

## COMINGS AND GOINGS

The gentle breezes, light snows, and other stimulating variables typical of a Minnesota winter have by no means deterred the vigorous visitors, who thronged to and through our halls in gratifying numbers, leaving their footprints on the floors and their imprints on our minds and hearts. Whether they came for intellectual refreshment, to share their or our latest discoveries, or just to get in out of the cold--one and all they were welcome.

From the University of Wisconsin came Dr. Ken Buchholtz, on January 17, to talk on weed problems. On January 19, Dr. H. C. Murphy, from Iowa, but whose fame in work on crown and stem rust of oats extends over a large region, skidded in for a short but enjoyable visit. On the same day we had Dr. Theodore W. Sudia, James T. Threinen and Wayne Anderson of the Winona (Minn.) State Teachers' College. January 26, Dr. S. E. A. McCallan of the Boyce Thompson Institute, Yonkers, N.Y. spent most of the day looking over research in progress and telling of his own work. On January 30, Old Timer H. A. Rodenhiser, Head of the Cereal Crops Section for the U.S.D.A. at Beltsville paid us an all-too-brief visit, most of which he spent closeted with Chief JJC; so few of the rest of us had much chance to try to impress him with our individual or collective acumen, if any. On February 9, came O T Norman E. Borlaug, wheat breeder with the Rockefeller Foundation in Mexico, to spend a couple of days, during which he visited, talked, listened and discussed old and new times in Minnesota and Mexico and points north and south of both. Along with him came José Rodríguez V., a not-so-old but most able Old Timer whom we were most pleased to see again, and who has gained some weight and much stature in his work for and with the Dirección General de Agricultura, Mexico City. On February 23 we enjoyed the company of Mario O. San Juan, Instructor, U.P. College of Agriculture, Laguna, Philippine Islands. On the same day came Dr. Margaret Newton, now of Victoria, but formerly of the Tottering Tower and the Winnipeg Rust Lab. The

primary purpose of her visit was to accept an Outstanding Achievement Award from our great University, an award which we all thought was well given and well received.

Dr. John J. McKelvey, Jr., Assistant Director for Agriculture, Rockefeller Foundation, New York City, was here on March 1, ostensibly to discuss problems pertaining to stem rust and wheats resistant to same, but probably also to refresh himself with a view of God's Country. On March 2 and 3 we had as a guest Dr. Jean F. Malcolmson of England's Agricultural Research Council, where she is concerned with potato storage investigations. Tiburcio T. Reyes, Research Fellow in Plant Pathology, College of Agriculture, Laguna, P.I., arrived on about March 1 for a stay of two weeks. March 7 brought two visitors, James E. Sharon, formerly of Iowa State College but now on the staff of The Farmer, and Bert Schutta, nursery operator in St. Paul who probably has just as many miscellaneous problems as most of us but in addition has a number of problems of his own. Mr. Frank L. Mitchell, President of the Minnesota Crop Improvement Association, who also farms near Canby, Minnesota, spent most of March 8 going through the Department. Along with spring on March 23 arrived Drs. J. C. Ryker and R. S. Hodgson of the Dupont Co., to discuss new and old seed-treating compounds and other fungicides. On March 28, Dr. F. W. Went, Professor of Plant Physiology at the California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, spent most of the day with us and spoke on facilities for "Controlled Environment". With the seven inches of snow that had fallen the evening before, combined with rain, hail, sleet, and high winds, thunder, lightning and assorted other meteorological violences, and with more of the same beating against the windows as Dr. Went spoke, we could have wished for means to control the outdoor environment too. Dr. Went is here to present one of the invitational, all-University lectures sponsored by Sigma Xi, his subject being "Role of Environment in Plant Growth".

## Visiting Professor Professes

Dr. Carl W. Boothroyd, Associate Professor of Plant Pathology at Cornell University, arrived about the middle of February, to stay for some time. He is on sabbatic leave from Cornell, and is now an Assistant Professor in our Department. His work will involve mostly diseases of cereal crops, especially wheat and barley, and soon after arrival he was deep in the preparation of massive amounts of inoculum, filling the building with the agreeable odor of autoclaved barley. He is a member in good standing of the 303<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> Luncheon Club, even if he did find the noon tea concocted there so unpalatable that he had to bring his own tipple along. In addition to other duties, privileges, and responsibilities, he has undertaken the task of teaching Ecology of Plant Pathogens, a course originated and developed by Dr. M. F. Kernkamp. Kernkamp, as mentioned elsewhere, resigned rather suddenly to accept a position as Assistant Director of our Experiment Station. It was most fortunate that Dr. Boothroyd generously volunteered to Profess this subject; otherwise the course would have been left high and dry, or at least dry.

