

ACTIVITIES IN MEMBER STATESNew Jersey Convention Moves

Plans for the 1943 Annual Meeting of the New Jersey Mosquito Extermination Association reveal that the meeting has left Atlantic City for the first time since the organization of the Association in 1914. The meeting is to be held in nearby Absecon at the Seaview Golf Club on March 10, 11, 12, 1943. Timely and interesting discussions are planned with the main theme "Control of Malaria in War Time and War Areas".

Mosquito Control in Rhode Island
For the Year 1942

Milton H. Price,
Mosq. Control Supervisor

A law for the suppression or eradication of pest mosquitoes was passed in 1934. This law provides for a State Mosquito Control Supervisor whose task it is, at the request of a harassed city or town, to draw up plans for its relief. If the local authority accepts the plans, it is obligated to furnish equipment and materials for carrying them out. It is likewise obligated to maintain the work when completed. Federal Relief Agencies in the past have provided the necessary labor for construction.

These facts should be kept clearly in mind when reviewing a year during which no mosquito project was sponsored by city or town, and when relief labor was quickly being absorbed by the war effort.

Certainly the year 1942 started off suspiciously for mosquito control. The Public Health Service was responsible. At its request, a project was drawn up which called for the expenditure of \$300,000 of Federal Funds to eliminate mosquito breeding places adjacent to defense

areas. Malarial mosquitoes are known to exist throughout the season in Washington County. Since we have in our midst a large influx of service men and defense workers from malaria districts of the South, the Federal Officers sought to eliminate all possibility of an epidemic.

The Federal Funds were available, however, only if some local of State authority were to guarantee maintenance of the finished project. No local authority would accept the responsibility because the proposed work did not directly benefit residential areas. And the State Legislature rejected a bill, sponsored jointly by the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Health, which would have provided funds to maintain not only the new project, but also \$2,250,000 worth of old projects.

When the State bill failed to pass, the Federal officers withdrew their offer; and, except for providing two men for control work inside military establishments, they have dropped the matter of protecting defense areas.

A small force of W. P. A. labor worked for the greater part of the year in the vicinity of Fort Nathaniel Greene. The salt marsh at Point Judith was ditched and some of the fresh water breeding areas corrected. As a result, much less mosquito annoyance was noted in this area during the past summer.

W. P. A. also furnished the State with two mosquito inspectors during the breeding season. These men worked in areas near military establishments, charting breeding places in North Kingstown and Narragansett. Similar data has been gathered during the past four years from other areas of the state in order that this Office may know where pest mosquitoes originate; and breeding area maps have been made available to local authorities.

The wet summer, coupled with failure of most cities and towns to honor their agreement to keep mosquito ditches open, caused excessive mosquito breeding--much to the annoyance of both civilians and our armed forces. Complaints

were received from all parts of the state. Since October 5, because relief labor is lacking to do mosquito control work, the State Mosquito Control Supervisor has been assigned to patrol duty with the State Office of Fish and Game. But before he left, he placed maps, showing where construction work should be maintained, in the hands of the proper authority in each town and city.