NEWS AND NOTES

AUSTIN W. MORRILL, JR.

For the first time in memory we are writing these notes for the June issue before taking off for the AMCA meetings so we can't tell you a thing about them even though we're going and all, except we know that if you didn't go too, you missed a mighty fine time! Maybe if we find a typewriter some place in Boston and type like mad we can get you a word or two, because both Ye Ed and Margaret Slater are going to be there. READ ON!

Ye Olde Harry Stage sent us a card from Mexico City to say he was encountering no problems but lots of orchids and, since its the dry season in the tropics until April, he expected more of the same in San Salvador and Costa Rica. Hope you found plenty, Harry, and had a momento to call in on the PAHO people.

Dr. Bill Hazletine, still taking on big brother, up and told EPA that while the farm union in California claims the right to enter the farmer's property to organize his labor against him, the M A D's have granted no such right to EPA to inspect their mosquito control. He got a grudging acknowledgment out of them, too, that indeed they did have no such right and after several mealy-mouth paragraphs of all the rights they did have, came right down and said (in several hundred well chosen words) that they could only make inspections if they had a court warrant, unless, of course, the State agency felt like letting them. . . . !

Meanwhile George Hutton, representing the sovereign state of Indiana at a meeting between states and EPA, in Sacramento, (perhaps because California has been causing EPA so many problems?), said the meetings were strenuous and productive and that everyone understood everyone else a lot better. And, we add, perhaps it was again made clear that the States know what they're doing, too. (We speak as a born Confederate. Like to hear our Rebel Yell?)

Ye Ed, being eruditer than we are, is a member of the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene and he has sent us the issue of their NEWS in which was printed the comprehensive remarks made by Bill Reeves in presenting the Richard Moreland Taylor Award to Roy Chamberlain. Dr. Reeves pointed out the jewel-among-many in Dr. Roy's crown, that he had spearheaded the studies that led to the realization that the encephalitides could be carried by a wide range of unlikely mosquitoes, which was to prove so useful in gaining a handle on the VEE in the Texas outbreak. His work in the identification of, and in the body of knowledge about, the many viruses and strains now known to exist has, of course, been a major milestone in arbovirology.

We noted in the same issue, however, that the Society found its Banquet a bit lacking in both the quantity and quality usually to be confidently expected in New Orleans, where they were meeting, and we wondered if anyone brought up the subject of eating those protein-rich little tidbits, mosquito larvae.

Returning for the moment to EPA, we have a letter written by Dr. Etcyl Blair of Dow Chemical to Tommy, whom he addresses as Mr. Mulka (That'll teach you to TYPE your name, Tommy!), in which he points out that considerations both of protection of the environment and of food and health, require that we move pretty quickly out of the arena of adversarial contention, which many of us consider to be detrimental even in its traditional courtroom. Dr. Blair thinks getting back to the local level may be "the way" but, as he does not add, local levels have in the past proved so venal that those who won't listen to scientific fact and reasonable discussion won't listen to having EPA run locally either.

Bruce Ezell got our message loud and clear and has sent us some nice info from South Carolina: "Research work continues on mosquito breeding associated with Dredged Soil Disposal Sites (this is the new U.S. Army term for what most MAD Directors call "Spoil Areas") at The Citadel. Currently our research effort is sponsored by The Citadel Development Foundation, the Corps of Engineers and the S.C. Dept. of Health & Environmental Control. The grave danger of mosquitoes associated with hydraulic disposal sites was first studied in South Carolina by the Charleston County Mosquito Abatement Program. This agency (S.C.'s first MAD) brought the problem to the attention of The Citadel and S.C. Vector Control officials.

"New personnel brought into this interdisciplinary research effort," Bruce continues, "include Dr. D. L. Kline (Ph.D. N.C. State), Dr. R. P. Purcher (Ph.D. U.S.C.) and Dr. Edward Ryan (Civil Engineer)

"We are very interested," he concludes, "in hearing from MAD's that have a problem with dredged soil disposal sites. Another 'first' with this program will be the use of a national opinion survey form to be used to compare and contrast the attitudes of MAD's, State Vector Control officials, and the Corps of Engineers. If you are an MAD director and have a problem with dredged soil disposal sites, please write for further infor-
mation to: Dr. Wm. Bruce Ezell, Jr., HSA Project Director, The Citadel: Dept. of Biology, Charleston, S. C. 29409.

