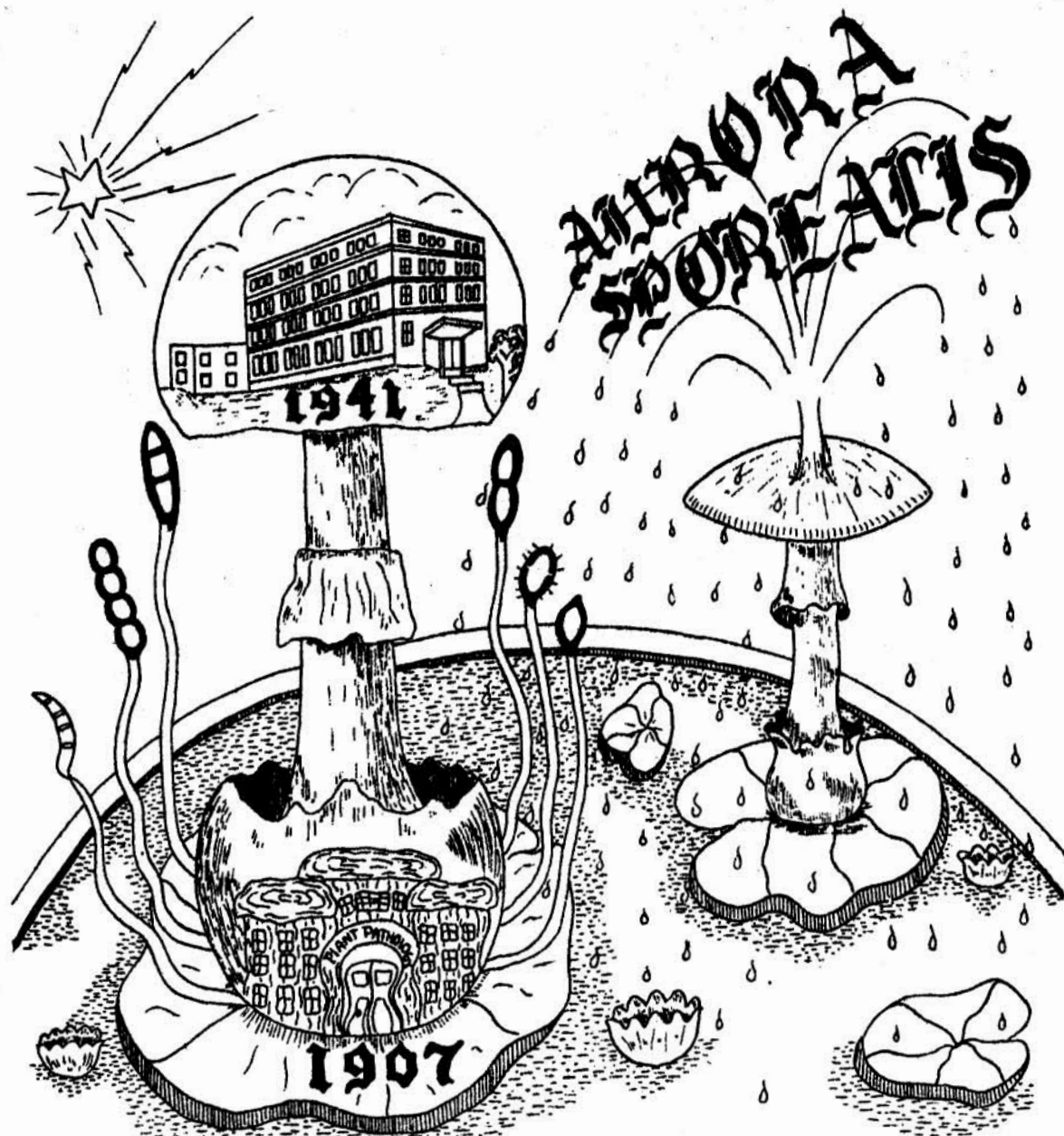


Aug - Sept - Oct
1943



Wherein are recorded the recollections, the ruminations and the respirations of those who have drunk from the foaming fount of the Department of Plant Pathology of the University of Minnesota and who now spout forth in diverse ways

