



Wherein are recorded the recollections, the ruminations and the raspitations 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 divers ways

Let the fount foam and never run dry

Let the spout squirt and never lose power

COMINGS AND GOINGS

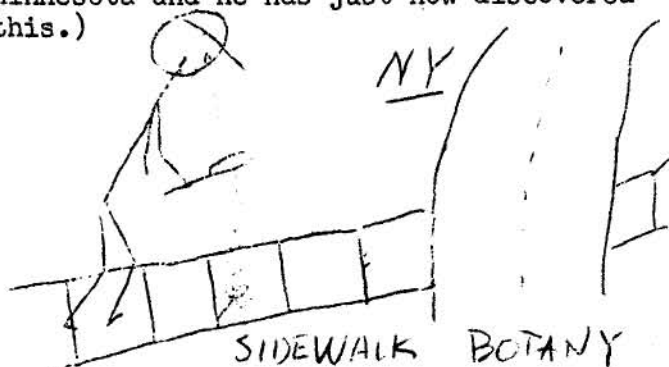
We took down the SRO sign when the new year opened on Oct. 1, but this news apparently did not seep out to the OT's-- or maybe most of them just decided to stay home and buckle down to hard work and get out those research publications that have been simmering on the back of the stove for so long. In any case, we were not overwhelmed by visitors. Those who came were as follows: 10/20 Dr. C. L. (Cam) LEFEBVRE, State Experiment Station Division, USDA, Wash., D.C

11/11 Dr. W. E. SACKSTON, now head of the Plant Pathology Section at Winnipeg, sans the RAF moustache but jaunty nonetheless.

11/28 Dr. R. N. CAMPBELL, then of the Forest Products Lab., Madison, Wis., but now at the University of California at Davis.

12/5 Dr. Paul R. FRIDLUND, Irrigation Exp. Sta., Prosser, Wash., who claims to have 4 children, ranging from a grownup $8\frac{1}{2}$ to a youthful 4 months, 2 g. and 2 b. alternating. Also about the same time, Dr. L. W. MELANDER, maybe lower in ounces but still full of bounces; and Dr. M. N. LEVINE, who has gone to or returned from Lebanon.

Recent Old Timer Bill SILVERMAN, of the New York Botanical Garden, returned for a short visit and remarked that he has been botanizing in NY and "has found all of the Minnesota weeds here (NY) in abundance." (Ed. note: What he means is that NY weeds migrated west to Minnesota and he has just now discovered this.)



OLD TIMERS

F. M. TURK, in December, was with Gallowhur Chemical Co., Lachine Quebec.

Recent OT Santiago FUENTES F. is newly with the Oficina de Estudios Especiales in Mexico City, assigned to work on vegetable diseases.

Dr. Hugh HOTSON skipped town and his position with Minnesota Mining & Mfg. Co. to return to Seattle. New member of the family is Hugh Jr.

Not too recently, but not yet generally known, Dr. Shosuke GOTO was made Assistant Dean of Agriculture at the University of Hawaii.

Dr. Elisa HIRSCHHORN also made a change: she is now with the Instituto de Patologia Vegetal in Castelar, Argentina.

Dr. Thorvaldur JOHNSON and Dr. H. A. RODENHISER were awarded the University of Minnesota's Outstanding Achievement Award in 1958. Official bestowal was made by one of the University Regents at a banquet in Minneapolis which was part of the January Conference on Chemical Control of Rust. ("Refer to rust with discretion" says Dick NELSON, of North Carolina.)

At the banquet, RODENHISER talked on his travels in the U.S.S.R. Old Timers listening included BORLAUG, DALY, SHARVELLE, VAUGHN, BRIDGMON, OSHIMA, LOEGERING, and MITCHELL.

Bestowal was made at the same banquet by Department Head J. J. Christensen of the Elvin Charles Stakman Award on T. JOHNSON, twice honored on this occasion. Appropriate and pithy remarks were made by the recipient, brevity in this case representing the zenith in wit.

Honor also came to Leonard MELANDER on December 4 in Cincinnati, when "he was presented the North Central Weed Control (continued)

Old Timers (continued)

Conference award for outstanding service," with Honorary Life Membership. Although he has retired twice, his card now shows: Melander Chemical Sales.

