also done summer teaching at C.C.N.Y. and Sioux Falls College (South Dakota). From 1943 to 1946 he was with the Sanitary Corps of the Army and is still an active reservist like many another shining light in entomology and in mosquito control in particular. He is author of a large number of technical and semi-popular articles and of four text books on zoology and biology. His hobby is stamp collecting, so any of you collectors who don't have a series of Texas stamps, here's your chance. (What's that? Texas doesn't *issue* its own stamps and coins? Oh, come now!)

RECENTLY, WE TOLD YOU HOW ONE OF OUR WELL-KNOWN MEMBERS LEFT HIS ABATEMENT DISTRICT TO COME TO THE RESCUE OF THE THIRTEENTH NAVAL DISTRICT'S PUBLIC WORKS OFFICE AND THEIR INSECT AND RODENT CONTROL PROGRAM. Well, to see how well you read this column, we'll let you guess who he is by reprinting here the dope about him he had to turn in when he reported aboard in Seattle:

He was born in 1914 in Connell, Washington, and was raised on farms in Washington and Oregon. He took his pre-medical work at the University of Washington (pre-med being, as you all know, also pre-entomology) and later went to the University of Arizona, where he majored in entomology and economic zoology and received his B.S. in 1941. He was in the Sanitary Corps of the Army from 1942 to April 1946, during which time, among other assignments, he was active in the campaign to control bubonic plague in Dakar, French West Africa, when DDT was

used for the first time (to control plague) by eradication of fleas in that city of 150,000 people. After the war he was a college instructor for two years and then was recalled into the Army. In 1949 he transferred his commission to the U. S. Public Health Service and in this capacity served as consultant to the Oregon State Board of Health. For some four years he was in the pest control business but sold his share to his partner and became director of the Lane County Mosquito Control program, which position he has held for the past four years. In June of this year, he left Oregon to become the entomologist for the Thirteenth Naval District. Oh, *now* you remember? Yes, MILT BUEHLER.

THE JOSEPH AUGUSTIN LEPRINCE AWARD, consisting of a bronze medal, a certificate and an honorarium of \$500, is now presented every 3 years by the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene to a person for outstanding accomplishment in the field of malaria. This year the honor was bestowed upon Dr. Louis L. Williams, internationally known for his work in malaria control. At the start of World War II he organized and developed the office of Malaria

Control in War Areas and has become known as the father of malaria eradication in the United States. After he retired as chief of the International Health Division, U.S.P.H.S., in 1953, he joined the staff of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau as consultant and here his fight against malaria continues on an even broader scale.

GENE WOODS EARNED A GOOD, BIG WRITE-UP IN THE KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE BULLETIN for October, when two columns of the front page were given over to a description of his highly successful 1957 mosquito control campaign. During the second year of air spray operations, 113,200 acres were aerially treated, using their own spray plane, at a cost of only 48¢ per acre. In addition to their own work, the State's abatement program assisted those of several counties and of the Calvert City area. We got this news from faithful BILL BICKLEY, who is always eager to see that other people get publicity for their good work. We'd be glad to hear more about you from *You*, GENE, from time to time. How about it? (And how about it, you other guys who modestly hide your lights under bushels?)

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