### Comings

New graduate students are John D. Dreher, of our own College of Agriculture, now working with Dr. Boothroyd; B. P. Chakravarti, and Subhi A. Qasem. Mr. M. Yousry El-Sawah, Plant Pathologist, Plant Disease Section, Ministry of Agriculture, Cairo, Egypt, is here for a term of six months, with no time off for good behavior.

### Leavings

John Kotheimer, graduate student from Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, who came last summer and was occupied with the fungus flora of weed seeds, was taken from us by the Armed Forces a couple of weeks ago. We hope and expect to see him return in due time, covered with medals and full of zest for Plant Pathology.

1/ The C. M. Christensen-C.J. Eide Lab, where at 12 noon the male staff members open their paper sacks. (Matt Moore's is always the biggest.)

Dr. C. L. Schneider, U.S.D.A. expert on sugar beet diseases and Aphanomyces cochlioides, and long a denizen of the second floor, has left for presumably greener sugar beet fields at Beltsville, Md. His job, if not necessarily his place, was taken by Howard Bissonnette. We miss Chuck Schneider, and hope that his work, associations, and physical and intellectual life and activities will be as happy and productive there as they were here.

Hosni A. Mohamed contributed a thesis, passed his final oral examination with flying words, acquired the Ph.D., and left soon thereafter for Cairo.

### EXTRA -- LEAVING EXTRAORDINARY -- EXTRA

Some two weeks ago we learned, with mixed joy, consternation, alarm, foreboding and pleasure that Dr. M. F. Kernkamp, Associate Professor of Plant Pathology here and long a member of our Department, had been offered, and had accepted, a newly created position as Assistant Director of the Experiment Station, University of Minnesota. So, while he still will be on the campus, he no longer will be of, and probably seldom in, our revered halls. The consternation, alarm and foreboding are for ourselves, the joy and pleasure for him. Dr. Kernkamp carried a considerable load in our Department, having been in charge of soybean and forage crop diseases, and a close collaborator with the Department of Agronomy and Plant Genetics in the development of new disease resistant varieties of these plants. In addition, he was a member of seven committees within the Department, at last count, and was chairman of most of them, ranging from Library to the Research Field, duties which he discharged effectively and with seeming ease, without any of the usual snorting, blowing, and pawing the ground and the air that so many of us engage in when we are involved in some of these committee activities. In his new job he trades the fascination of working with plants for the dubious rewards and many frustrations of working with people--and often individualistic and cantankerous people. The work probably will at times seem frustrating and nonrewarding (in a figurative sense, that is) but we are confident of Kerny's ability to take it. We will miss him sorely, but we wish him success, happiness, and a long and productive administrative career.

## FIVE LONE OLD-TIMERS

At Raleigh, North Carolina, R. R. (Dick) NELSON has a new son.

"I was sitting in the Speedbird House, Karachi, Pakistan, waiting for a plane on February 2 and saw in the paper that you (E. C. Stakman) had spoken to an editors' meeting on February 1. I did my best to try to contact you to say hello but was unable to locate you..."  
--S. J. P. (Roodee) CHILTON, Baton Route, La. Chilton did not mention what HE was doing there!

On April 7 came evidence that Chuck SCHNEIDER already is an Old Timer: "The copy of Aurora Sporealis arrived the other day and it was very nice to read about the activities at Minnesota and what the Old Timers are doing all over the world. Something like that means so very much when a person is away from the place." He is now initiated into our readers group.

Bob HILDRETH is enjoying life in Honduras, enjoying his work on Sigatoka, has started writing a thesis, but has "a very strange feeling" when he harvests home vegetables and fruits in "what is to us the dead of winter".

Recent OT John KOTHEIMER also sings the refrain we love to hear: "...it was a real thrill receiving the latest copy of 'Aurora' recently--a letter from home, thanks to one and all."



Whatever your activities, tell us about them!