Let the fount foam and never run dry
Let the spout squirt and never lose power

OLD TIMERS COLYUM

News of the J. G. GIBBS, of Port Stanley, Falkland Islands, was unfortunately omitted from the last AURORA. On March 27 Dr. Gibbs was pleased about the production of dozens of lettuces where only one grew before; but the important news was that DOUGLAS Gibbs was just 15 months old! Due to unforgivable negligence, AURORA failed to announce the arrival of Douglas, but does so now, with fanfare and trumpets — before young Douglas can realize his father's ambition for him to come to Minnesota as a post-grad student. Mrs. Gibbs joined Dr. J. G. in greetings to every one in "Phytobrickhaus erectus."

Alan R. GEMMELL, much occupied with teaching, sent the following message on August 30 from The University, Glasgow; "I trust all the lads and lassies of the new T. T. are keeping the flame aight and that Chris's eternally "damned hyaena" can still be heard roaring of a winter night."

From the Land of the Banana, whose status in this country has changed from very vulgaris to my precioso, comes news of Weston J. MARTIN. On Sept. 5 he had returned to Cozólapa, Mexico, from his wanderings among the rubber trees of Central America and was "happy to report that we have both lights and running water in the staff house at El Palmar. It's like living in a new world...My best regards to everyone."

K. G. MacINDOE, who has spent the last 15 months encouraging *Cryptostegia* to produce rubber in Haiti, questions the accuracy of certain politico-geographic allusions in a former number of AURORA. Mac is going back to Liberia to cousin Hevea brasiliensis, his first love among the rubber plants. He will resume work for the Firestone Plantations Company. Mac Jr. is now 5 1/2 years old, just the age at which he probably rubbers at everything.

J. G. "Dutch" HARRAR, of Mexico City and other sections, is laying plans for a greenhouse and also laying plans to see everybody at the Columbus meetings.

At Tingo Maria, Peru, Rolland LORENZ is still doing his best to furnish us with rubber and laying plans to stretch his rubber duties to include work on cinchona and other forest crops.

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BORN, to the LORENZ's at Lima, Peru, on November 7, young Blake Thomas, described by his father as the "potential president of the Lorenz Skeet and Duck Club".

On the same day, Ensign and Mrs. Arden SHERF announced the arrival of Carol Alice.

BORN, on September 27, to Margaret and Norman BORLAUG, at Wilmington, Delaware baby NORMA JEAN.

BORN, on August 28, in Minneapolis, to Helen Pearson Davies and Fred DAVIES of Bristol, Pennsylvania, a sister for young Phillip, named LINDA CAMILLA. Papa still loves the races, and belongs to a gun club. What odds are we offered, on his staying home Saturday afternoon to take care of the babies?

BOEN, earlier in the year, to AURORA (?) and Julian G. LEACH, at Morgantown, West Virginia, the WEST VIRGINIA MOUNTAINEER. Nourished on Bordeaux Mixture 4-4-50 and bound to be a big, strong boy! Maternity not established, but AURORA acting like a proud mother.

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The "cutest gal in the world", according to an eastern visitor, is now Dana VAUGHN, blond if you please, whose picture on the occasion of her first birthday bears out her right to the title. Mama DOROTHY BLAISDELL V. pursues plant pathology at Beltsville.

The F₁ on the west coast also is represented in our picture gallery: daughter of Adeline and Pee-wee WALLACE is already half as tall as papa and bids fair to develop the maternal pulchritude.

E. J. and Marion Preston ANDERSON, of Pullman, Washington, sent regards in August to "all of our ... friends in your department."

APS Secretary Clyde ALLISON acknowledged 7 abstracts for the Columbus meetings on October 13—TWO days ahead of the deadline! As an Old Timer he felt privileged to attach the comment "MY! MY!", which might be termed inept, insufficient, and INADEQUATE for so unusual an occasion.

