

THE 1982 LECTURER

PROFESSOR W. C. REEVES, Ph.D., M.P.H.

Professor W. C. Reeves, distinguished scientist, scholar, and teacher, with a long and illustrious record of contributions in medical entomology and public health, is the first American to present the annual AMCA Memorial Lecture. It is most appropriate that his scientific contributions be so recognized by AMCA since his research career has been concerned with elucidation of the biological factors that control the spread of viral diseases by arthropod vectors, with emphasis on these infestations that are spread by mosquito vectors of human and veterinary health importance. His teaching career has focused on infectious disease epidemiology.

His public career began as a Research Entomologist with the Hooper Foundation for Medical Research, University of California, San Francisco, when he joined the W. McD. Hammon team that consisted of a physician, a public health entomologist, a vertebrate zoologist, and a virologist. During the summer of 1941 in the Yakima Valley, Washington, the team brilliantly succeeded in unwinding the intricacies of the infection chains of both western equine encephalomyelitis (WEE) and St. Louis encephalitis (SLE) viruses. They proved that *Culex tarsalis* was a vector and that birds were serving as principal sources of vector infection. Utilizing the methods it had developed, the team took the opportunity to study WEE and SLE in Oregon, Texas, Nebraska, New Mexico, Arizona and Oklahoma and subsequently broadened their perspectives with studies on Japanese encephalitis in Okinawa, Japan and Guam and on Murray Valley encephalitis in Australia.

With the knowledge and experience gained in the pioneering efforts of the immediate past, work was focused on and continues to this day on the complex biologic interrelationship between virus, vector and vertebrate in an endemic area in Kern County, California.

The encephalitis research organization was subsequently transferred to the School of Public Health, University of California, Berkeley. With the new affiliation, this research program has also served for the past 3 decades as an integrated training center to supply the procedural principles for studying arboviruses to a large number of workers from all over the world.

During his distinguished career of over 40 years, Professor Reeves has authored over 150 scientific papers, mostly on mosquitoes and mosquito-borne diseases. He is presently Head, Program in Epidemiology, Department of Biomedical and Environmental Health Sciences. He served admirably as the Dean of the School of Public Health during the difficult 1967-71 period of considerable student unrest. Throughout this period, Professor Reeves has served as chair, member and consultant on countless assignments with state, federal and international agencies dealing with the biomedical sciences. He has served as President of the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene; American Committee, Arthropod-Borne Viruses; International Northwest Conference of Diseases of Nature Communicable to Man; Alumni Association, School of Public Health, U.C. Berkeley. He has been awarded the Richard Moreland Taylor Award for Achievement in Arbovirology (1973); Delta Omega Society, National Merit Award for Outstanding Achievement in Public Health (1980); Honorary Fellow, Queensland Institute of Medical Research (1981); and the Distinguished Teaching Award, U.C. Berkeley (1980-81).

Professor Reeves' achievement in research, teaching and public service is clearly exemplary and inspirational to all members of the Association. His many accomplishments can be attributed to his

strong sense of leadership with lifelong commitment to teamwork that best typifies the team efforts on Finlay, Reed

and Gorgas so necessary in the first major step towards the conquest of yellow fever.

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS—1982¹

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Fellow members, ladies and gentlemen, it is a pleasure indeed to be here in Sacramento, for I consider myself an adopted Californian, having arrived from Switzerland 47 years ago. I left California in 1950 and since then have become a nomad, a more or less normal state when one works for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This is not meant as a derogatory comment, for much can be learned by living in many different places.

This morning I would like to depart from the usual Presidential Address wherein is highlighted scientific breakthroughs or other important aspects of vector control. You will hear many excellent presentations on all aspects of mosquito control during this meeting, and so I see no reason to present anything to you secondhand. For the past 10 years I have been totally involved in research administration, and it will be from that vantage point that I come to you today. Thus, I would like to philosophize about AMCA and its interrelationships and how we can capitalize on the diversity of our membership to make a more effective and stronger AMCA. In so doing, I am continuing and building upon the short messages that have appeared in the *AMCA Newsletter*. I believe that we have a common goal—service to the public, as well as to our state, regional, and national mosquito control organizations, which are all interrelated.

I would like to discuss briefly some of the factors that underpin everything we do, our *modus operandi*.

One of the key factors deals with our interrelationships, a code of ethics, if you will. I believe that the aphorism that is so aptly used in computer language, "garbage in, garbage out," can be restated for the purpose of this discussion as, "What we put in, we get out," or to put it another way, if you plant squash seed, you cannot expect a muskmelon (as I found out to my sorrow last summer, as I never had so many zucchini squash in my life).

If there is little or no input, as depicted by the let-George-do-it syndrome, then anything that does get done is by default because there simply are not enough Georges to go around. So as far as I am concerned, this means that we must be willing to become involved and assume some responsibility. That is the bottom line.

About now you are probably wondering what on earth all of this has to do with the American Mosquito Control Association. A little patience, please, for I believe that it has a lot to do with our organization and the people in it.

I look at our organization as an organic entity: it is more than just the sum of its parts—members, committees, board of directors, etc. This is because each and every one of us can interact and provide a different input, from those who pay their dues and are often never heard from again (those afflicted with the let-George-do-it mentality) to those on the other end of the scale who contribute unstintingly to AMCA. These latter individ-

¹ Presidential Address given before the 38th Annual Meeting of the American Mosquito Control Association, Sacramento, California, April 19, 1982.