

of this marsh are located Army, Navy and Coast Guard Units, and here a mechanical mosquito trap has taken catches of over 100 *An. quadrimaculatus* female mosquitoes in a single night. To aid the Commission in providing protection for the nearby residents and various units of the armed forces, the County Board of Chosen Freeholders is constructing a tide gate and pumping station at the inner end of the pipe to elevate the water from the marsh so that it may drain by gravity through the pipe into the tide water. The concrete sump and supporting structure has been completed, and was inspected. The two tide gates and a 12" vertical propeller pump for low-head service will be placed in position and will begin operation in the spring of 1945.

At the conclusion of the observations described, the inspection party dispersed; some leaving by train from the city of Cape May, others by automobile. All pronounced the trip a very profitable experience.

IN MEMORIAM

A TRIBUTE TO JOHN P. PETERSON

By JESSE B. LESLIE, *Executive Secretary*

The Bergen County Mosquito Extermination Commission

Back in 1915 I first met John P. Peterson. At that time I had just come into Bergen County from Camden County to take charge of the mosquito work then being started in Bergen. One of my first jobs was to recruit a field force. I interviewed a number of young men at the Court House who had applied for jobs. Among them was a ruddy faced youngster with a ready smile who bubbled over with enthusiasm. He had become interested in mosquito control as one of the original survey party in Haworth in 1914 and he thoroughly believed that the work was practical and could accomplish great results. His faith and enthusiasm appealed to me so I hired him.

In the fall of that year the working force necessarily had to be cut down. On the salt marsh I had the old "Meadow Horse" Otto Vogler. On the upland, I could keep but one inspector. I chose John Peterson. Others had more formal education, perhaps could write more flowery reports, but when it came to straight from the shoulder results, I would back "Pete" every time.

And so our association began; an association that continued uninterrupted for nearly thirty years, except for 1917-1918, when we were separated while in service in the Army of the United States. Gradually more responsibility was placed on "Pete's" shoulders, and when I went on a part time basis, he became the Superintendent, in full charge of the field work of the Commission.

If there ever was a harder worker or a more conscientious one, I've never met him. Hours meant nothing, and Saturday afternoons and Sundays were like any other day if there was mosquito work that needed to be done. During the early days of the Commission when the ground-work was being done, and ridicule of the work and prejudice against it had to be overcome, Peterson did yeoman missionary service. His personality put the work across, time and time again. Pete was known from one end of the County to the other. Known and liked. And because people liked Pete they were friendly toward the work. Mayors, Councilmen, Engineers, Health Officers, Freeholders—all knew John Peterson—knew him as a mosquito man; knew him as a conscientious, honest, hard-working public officer; knew him and trusted him.

And Peterson never betrayed that trust; nor did he ever lose his faith in the work, nor his enthusiasm for it. He had ability and good judgment and he built the Bergen County Commission to a place in the sun, and was justly proud of the position taken by this Commission under his leadership.

He was faithful to the end. The day before he died, when many a less determined man would have given up, he was at his desk. It was a privilege to have been associated with such a man, and I feel that the work that he gave his life to made definite progress because of his untiring efforts.