

NEWS AND NOTES

MOSQUITOES OUT?—Significant results may be expected from a vast operation aimed at complete eradication of malaria-carrying mosquitoes on the island of Sardinia, off the coast of Italy. Quietly sponsored by the Rockefeller Foundation, this \$12,000,000 experiment—financed in large part by Italian funds set aside under the Marshall Plan—combines fully mechanized operations with the refinements of scientific control. A path to rich developments in tropical areas may be cleared by the techniques and methods perfected.—W. THOM, *Eng. News Record*, Nov. 18, 1948.

MOUNT VERNON MAD FORMED IN PLACER COUNTY DURING APRIL. It has been recently discovered that a new mosquito abatement district was formed in California, called the Mt. Vernon MAD. The district is approximately 50 square miles in area and includes Penryn, of historical importance in California malarial control.

Mosquito Buzz

In December the Consolidated District instituted a new printed Monthly Work Sheet. It is a combined monthly operational report and material and maintenance report. This report replaces the weekly report which involved too much paper handling.

Mosquito Buzz

TOMMY MULHERN WAS INTERVIEWED BY JOE BIERS on the "News of the Farm" program over radio station WOR last summer (August 24, to be exact), and took occasion to explain why so many public gatherings in New Jersey have been free of mosquitoes. It seems that spraying the areas with New Jersey larvicide before the outdoor meetings had something to do with it. In response to questions from the interviewer, Tommy went on to mention some of the other manifold activities of New Jersey mosquito control men, and in so doing he performed the valuable service of acquainting the public with some of their headaches and difficulties, which citizens in general sometimes fail to appreciate.

D. L. C.

JAMES ZETEK RECEIVES DECORATION. The Republic of Panama has conferred its highest award, the Vasco Nuñez Balboa decoration, on James Zetek of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine who did some of the early work on the malaria mosquitoes of that country and the Canal Zone.

Mr. Zetek has worked in the Canal Zone and the Republic of Panama for 38 years and is the most widely known and best informed scientist in that region. In addition to his work on mosquitoes, he has conducted research on many problems and as resident manager of the Barro Colorado Island natural history preserve and scientific

laboratory has done much to promote interest of scientists of many disciplines in the biology of Central America.

F. C. BISHOPP

DARLING FOUNDATION TO BE ADMINISTERED BY WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION. The Darling Foundation and International Malaria Prize was created by private funds in 1925 in memory of Dr. Samuel T. Darling who was accidentally killed while on a mission for the League of Nations Malaria Commission.

The Darling Fund is to be administered henceforth by WHO, and the Expert Committee on Malaria of WHO is to prepare new statutes for the foundation and will recommend to WHO a candidate for the medal and prize which is awarded periodically to the author of an original contribution to the pathology or prophylaxis of malaria.

Col. S. P. James was the recipient of the award in 1934 and Dr. N. H. Swellengrebel in 1937.

F. C. BISHOPP

If you haven't seen the stationery of the Merced County MAD, we suggest that you find an excuse to write to this California outfit. You might address E. A. Smith, Manager and Entomologist, or Stanley K. Blake, Administrative Ass't.

On the back of the sheet, there is a colored map of the county of Merced, with the industries and resources interestingly and often comically portrayed. Included are gold nuggets, beef cattle, Grade A cows, and happy luscious tomatoes. The lack of even the smallest mosquito, however, leads us to believe that either Merced is not bragging about that kind of fauna, or else that mosquito extermination is virtually complete. Congratulations, boys; we admire your originality and artistry.

H. L. T.

The Virginia Mosquito Control Association held its Second Annual Convention, Friday, January 28, 1949, at Old Point Comfort, Va. It was our privilege to be among the approximately 200 members and guests present when President Perry W. Ruth called the meeting to order in the Hotel Chamberlin.

The morning session included the Presidential Address, as well as addresses by high-ranking navy and army officers from the military installations which are so numerous and extensive in that section of Tidewater Virginia. These men stressed the value to mosquito control of cooperation between military and civilian personnel, and expressed appreciation of the work being done by the Virginia Association. The President of the Federation of Garden Clubs of Norfolk and Vicinity presented an outstanding paper entitled, "Mutual relations of Women's Clubs and mosquito control activities."

Luncheon in the Virginia Room was highlighted by the presence of the Hon. Wm. M. Tuck, Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Governor Tuck is a genial man and an enthusiastic speaker, and he gave to the assemblage the feeling that mosquito control has in him a staunch ally.

In the afternoon, technical papers predominated. Some titles were: "A resumé of mosquitoes trapped in 1948"; "Plans for the study of the effect of DDT on blue crabs"; "The jeep as a vehicle for mosquito control"; "A new nozzle for catch basin spraying"; and "The use of small pressure sprayers in mosquito control."

A business session followed. Officers elected and inducted for 1949 were:

- President, Stuart M. Gibson—Hampton
- 1st V. P. W. Payton May—Virginia Beach,
- 2nd V. P. J. C. Morris—Hilton Village
- 3rd V. P. L. H. Denny—Portsmouth
- Sec.-Treas, Rowland E. Dorer—Norfolk

Perry W. Ruth, who had persistently refused nomination for a third term, turned his gavel over to Stuart Gibson, and retired; and Rowland Dorer on behalf of "some of the boys" presented Ruth with a Parker Pen and Pencil set. The retiring President and members can look back to the two first years of the VMCA as successful and inspirational ones; and they can look ahead to the many more years which lie before them, full of promise and continued success. H. L. T.

The following resolution was drafted by the committee and approved by the association, in

recognition of the outstanding services rendered to the Virginia Association by Mr. Ruth.

WHEREAS, Perry W. Ruth, of Norfolk, Virginia, was unanimously elected and inducted into office on January 24, 1947, as the first President of the Virginia Mosquito Control Association, which he has served for two (2) terms of one (1) year each; and

WHEREAS, He has contributed towards the success of this Association by his untiring efforts in its development and the continued efficient service he has rendered in its behalf, with loyalty, dignity, and able leadership during the entire tenure of his office; and

WHEREAS, He is retiring as President of the Association as of this date; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the thanks of this Association in convention assembled be extended to Mr. Ruth for the fine conduct of his office and to express the wish that he will be spared for many years to come to continue the excellent work he has accomplished in mosquito control operations, and that he will also continue to take a great interest in the activities of this Association.

RESOLVED, Further that this resolution be published in the next issue of the "Skeeter," our official organ.

Committee
 R.E.D.

Old Point Comfort, Virginia
 January 28, 1949

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