Those of you who've been in South Carolina don't need to be told what The Citadel is (or that Dr. Porcher's name is "Po'shy?") but for those of us from Out West, U.S.C. is, in this case, the University of South Carolina. We note you can always trust the Army to make four words do the work of two, but it is a big advance to get the Corps of Engineers to admit that dredging is anything but an unalloyed good, and for that we do congratulate Bruce and his cohorts. So y'all write him, hear?

Mike Loving also spoke up for South Carolina (or from there) to tell us about the meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Mosquito Association held in Savannah on 3, 4 and 5 March. The list of those present included papers many AMCA notables and is far too long to reprint here and too notable to make selections therefrom, except to say that it included Prexy H. C. Chapman and Ex-Prexy Bob Altman as well as (further back) ex-Prexies Harry Pratt, Rollie Dorer, Ken Knight, Bill Bickley, Tommy Mulhern and George Carmichael. Rollie is proxy of MAMCA this year.

"It was an excellent meeting," adds Mike, sending along a program which certainly supports his contention, "and a good time was had by all. There were about 200 registered at the meeting, representing about a dozen states and federal agencies. The Chatham County Mosquito Control Commission, under the direction of Mr. Oscar Fultz, did an excellent job of local arrangements, including a delicious steak cook-out.

"New officers for the coming year were elected and include:
President—L. A. Williams, Jr.—S.C. Dept. of Health and Environmental Control
Vice President—C. J. McCotter—Pamlico, N.C. County Health Dept.
"Dick Axtell will continue to serve as Secretary-Treasurer and Mr. Al Harris will replace Mr. McCotter as the North Carolina representative on the Board of Directors. Next year the MAMCA will be meeting in Virginia."

Harold G. Wilson has retired to the place we were born in, then a small village and now the center of "the world." Disney World, that is—

"In 1960, I purchased an apartment complex near the Orange Memorial Hospital here in Orlando," he writes from P.O. Box 8354, Orlando, Florida, and naming a figure which seems to us fairly astronomical, "and recently refused an offer of [an absolutely astronomical figure] for the acre of property, so I have reached the stage that I can really retire in comfort." Harold extends "an invitation to any of you who might happen to visit in Orlando to come by and see me and pos-
sibly we might be able to take a ride on one of the numerous waterways in this part of the State. The fishing is wonderful—in fact I have seen the time that you almost have to get behind a tree to bait your hook. . . .!" (Better watch your language, we might take you up on it!!)

Donald Shrover writes in sorrow to inform us of the death of Russ Siverly from a heart attack on 21 February. "Dr. Siverly's patient and tireless labors as a mosquito worker will certainly be missed." Don adds, "I feel particular loss in his passing, since he sparked and cultivated my interest in the Culicidae during my undergraduate years." It is a statement many could make. Russ's comprehensive and highly understandable key to the Indiana species, of a year or so ago, and his service as a Cooperator in the National Mosquito Identification Service were well known, and his participation at meetings will be sorely missed, as well.

Diya hear about CDC's new home study courses? There are two of especial interest . . . one, 3010G, "Community Hygiene," has two lessons on Vector and Rodent-Borne Disease Control, and other lessons covering every aspect of community hygiene, if one wishes to go into it deeper; the other, 3013G, "Vectorborne Disease Control," entirely along our line of work. Information on these courses is available from the Chief of Home-study Activity, in the Bureau of Training, of the CDC, which, so you won't have to look it up, is: Atlanta, Georgia 30333. You may even be able to get college credit!

The Society of Vector Ecologists held their Southern Regional Meeting on 12 March in San Bernardino (California) where they heard Lyle Stotelmyre discuss Vector Control in Vietnam as well as the program of mosquito control in San Bernardino, which he heads. In the afternoon, Dr. Raymond Ryckman, of Loma Linda University, talked on Trypanosomiasis (Chagas) in Venezuela borne by a vector which is of some occasional concern to MAD's of the southwest, too.

Kathryn Sommerman came on a quote Hugo Jamback found and published in his "Bloodsucking Flies and Other Outdoor Nuisance Arthropods of New York State" in 1969. Hugo was quoting the famed Brues of Brues and Melander, as follows: "In describing the reasons for the hasty adoption of the American Declaration of Independence by the Continental Congress on July 4th 1776. Jefferson writes:

'The weather was oppressively warm, and the room occupied by the deputies was hard by a stable, whence the hungry flies swarmed thick and fierce, alighting on their legs and biting hard through their silk stockings. Treason was preferable to discomfort.'