Olaf AAMODT, one of the early OTs, is still attempting apparently to outdo Big Chief Stakman in foreign mileage. Olaf most recently has been with the University of Kentucky Contract Team at Bogor, Java.

From Java last fall came John G. CHURCHWARD and family--not to Minnesota enroute from Europe, but to Wisconsin. This news from George HAFSTAD, who is losing ground with Dutch Elm disease in his state.

Ed ANDREWS of Wyoming attended forestry meetings in Vancouver. So did Stuart ANDREWS of New Mexico. Said the latter: "Complications set in shortly after I had checked in at the hotel when a second Andrews presented himself for a room. The clerk's question: Had he put the right Andrews in the wrong room? Anyway, I enjoyed meeting another Andrews from Minnesota."

Because of apartment shortage in Glenview, Illinois, teacher Frances HAGLUND now lives in a trailer at 2450 Waukegan Road, Box 156.

Paula, the 5th little DEVAY, arrived at Davis, California, Nov. 29. Other D.P.s at Davis are Ed Butler and Bob Campbell. Claim they are "hungry" for news from Minnesota. (We are slow, slow, slow.)

Kathryn, as the first F₁ for the Tom NICOLSONs in England, may not be really new news, but it is as new as AURORA seems able to dispense.

New address for Tessa McNeely FLOWERS, secretary in the 40's, is now California, no longer Wyoming. She works in an aircraft company.

Not new in point of time but new to us was a visiting professorship held by Dr. Dorothy DAY at Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah, during the spring quarter of 1958.

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From O.T. ANWAR (India) came this comment, "I received the book of Dr. E. C. Stakman. I think it was overdue and we are really happy that it finally got into our hands." Similarly O.T. NAIR (India) reported, "It was quite thrilling for me to see Dr. Stakman's book. Will take all precautions that this plant pathologist's bible will not escape my possession. I am proudly showing it to all who call themselves biologists." At last report, Nair was silvicultural research officer at the Forest Research Institute for additional professional training and was married in September.

Christmas of 1958 brought fluttering cards of greetings from OTs: From Vaheduddin Syed, our second Indian student, from Khan, Hassan, Gattani (now in Kabul), Venkataran, from Mohamed in Egypt, Wahl in Israel, from Turk (now in Quebec), K. Goto in Japan, J. Hermansen in Copenhagen, Ken Walker in Haiti, from Santiago in Portugal, Wilde in Germany, Grasso in Italy, Western and the Nicolsons in England, Churchward in Indonesia, Chung in Korea, and in the Western Hemisphere down under from de la Isla, Postigo, Gibler, Skiles, Cardenosa, J. Rodriguez, Siller, Flores, and Castronovo (then in California). From the Science Service Lab at Lethbridge with signatures of Broadfoot, Hawn, Horricks; from the Winnipeg Lab and Cherewick, from Cormack at Saskatoon, Tyner at Edmonton.

OTs in this country sent Merry Messages too: Natour, Heggeness, Borich, duCharme, Schneider, Wright, Davidson, Young, Thornberry, LeClerg, Goodman, Orellana, Vance, Weiss, Roane, Krog, Lyle, Lindgren, and Hafstad.



EARTH SATELLITE AT CHRISTMAS

TUESDAY SEMINAR

October saw the cessation of torrid tasks, only to yield to a new fever as Tuesday afternoon seminar resumed its reign.

Don P. Taylor, nematologist, set the pitch, reporting that his survey in the summer of '58 indicated that nematodes were commonly associated with all major crops in Minnesota. Comparison with figures for '57 showed that the same six genera were prevalent in both years.

According to our soybean pathologist, Thomas Wyllie, root rot is still the most important of the many bean diseases in Minnesota, and, while soybeans are of increasing importance in the state, Tom allayed our fears, noting that diseases were not increasing to an alarming extent.

Does your favorite brew taste different lately? Like *Alternaria*, *Fusarium*, or *Helminthosporium* perhaps? Little wonder, as these organisms may be in part responsible for stained or weathered barley according to research of John Kotheimer. John explained that stained barley kernels behaved poorly in malting and brewing, and, coincidentally, that total numbers of organisms shown by mold counts were consistently higher in stained than in bright barley samples.