Regards come from Lee H. PERSON who was so occupied in revising sections of his thesis that he sent no personal news.

Richard C. NELSON, plant physiologist, now with Citrus Concentrates, Inc., at Dunedin, Florida, in charge of their research, announced his intention in August of marrying a "beautiful and charming girl named Peggy Starr" of Hyattsville, Maryland. In September they appeared personally, to show that he had and that she was!

Hyattsville is where Mrs. Milton H. PETTY teaches French and Spanish to high school students this winter, while Milton himself investigates soybean diseases and other things at the University of Maryland.

On the occasion of the final leave and issuance of an APO number to Ted (Technical Sergeant) WRIGHT, Gladys SALINE Wright returned from Gadsden, Alabama, in October, to her former home in Minneapolis.

SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN

Newest recruits for the army are Old Timers Don de ZEEUW and Bernie SHEMA. Don is in a medical detachment at Camp Van Dorn, Miss. He says he cannot understand it, because the sight of blood makes him sick and hypo's still make him squirm. Shema is stationed at Camp Swift, Texas. These latest recruits brings the number of Old Timers in the Services to 25.

Lieut. Axel ANDERSON has been transferred to Camp Detrick, Maryland. Gas rationing willing, he hopes to get a closer look at the nearby Blue Ridge Mountains. Technical Sergeant Ted WRIGHT has been sent overseas with a Chemical lab. company. Lieut. Harry Young was finally sent to God's country (Colorado); he was at Lowry Field for a short time, was then stationed at Ft. Logan near Denver, and has now been issued an APO number out of New York. While at Lowry, he was Assistant Adjutant, Personnel Officer, and Bond and Statistical Officer — he says it was just a lot of paper work. His praises of Colorado beauty warms the hearts of those who hail from there.

Ensign Arden SHURT has been transferred to Los Angeles. Major W.N. CHRISTOPHER is still at Kessler Field, Miss., and writes that all the problems of Sanitation are under control. Capt. H.H. THORNBERRY has been transferred to Champaign, Illinois, and Lieut. Chet WILSON to Camp Selby, Miss., where he was assigned to a new division.

A long silence was finally broken by Ensign George NYLAND, who has the good fortune of being stationed near his home in Seattle, Washington. After several transfers to many camps and training units, Lieut. Don MUNNECKE ended up again at Camp Stewart, Georgia, in an anti-aircraft Brigade. Ensign John ROWELL has been transferred to another coast-guard cutter but still gets in a bit of good fishing.

Capt. M. F. KERNKAMP is in command of a Military Police Company in North Africa. Capt. Tommy KIND visited the department for a few days and gave us a picture of some of the responsibilities of commanding a tank company on maneuvers. Lieut. C. L. SCHNELDER is stationed in Iceland where he and several other "Gophers" cheer on the Minnesota team.

Jack MITCHELL, Ph. 2/c, paid us another visit and told of some of the work going on at Great Lakes with various sulfa drugs and penicillin.

Yeoman 3rd Class Hazel STREGE is still stationed in New York. Apparently she is a good sailor. She has been called on the carpet only once and that was for letting her hair grow too long.

PUBLIC SERVICE

Looks as though the potato growers have been serviced as much as anybody recently. Rose and Tervet have just wound up a grand circle inspection tour of potato warehouses. They report the Red River Valley has had the biggest year for potatoes in the history of the state, with only a little blight here and there.

Walt Thomas was in the Valley in October checking spuds in storage. From his conversations with the growers, it seems as though the potato men have convinced Minnesota potato growers that it pays to dust. So look out for a record crop in 1944--the bigger the crop, the quicker Victory--that's the way we look at it!

Eric Sharvelle is still keeping up the morale of the fruit growers. Within the next week he will be holding up the rights of the plant pathology profession when he sits in on the annual meeting of the Minnesota Horticultural Society at the Curtis Hotel. Eric apparently has done a good job with the fruit growers.