"No entomologist, after reading this paragraph,
can question the fact that the "hungry flies" were something but literary clichés, so characteristic in Jefferson's satires. Do you Florida and East Coast MAFI's remember "dog flies"? "House flies being below a scraper? Yeah.

And J. N. KNOWS MEAD IS A JOLLY WE'LL PARK ON.

Two mosquitoes once in the forests
Of two fast and prevailed creatures, (last century?)
"Oh, the grandstands are full
And we won't much pull...
So we're seeing the game from the bleachers."

Roy Ellis, Regional Director, Ontario, who is now entomologist for Westinghouse, has sent an article on two related happenings in his area, both of considerable interest. Four off, mosquito workers in two provinces have joined to form mosquito control associations: Alberta M.C.A. was formed in 1974 (but not, we think, appropriately named here, alas) with Karen Evans of Edmonton as first president; last year the Ontario M.C.A. took wing under the presidency of Ross Wray of the University of Guelph. Roy has already asked for appointments in every province and the Manitoba M.C.A. should be organized this year and a Canadian M.C.A. soon after. Can Quebec be far behind? "Busy..."

"With mosquito control becoming more and more organized," Roy continues, "throughout officials in Canada are starting to use them...to share their experiences. The O.M.C.A. meeting took place at Toronto. Although the Province is taking mosquito control more seriously now, progress is being impeded by environmentalists, particularly those on the main line."

"We think that "mosquito" is a better designation than merely "harmful," don't you?"

"Alberta M.C.A. members got together in March...in Edmonton and...Street Townshend...the first meeting...some of the more prominent...including H. N. Samson, D. H. Morey, E. S. Swanson, C. H. Shaver, R. A. Skee, R. A. Ellis, J. M. Luce..." (Missouri)..."

"Western Ontario, endemic to the Canadian west, took off last August in Manitoba. Colby native populations were in timorous mood and weather conditions perfect...for mosquitoes. With over 1,000 cases and almost as many suspected human cases, a health emergency was declcharred by provincial health authorities. Emergency mosquito operations were carried out under Roy's direction, employing a DC-3 to apply/BugAlicy...bellyakers to apply...grass...gulls...trucks...trucks...to fog with methoxychlor...and trucks...with the M.C.A. One can use why knee-deep environmentalists, who are never confused with facts, would react to these

"Surely, particularly feeling, as they do, that mosquitoes are more important than humans. A full account will be published this year as a special monograph of the Canadian Public Health Association."

DUNCAN AS BILL HALEY, Roy took on the press with a stately and persuasive letter to the Toronto Star. After reviewing the past and health aspects of mosquitoes in Canada and mentioning the appropriateness of the methods of control employed, and the competency of Canadian operators to employ them, he went on to give the media a dignified chat which we think would do readers everywhere a world of good to praise."

"Too often," Roy said, "the news media are the cause of undue public distrust over the use of insecticides. Every newspaper appreciates that "end of the world stories are good copy. Editors that allow themselves to be manipulated by these extreme environmentalists on the mosqui..." or by those equally extreme who are "giving hue to insecticides. Should never hard to keep their articles how..."

"Fortunately, Canada has leading experts in every field relating to mosqui...logic and control and most of these people are willing to provide information to the public. I would encourage any of these experts cannot disseminate the information because of their employer's policy, within the limits."

"Because the media play a major role in in...dominating public and political opinion, I would encourage all to get the facts right."

"How many people suffer under malnutrition, infection, paralysis, mental retardation, premature mortality, or even death unnecessarily before Canadians recognize the need for mosquito control?"

"Here, here!"

Helen Skiles-Reid, had a very nice write-up by Jim Foster in the Frankfort News of the American Registry of Professional Entomologists, and the article, besides detailing Helen's extreme accomplishments, which we all know, has a very nice picture of her. Personal comment is supposed to be good form, but Helen's truly earned a lot of weight and it's never becoming! Work under all those conditions of reference doesn't affect her good looks or her good humor. She always wearing a hat! How come? Anyway, Jim says her D.C. rain has been a "joke.

"Wouldn't you know! She surely deserves it if anyone does, isn't he?"

"Section D is so neatly arranged...in membership with AMEC that perhaps ideas of these things seems "dying to be separated..."