Bob Renfro, Oklahoma's favorite son, exhibited thorough knowledge of the ailments of stem and leaf of the forage legumes in this Minnesotan land of exile. He listed the multifarious causal organisms involved and also brought to our attention that alfalfa (or Lucerne) is rapidly replacing red clover in the State.

Another voice from Oklahoma was heard, this one reviewing the history and strategy of oat breeders and pathologists in their march against the rusts of oats. The voice was that of Bill Roberts, who emphasized the dynamic abilities of the crown rust organism in destroying the man-made gene barriers. Bill explained that new sources of resistance tend to be good only for 5 to 8 years even in the various gene combinations derived from White Russian and Richland together with Canadian derivatives.

Our neighbors to the south in the local Agronomy department are evidently producing fine pathologists too, as evidenced in the person of Donald Barnes, who gave a complete summary of the alfalfa-wilt problem in Minnesota. This included several well-done slide demonstrations of techniques he has used in selecting resistant varieties.

In December, Jacobo Ortega brought us up to date on the genetic aspects of our old friend P.g.t. Generating heat as well as light was likely not the intent of Ortega's seminar, but an avid, heated debate ensued when a question arose from the seminar body on the precise definitions of pathogenicity and virulence. Professor J.J.C. intervened mercifully to suggest that such esoteric terms would fare well under the fine surgeon's knife of Dr. Eide's course in Principles during the winter quarter upcoming.

Seminar adjourned just prior to Christmas with the promise that January would see the commencement of many fine discourses on various problems of deterioration, precipitated by the fungus among us.

During one seminar the following was heard:

Eide: What's the difference between *Phyllosticta* and *Phoma*?

Candidate: I do not know.

Eide: Did you ever hear of Grove?

Candidate: Yes.

Eide: What did he write?

Candidate: I do not know.

Eide: You must have been thinking of a bunch of trees.

The fall session of the Ag Botany Seminar was treated to a series of presentations pertaining to the history and origin of crop plants. Such experts as Don Penner (Minn.) on soybeans, Dave Gerwitz (Mich. State) on corn, Arne Andersen (Denmark) on wheat, and Roger Lambert (Minn.) on nothing (as others took up all the time) held the seminar spellbound with their tales of the ways in which crops were introduced to the old world, the new world, and other worlds.

THURSDAY NIGHT SEMINAR :

One of the highlights of Thursday-evening seminar was the annual Plant Path Christmas Party held in the old Union. The entertainment committee acquired a world renowned singing group composed of Professor E. C. Stakman, Dr. M. F. Kernkamp, Miss Laura Hamilton, and Mr. A. E. Eagle, among others, accompanied by Miss Grace Aschenbach. Selections of Christmas carols sung included "O Tannenbaum". Santa had gifts for all the kiddies under sixty.

The site of the Plant Path picnic this year was Como Park despite the bids by JJC and D. W. French to have the picnic at their respective estates. Lanterns and flashlights allowed for the prevention of placing beans on top of cakes, as was reported by some in previous years. Games were played by the younger children and hula hoops supplied entertainment for the elders.

The advantages and disadvantages of circulating journals or just title pages were discussed, and it was resolved that the old system of circulating journals was preferable. It was also resolved that the responsibility of maintaining an efficient departmental library rests with those in the department. In other words--take that book back.

Barley pathologist Karl Fezer explained the application of statistics to field data, using the Rosemount crop sequence plots as an example. A misunderstanding arose and so did JJC.

Dr. S. Galen Bradley of the Department of Bacteriology spoke to the seminar on medical mycology.

Old Timer Dr. Chuck Logsdon, one of Eide's former potato boys, related tales of his recent trip to Europe and told of his research program in Alaska, our new State.

An interesting exposé of the educational system's failure to give adequate instruction in scientific fields was presented by Ohioan Dr. Ted Sudia.

Bill Kennedy explained to the seminar the nature and scope of his work on Phytophthora root rot which was done in

California before he came to Minnesota from Oklahoma.

QUOTABLE QUOTES:

In one of the infrequent visits of E. C. Stakman to Seminar (he is rarely in town), he remarked in regard to programatic research, "Don't let the demand for putting things on a project basis destroy curiosity." Also commenting on the value of seminar, Doc opined that seminars are good if they stimulate friction, and friction is good if it stimulates sparks, if the sparks are good--is this clear to everyone?