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

In spite of the fact that considerable time has been devoted in review sessions held recently, to a discussion of the difference between a sign and a symptom, the writer is still unable to distinguish between them. Therefore the two will be regarded as synonyms, and anything which can be regarded as a manifestation of something else will be considered as a sign (Or a symptom).

The complexity of the experiments in progress must be increasing. Sharvelle, Davidson, and Thomas spend long hours with the calculator hunting for "t" values, "f" values, or any other value which will throw a little illumination on the columns and columns of figures they have accumulated during the summer and fall months. On the other hand, maybe this is only a sign (Or a symptom) of the increasing dependence of man upon machines. Or maybe they are just being fashionable.

Victory gardens have been harvested, but there are no signs of greater wealth

among those who weeded and transplanted so faithfully during the summer. Their only answer is, "Just think how tough things would have been if we had not grown them." It is rumored that Hansen planted 90 percent of his garden to beans and saved them all. We will probably hear more about this later.

Almost any day someone can be found screening, mixing, or steaming soil; J. J. C., Chairman of the Committee Which Allots Greenhouse Space, is sought after by both the small and the great; and Eagle is busy getting pots, flats, etc. in shape. According to some, these are symptoms signifying that a lot of work is going to be done in the coming months. According to others, it is just a sign that the potato boys will again fill up the greenhouse with various and sundry experiments. Ed Andrews, Vice-Chairman of the above Committee, says it only means that an effort is being made to keep corn-smut experiments from filling up all the available space.

Signs and symptoms of various other activities abound, but according to the Big Chief they do not "constitute proof"; and according to the Chairman of the Aurora Editorial Committee, A. Downie, there are other things which must be printed. In view of all these things, this column will be continued in the next issue.

BOOKSHELF

EXTRA SPECIAL TRIO -- Fungi reported on Medicago, Melilotus, Trifolium spp., U. S. Dept. Agr. Misc. Pub. 499, by CHILTON*HENSON-JOHNSON.

SPECIAL TO BOOKSHELF-- Potato virus diseases, spread and yield, Maine Bul. 421, by BONDE; safflower diseases (mult.), Ottawa, Mar. 10, by CONNERS. ----- HOLTON* Wheat varietal reaction to dwarf bunt in western U. S., J. Am. Soc. Agron., July. WEISS, Decay in early potato shipments, Pl. Dis. Rep., p. 242. PETTY, Soybean disease survey, Ibid., p. 347.

Phytopath., Aug., HOLTON, Dwarf bunt chlamyospore germination. Sept., BONDE*, Ring rot resistance; CHILTON, Ustilago zeae; CONNERS, Rusts of safflower; VAUGHAN*, Tomato seed treatments and Alternaria. Oct., FISCHER and HOLTON, Cross-inoculations of forage grasses with Urocystis spp.; WALLACE*, Citrus psorosis and tree deterioration.

LOCAL SHELF--From Phytopath., HART and GOTTLIEB, growth substances and rust fungi, Aug.; STAKMAN-LOEGERING-CASSELL-HINES, Population trends of stem rust races, 1930-1941. Oct.; STAKMAN-KERNKAMP-MARTIN-KING, Inheritance of white mutant in U. zeae., Oct.

LITERATURE SEMINAR

We missed a few of them, but here are some highlights:

August 5 Everyone furnished a few red points and Stak paid for a big feast in practically the old-fashioned style. His birthday speech covered high-school and college teaching from which we gathered the following pearls: "Teach what constitutes rules of evidence." "Condition students intellectually for citizenship, but do not indoctrinate." And, since "Ethical development does not keep up with intellectual growth," teach ethics; "try to show the inner satisfaction that comes from acts that are considerate of others".

August 12 Walt Hendrix (assistant to Extension Pathologist, R. C. Rose) announces that his "customers" were finding out that potatoes have seed. Late blight and purple-top will get a going over. Tsiang furnished the food but couldn't remember what Confucius said. We can still remember several things that he was supposed to have said.

August 25

Hank Darling, in charge of potato seed certification in Wisconsin, bared his troubles to us and increased our wisdom.