## E. C. STAKMAN: A Study of Time and Motion

The Journeys and Jaunts of one ECS, Ambassador at Large (altho he tries to diet), involve lots of time and much motion, especially if one includes the settling-in process in planes with none-too-capacious seats. On January 9 he left for Pakistan, in behalf of the Department of State, to attend the All Pakistan Science Congress at Dacca. In West Pakistan, later, he renewed acquaintance and had his picture taken with Old Timers S. J. Hasanain, A. A. Anwar, S. F. Hassan, and Abdul Kausar. On the homeward jaunt, and under other auspices, Stak visited the American University of Beirut in Lebanon and various educational institutions in Germany. On February 16 he returned to St. Paul. It sounds easy, but here is a sample day from his itinerary:

- AM -- Conferences at School of Agriculture, \_\_\_\_\_
- Noon -- Luncheon and speech on Agricultural Education and Research, attended by University President, Deans, Department Heads, representatives of Ford Foundation, etc., etc.
- 4 PM -- Talk before staff of the School of Agriculture
- 5 PM -- Talk before students and staff on Scholarship
- Evening-Supper with Dean \_\_\_\_\_.

Or do you prefer this one:

- ? -- Breakfast with Dr. \_\_\_\_\_ and Budget Officer of Ministry of Agriculture
- AM -- Conference with Minister of Agriculture and Staff
- Noon -- Luncheon with staff and others
- PM -- Trip of 25 km. by car to visit Institute
- Evening-Dinner with American Agricultural Attache (short period later for rinsing out a few nylons)

He did not leave St. Paul again until March 1, to confer in New York with J. G. Dutch Harrar and to attend the Agricultural Board meeting of the National Research Council in Washington, reappearing in St. Paul on March 7.

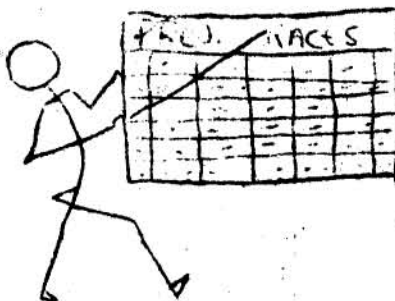
The following jauntless period lasted nine (9) whole days, whereupon the airlines took him to Mexico for the International Rust Conference and subsequent conferences. See him in April, we hope!



A highlight of the Winter series of Tuesday afternoon seminars was the first-hand account by Old Timer Norm Borlaug of the theory and practice of producing composite back cross wheat varieties in Mexico. Although Dr. Borlaug emphatically imposed a 10-minute deadline for his talk he bowed to the wishes of the group, avid for information, and waxed eloquent for several such time intervals.

As usual a decidedly cosmopolitan array of speakers with a global outlook on phytopathology spouted forth in diverse and sundry ways during the bleak winter afternoons. K. R. Walker, Jamaica; B. R. Stefansson and Hugh McKenzie, Canada; Juan Orjuela, Colombia; R. M. Natour, Jordan; P. N. Nair, India; and R. A. Frederiksen, W. A. Haglund, R. G. Lambert, and Jim Miller, U.S.A. all edified the group in one way or another irrespective of snow, wind, sub-zero temperatures, and the loaded questions propounded by such past masters of the art as Drs. Dodsall, Clyde Christensen, Eide, Kernkamp, and King.

The Seminar was also treated to a lesson in Spanish idiom when Dr. J.J.C. suddenly interrupted a speaker dissertating on Pasmus of Flax with "What does 'pasmus' mean?--Hands!!--Anybody!--Bird, you tell us!!" As each of the Spanish speaking students was polled in turn, it developed that the word could connote almost anything from "catching cold" to "putting a wet blanket on a party" depending on the country of origin of the student. There was unanimous agreement on one point, however. If flax had it that was bad.



"...you can't read this?" "I'll explain..."

Ninety plant pathologists, breeders, geneticists and agronomists from all over the world converged on Mexico City for the Third International Wheat Rust Conference the week of March 18-24, 1956. Delegates arriving from Argentina, Australia, Bolivia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Italy, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay, and the United States were in capable hands from the moment they cleared customs and were met by the committee on local arrangements, headed by Old-Timer Norman Borlaug, until they left for home by assorted means of transportation.

At times it seemed like a convention of Old-Timers. Minnesota graduates were everywhere. Among present-day Minnesotans who attended were Miss Hart, Drs. E. C. Stakman, Don Stewart, Irvine Watson, as well as Drs. Will Myers and Elmer Ausemus from Agronomy and Plant Genetics. Don Fletcher and Gene Hayden represented the Rust Prevention Association.

The conference was as well-balanced as it was well-organized with meetings and discussions, field trips to laboratories and greenhouses at Chapingo, and a visit to experimental fields at La Piedad.