PUBLICATIONS, Fall Quarter, 1958

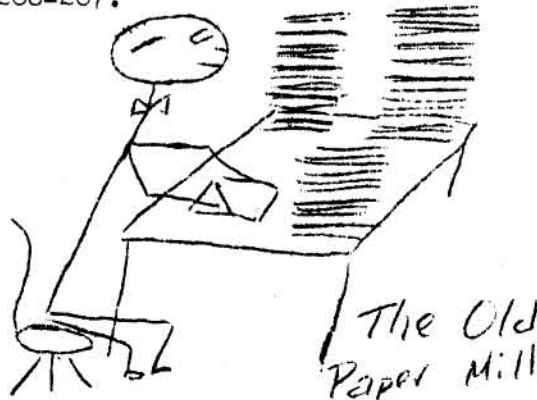
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Wilcoxson. Peduncle sclerenchyma tissue of Nugget wheat in relation to development of pustules of *Puccinia graminis* var. *tritici*. *Phytopathology* 48: 518-519.

Culbertson, Stoa, Dunham, Flor, Christensen, and Bothun. Growing seed flax in the north central states. *USDA Farmers' Bulletin* No. 2122. 20 pages.

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Kommedahl. Quackgrass. *Plants & Garden* 14:266-267.



LOCAL NEWS

'Twas the date before Christmas
And all thru P. erectus
Not a creature was stirrin'
Not even a Helicotylenchus--
a nematode, I guess.

The girls in "304"
Were working (?) with care
Waitin' and waitin' and
Waitin' for the holiday, which
would begin at noon, to be there.

Not waitin' was JJC. Staff phones began to ring at 9:45 and all aroused were requested or ordered to be in the chief's office by 10:00. At said hour the door 'tween his office and the rest of the 304-complex opened and a group of ill-assorted caroleers filled the office with angelic sounds. The problems of harmonics were ignored--it was difficult to match the right words to the right carols. After patiently listening to 4 of 5 renditions, one of the girls commented that the singing was so good that the troupe should serenade other departments in future years. It sounds to me as though our merry minstrels were told, diplomatically of course, that their atonal sounds were tolerated rather than appreciated.

So many department members have become addicted to bowling (we now have two departmental teams in the campus staff league) that no longer does a rumbling in the halls indicate that JJC is indoctrinating a new student (or old staff member). It may only be Wyllie, Lutey, King, or Mumford bowling at a cluster of Erlenmeyers at one end of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or 4th floor halls. No such thing goes on in Ag Botany--the floors are not level enough to permit bowling practice!

Tiles have recently been replaced in P. erectus in areas subject to hard wear. Several consequences of this maintenance program have been felt. 1) Felt by some was the replacement of tiles at the entrance to 304, where all who entered had to walk the straight and narrow to avoid walking into the door or walking into an activated blowtorch. 2) New tiles in the 3rd floor prep lab caused it to be closed for a day. Wails of protest echoed through the halls. 3)

Karl (report-writing) Fezer walked into "his" lab the other day and upon observing the new tiles under one of his tables asked of lab mate Don (always-in-the-lab) Taylor, "Did they just finish putting in some new tiles?" In a pleasant tone of voice (for a nematologist) Taylor replied, "Yes, about 2 weeks ago. Spend much time in the lab?"

The ranks of the Plant Path Bachelor's Club suffered two more casualties over the Christmas season. On December 27, Thomas Kavanagh married Eithne Laracy, and later the same day John Kotheimer and Margaret Kallin were married.

Latest children of department members are Bart Mumford and Nancy D. Roberts.

Ag Botany's bright-lights expert, Dr. Al Linck, recently made a flying trip to Beltsville, Fort Detrick, and Ottawa where he inspected light and controlled-environment rooms. The tour was in preparation for the happy day when the specifications will be drawn up for the department's new controlled-environment rooms to be installed in the planned Crops Research Building.

Special Notice on June 23

Friends of Dr. Thomas H. King will be grieved to know that his wife Evve died of a brain tumor on June 5, 1959.

Heart attacks recently widowed two former secretaries: Mrs. Maurice Annexstad, known as "Tooty" when she was in the Department in the early 40's; and Mrs. Angus McQueen, secretary in the 50's.