October 7

The annual picnic. For 35 cents a head and a very few points the food committee put on a feed that will be long remembered. No frills, just good food and lots of it, including wieners and spaghetti that was simply divine. Two struggling staff members and their hungry broods lived on the left-over spaghetti for four days thereafter.

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Predisposition came in for a little discussion. (What ever became of those definitions you were going to send? We received only 1.)

The line-up for the next few weeks was announced as follows: Ring rot - F. V. Stevenson; Soft rot - R. S. Davidsohn; Late blight - W. D. Thomas; Melon wilt - E. P. DuCharme; and Rhizoc on Flora - C. T. Psiang.

THE VICTORY GARDENS

Yes, it was all out last summer, all out to the victory gardens. They were located on Cleveland Avenue, north of Larpenteur. From the seminar room one could see a row of cars parked near the gardens, but a closeup showed that more time was spent combating the mosquitos than tilling the soil. Rake, hoe, and shovels were used, with no holds barred; thus they groaned, sweated, and swore for the cause. Practically everyone was there and the talk ran high and competition keen. Even the neophytes talked like experts. Downie, for example, took Miss Hamilton under his wing. He advised on everything from planting to harvesting so earnestly that not until the end of the season did we learn that he, himself, had never before done any vegetable gardening. Really, though, the gardens were a pathologist's paradise

with anthracnose, bacterial blight and rust on beans, Cercospora on beets, Ustilago on corn, wilt of melons, late blight, Septoria and Phoma on tomatoes, etc. But we must not leave out the famous or infamous disease of cabbages which the experts first diagnosed as yellows but later turned out to be an insect injury followed by a soft rot organism. But we fought them all with dusts, sprays, cultivators, and hoe, and the virtuous were blessed. Harvest time came and the "earth yielded its bounteous fruits." Yet that was but the beginning. Now the wives began to order their mates around for there was the canning to be done. Night and day they labored over the stove, using water baths and pressure cookers, making hot packs and cold packs, filling pint jars and quart jars. Finally all was done and the poor folk were left too tired to even count the produce tucked neatly away in some corner of the cellar. Since figures on such activities are guarded more closely than military secrets, we can't give the total produce of the participants. However, Eide's potatoes yielded 312 bushels to the acre, which is almost a 200 per cent improvement over anything he has done in the line of research. From these data one may conclude how much effort went into this worthwhile cause.

On retrospect, however, we still think it hot cricket for a tall, husky, plant pathologist to stand between the rows of his field, whip in hand, while his wife and four children toil long hours to produce the crop; then we hear him point with righteous pride to the results of his gardening. This ain't justice!

PERSONALS

A casual perusal of the happenings of the past three months reveals that the pulse of the new tottering tower is running true to form. More babies being acquired, more marriages, more prelims, more finals, more departures, more new inhabitants, more trips for Stak and worst of all more betting on the part of Wilson. Ellis Darley added another son, Paul Edward, to his flock, November 17th. Sam Silverberg is now stationed in Chicago as civilian consultant to the Army Air Corps. Since October 23rd he no longer enjoys a life of single bliss. Coyt Wilson and Ellis Darley submitted themselves to a prelim early this quarter, coming out with candy and cigars, much to the pleasure of all concerned. "Hank" Darling came up from Wisconsin for a few days recently, during which time he put the final touches on that old Ph.D. dissertation and took his final exam. To all the above-mentioned in their various achievements we extend our congratulations. J. Walter Hendrix bade us "Aloha" Sept. 21st and departed for the Hawaiian Agr. Exp. Sta, where he will be in the front line army battling fungi. He writes it is all very interesting and finds the climate much superior to Minnesota's but misses the pheasant season. To fill the vacancy which Walt left, Frank V. Stevenson and family arrived in due season for potato harvest. Frank is the son of Dr. F. J. Stevenson now with U.S.D.A., formerly of the Agronomy Staff on the Farm Campus. Wilson still has that lust for other people's hard earned cash so he has maintained a steady stream of "suckers" to his office during the football season, each one a "hopeful" on the football pool. But we now have one on Wilson, as Stak on one of his recent journeys thru the "breadbasket country" returned with a botanical specimen which Wilson identified as a Nematode-infested Grapefruit. The specimen was officially identified as a fruit of Toxylon pomiferum. This leaves part of us preparing speeches for the forthcoming meetings in Columbus while the rest have resigned themselves to the glories of a "snowed-in" Minnesota winter.