At the close of the conference about third of the delegates journeyed to Ciudad Obregon, Sonora, in the fertile irrigated Yaqui Valley on the west coast of Mexico. After touring the International Grain Plots at Obregon and seeing magnificent fields of wheat, everyone was tremendously impressed with the progress made in the wheat improvement program in Mexico.



SPORE SHOWERS

KUDOS: Miss Newton and G. R. Bisby

To Dr. Margaret Newton, formerly of the Dominion Laboratory of Plant Pathology, at Winnipeg, and to Dr. Guy R. Bisby, formerly of the Commonwealth Mycological Institute, at Kew, England, was presented the University of Minnesota Outstanding Achievement Award on February 25, 1956.

Miss Newton received her Ph.D. degree in 1922 from the University of Minnesota. The award was presented to her at a dinner in the Campus Club of Coffman Memorial Union, attended by members of the department and other friends in the University. Dr. Newton toured the department and campus renewing friendships, inspecting physical changes in the department, and viewing her former haunts as member of the now-famous QCF. Her interest and enthusiasm for the current work in the department was inspiring to those of us who are trying to emulate such distinguished persons.

Dr. Bisby, who was also a member of the QCF, and a recipient of a Ph.D. degree, in 1918, from Minnesota was not here and this award was granted to him at his home in Staines, Middlesex.

This brings to four the members of the original QCF<sup>1</sup> who have now been recipients of the University's Outstanding Achievement Award. Previously, Drs. Rodenhiser and Craigie were so honored.

<sup>1</sup>/ Secret Society born on 4th floor front of Old Tottering Tower.

#### THURSDAY NITE AT EIGHT

We were fortunate to have several distinguished scientists visit the seminar this last quarter. One of them, G. H. Coons, a self-styled phytopathological fossil, discussed his first publication (losses in railroad transported produce) and gave advice on how to be famous; he modestly used E.C.S. as an example.

H. C. Murphy, described by J.J.C. "as the most congenial man in the world," subsequently earned the title

by suffering more than the usual indignities of a Minnesota seminar with a remarkable amount of poise and graciousness. He instructed us on various aspects of oat diseases and the disease research program of this crop in the United States. S. McCallan, another distinguished scientist, while discussing some of the fungicidal work done at Boyce Thompson Institute gave us an insight into basic research. He was suitably chastized for neglecting rust in his work but he hastened to add that he was about to initiate a program on rust, and that's why he was here!

Some recent developments in smut research were interestingly covered by two of Fisher and Holton's colleagues: Dr. Jack Meiners and Dr. Ed Kendrick. The bunt problem, as evidenced by their photograph of a blackened harvesting machine, is a long way from being solved. It is hoped that if they could establish buff races out there, their harvesting machines would at least look better.

Dr. Rodriguez (ex-mayor) in charge of increase of certified wheat seed in Mexico in cooperation with the Rockefeller Foundation very thoroughly acquainted the seminar, with the help of burly Borlaug, of the tremendous progress of wheat growing in Mexico. They did not neglect to show the not-so-rosy aspects of the problem.

Another Rockefellerian, Dr. McKelvey, gave a short talk on the Rockefeller scholar-fellowship program, which aims to help countries advance agriculturally by development of native scientists. Incidentally we have five students who are sponsored in this way; they are: A. Campos (Mexico), M. Flores (Guatemala), Julia Guzman (Colombia), J. Orjuela (Colombia), and M. Rojas (Mexico).

Dr. I. A. Watson (Australia) "rizes of fifth tyne bee" (races of 15B) was introduced by Stake who was not here when Irvine arrived about a year ago. The introduction gave E.C.S. an opportunity, naturally, to discuss Australian science. Watson proceeded to discuss the results of his recent work on variation of rusts, a subject which he believed at the outset but not at the end of his work here was overworked. He presented excellent evidence

in a scholarly report for increase in pathogenicity by mutation and nuclear exchange, the latter he was able to demonstrate with ease--move over barbarian barberry!

Mr. Frank Mitchell, President of the Minnesota Crop Improvement Association and a successful farmer, spoke about the times he was not so successful--when he had three successive crop failures. He also gave us his highly interesting views on price supports. His desire to eliminate surpluses was viewed with alarm by the pathologists working on the deterioration of stored grain.