ATHLETIC COLUMN

The limit to the number of fishing trips imposed by mileage rationing provided an easy out for our fishermen, who caught no fish this summer.

The standing of the Plant Path bowling team is 13 games won, 8 lost, 2nd place in the league, and 12 games to go. Cap't. Wilson reports prospects as very bright. The squad includes most members of the department and the team spirit is running high in spite of the scores. Most frequently heard on the alleys, - "I was robbed!"



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Wilson challenged E. C. S. to a bowling match but so far has not even received an evasive answer.

The real exponents of mens sana in corpore sano, which may sound like an advertisement for vitalmeens pills, are the 2 H's--Hamilton and Hart. They bowl too, on a ladies' team, and they BOWL. WE watched them, and it is much less than exaggeration when editorial WE tell you that those bowling balls, propelled by these larruning ladies, actually looked several sizes smaller than the vitalmeen pills that they must have taken to put such devastating speed on them maple-annihilating spheroids.

Minnesota has a football team this year, but, in line with the longstanding policy of the institution, they run to brains rather than to brawns. It is almost a civilian team, with just a few navy-trainee ringers here and there. They won from MISSOURI by a comfortable score; then looked like the typical Minnesota powerhouse of lamented memory, against NEBRASKA, from whom they won by a lop-sided score; then they played a very close and thrilling game with the professional-packed CAMP BRANT Team. In this game they looked like the "Yiants of de Nort", as they made several "They shall not pass" goal-line stands; they also looked like squirrel-tail gophers when they caught C.G. napping on one of the last plays of the game and on a fake punt ran the ball about 25 yards from behind the goal line. The Minnesota-Michigan game was civil war! Busting Bill Daly mayhemed his former colleagues as he has previously done to our enemies. Northwestern also was packed with former Minnesota men. The figures representing the scores in these two games are not significant. Us Golden Gophers almost tied the PURDUE service team and then won from WISCONSIN--like Minnesota, a relatively "have-not" team insofar as lend-lease players from the navy and marines are concerned. This was a really good game, and Wisconsin deserves credit for the scrap they put up against a better team. Next Saturday there is to be a lion-and-mouse exhibition by the SEA HAWKS from Iowa and the Lily-white Gophers. After all, what chance has a gopher got against a hork? The complete scores follow:

| | | | |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Minnesota 26 | Missouri 13 | Minnesota 6 | Northwestern 42 |
| Minnesota 54 | Nebraska 0 | Minnesota 7 | Purdue 14 |
| Minnesota 13 | Camp Grant 7 | Minnesota 33 | Iowa 14 |
| Minnesota 6 | Michigan 49 | Minnesota 25 | Wisconsin 13 |

Athletics, however, are not confined to the football field and the bowling alleys. Even in SEMINAR athletic stunts are attempted, with varying degrees of success, especially the attempts at high diving from chairs atilt when a sudden sound awakens the sleeper. This is what is known in sports parlance as the Sleeper Play!

V I S I T O R S

Mathilda Bensaude Gotz
of Portugal...spent the
past two years at Madison,
Wisconsin...now in New
York, New York.

Dr. and Mrs. A. E. Woller
Botany Department...
Ohio State University
Columbus, Ohio..

Dr. M. A. McCall, Ass't.
Chief, Bureau of Plant
Industry...
Washington, D. C.

Mr. H. G. Guy
Research Department
Koppers Company
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Dr. John Frost ...
formerly of the Section
of Plant Physiology
and now at Oxford, Indiana.

BEST
WISHES..
FOR
THE
HOLIDAYS