On the eve of the appointment of Kernkamp as assistant director of the Experiment Station, Chris suggested that Kerny say a few words. Kerny suppressing a long lost desire, announced no more classes, reports, and seminars, for the coming quarter. Naturally he was immediately reminded by Chris that this was only the eve of his appointment and would he kindly shut up and sit down. Thor Kommedahl responding to the demand that an example be set on how a scientific talk should be presented, did so with slides. The results were hilarious and also educational. By the way Thor welcomes any old doggie slides so that he may complete his collection. You may be such a person, and remember you'll be doing yourself a favor by sending them to him and not showing them at the next Phytopath meeting.

Movies, three of them, research reports and reviews of the Georgia meetings, literature reviews along with announcements rounded out the rest of the programs.

#### LOCALS

Dr. H. S. Kim, Head of the Department of Agricultural Chemistry at the Seoul National University, left for Korea after spending six months under the joint guidance of the Departments of Plant Pathology and Agricultural Biochemistry. Dr. Kim studied the cultural conditions which influence the production of amylase by Aspergillus oryzae and isolated mutant strains (induced with polonium<sup>210</sup>)

which synthesized at least 2.4 times the amount of amylase enzymes produced by the parent lines.

The valuable attributes of John Kotheimer were suddenly recognized by Uncle Sam who couldn't resist the temptation to draft him into the Army. Evidently the Army has realized that grad students under the direction of Thor Kommedahl develop that extra something desirable in Army personnel. Thus far, Tom Wyllie and John Kotheimer, both advisees of Thor, have been drafted.

P. N. Nair and Bob Olien gathered up courage during January and took their written and oral prelims for the Ph.D. degree. Nair and Olien are among a group of plant path students who after sampling the academic atmosphere and acrid vapors of Tottering Tower have obtained study space there. Hosni Mohamed (Egypt) and Chuck Schneider (sugar beets) received their Ph.D. degrees, winter quarter.

Dr. Ted Sudia, biology instructor from Winona State Teachers' College was contacted by Dr. Al Linck for prospective graduate assistants. Ted responded by bringing two excellent prospects. One of these young men will join the Department this summer. As a result of Ted's first visit, arrangements for the Science Club from Winona State Teachers' College to visit the Institute of Agriculture were made by Al Linck and the club wound up their visit by getting the royal treatment from the staff, along with ice cream and cookies.

First-born F<sub>1</sub>: Beatriz Eugenia, Minneapolis, April 8, to Manuel and mama Rojas, of Monterrey.

First daughter to Robert Olien, St. Paul, born February 18.

In a large department such as ours, communication needs to be established quickly sometimes. At present, Chief JJC needs only to push button 8, and all staff members can be summoned quickly for emergency spore counts. In keeping with this advance in communication the phones in the Tottering Tower have from 4 to 6 buttons, so that call can be switched nearly everywhere: one button is an intercommunication button. This means the committee meetings can be held by phone, with everyone talking on the phone simultaneously, all together, and at the same ti



STAFF PUBLICATIONS DURING WINTER

Campbell, R. N. and D. W. French. 1955. Moisture content of oaks and mat formation by the oak wilt fungus. Forest Science 1: 265-270.

Culbertson, J. O. and T. Kommedahl. 1956. The effect of seed coat color upon agronomic and chemical characters and seed injury in flax. Agronomy Journal 48: 25-28.

Jensen, E. H., J. W. Lambert, A. C. Caldwell, and M. F. Kernkamp. 1956. Soybeans for Minnesota. Minn. Ext. Bul. 134.

Kommedahl, T. and H. C. Young. 1956. Effect of host and soil substrate on the persistence of Fusarium and Rhizoctonia in soil. Pl. Dis. Reprtr. 40: 28-29.



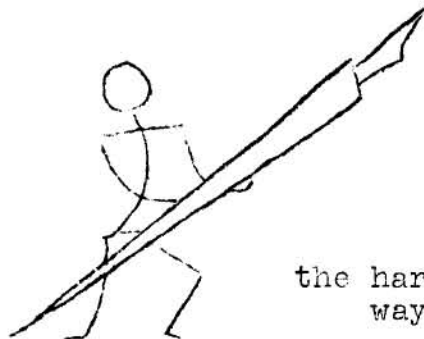
Editorial Committee

- Louise Dossdall
- Laura Hamilton
- James DeVay
- Ken Walker
- Thor Kommedahl, Chm.

Two ways to write papers:



the easy way (administrators)



the hard way



it must be spring...