

OLD TIMERS' COLYUM

June Communion

Once more the time for June bugs, June spore showers, and June commencement has slipped quietly and unobtrusively upon an unsuspecting Old Tottering Tower. There have been the usual frantic attempts to get these done on time, the usual--some unusual--review sessions, oral examinations--with the final written forgotten until the last minute-- , Experiment Station reports, time-distribution reports, field plantings, and a multitude of other things of varying degrees of importance. Some of these things are just chores; others seem worth doing; still others seem just plain sticky tanglefoot to keep people from doing the really worthwhile things; and some being the thrills that make the rest tolerable, provided a fellow sputters enough about them to keep from getting really mad.

The biggest thrill is to rejoice with those who have fought their way through to their advanced degrees. Because those degrees have meaning. It is true that "Master of Science" does not necessarily mean that its proud possessor has really mastered science or even one field of science; it is true that not all Doctors of Philosophy are really lovers of wisdom who love that wisdom so much that they are raring to have others share it with them. But at least those who attain the degrees are considered worthy of the trust that a degree implies. Degrees are not only symbols of accomplishment, but they are evidences that the recipients are considered worthy to honor them and the institution that granted them. That is why so many devices are invented to safeguard against granting degrees to any except those who are worthy of them. How about a little communion with ourselves on each commencement anniversary to consider how well we have justified the faith that was placed in us, possibly with a view to being just a little better satisfied with ourselves on next communion day.

Oil or wine, which shall it be? Maybe a little of each--figuratively, of course!

At any rate, to all the Haves and to Have-nots who are still on the way--SKOL!

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Ornithological Number by Inadvertence

The Scotchman, Alan GEMMELL, tries to make us feel content with our unhappy lot by intimating that the Tower isn't so wobbly and the climate isn't so hot--at least in winter. Well, maybe it isn't so bad after all. At least the foliage is heavy on the trees, there is plenty of water in the ground, and the alternation between frigid and torrid weather makes it impossible for anybody to be depressed because of monotony!

"AURORA, the only paper which I care to read in full...It really lightens my heart when I gather all the news concerning my friends abroad." This tribute came from T. C. LOH, at Shatong, China, on April 7. He states further: "I am as usual working under the same tension, although once in a while I feel a little depressed. The trouble is that we do not know how long we can work under such circumstances and with this tight surrounding. Nevertheless, research work, if you may still call it that, is still going strong here." Remember, though, T. C., that all of AURORA'S readers are working in spirit right along beside you!

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QUEEN ELIZABETH, "Bess" to her photographer Larry TYNER of Edmonton, Canada, may now be seen on many desks of the Tottering Tower. Even to case-hardened democrats, we girls must admit that we could learn a few lessons in feminine charm from this English lady! Scotch to you, Gemmell! Dr. TYNER sends "very best regards to all my friends, which greeting, I am pleased to think, includes everyone."

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"I am always glad to see AURORA to get the news of the department," says Jack WESTERN from far-off Wales. "You have had quite a few changes since I was with you, and I am sure I should know nobody in the Graduate Club now". Yes, indeed, Time and Tide--even the tide of graduate students--waits for no man, not even an Old Timer. The Little Boys come and right away get to be Big Boys and Big Boys always want to leave the nest as soon as they have tried their scalpels. Then when the prodigals think of returning they realize there will be no Brother Scalpelers to play with, but only a Brood of Strange Young Hopefuls. Sad, isn't it, JACK?

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"School out, summer school going full force no rest for teachers here!"--Jimmie L. SEAL, at Auburn, Alabama, on June 13.

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Away-for-the-Summer, John T. PRESLEY, wrote on his arrival at Sacaton, Arizona, that he had already "started piddling in the laboratory a bit", that "everything looks extremely well at the Station, the work is progressing nicely and the goose hangs high. Regards to everyone."

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Axel L. ANDERSEN, at Michigan State College, remembered his friends in the T. T. in part as follows: "Here it is nearly five months since I left Minnesota and it seems like yesterday...I've been picking up all the news I can from Minnesota...Dr.HWANG managed to give out some while he was here, although I had to give him an oral exam to find it out...one thing that this institution has over Minnesota and that is the campus itself...one can hardly see from one building to the next for trees and flowers. Altogether we have approximately 1400 different species of trees and shrubs on the campus (nearly all labeled) so you can see that it is an arboretum in itself...

"...Lately the Michigan onion growers have been losing a large percentage of their onion crops because of mildew and pink root epidemics...I had never seen an onion that was five inches in diameter until I came here. Possibly something like Dr. Stakman's Mexican oranges and grapefruit...

"...I want to wish you all kinds of success in winning the 1939 kitten-ball championship (probably too late now). Anyway, with Dr. J. J. C.'s able coaching and Dsdall's cheer leading, you should have had no difficulty whatsoever...Glen KENKNIGHT is receiving his Ph.D. tomorrow. He sends his greetings to the gang..."

P.S. ...I really miss the seminars and coffee!

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WELCOME, NEW OLD TIMERS!! Three new members of the group of Old Timers were initiated into the mysteries and rites of this organization officially on June 17, that being Commencement Day. Commencement is now held at night in the closed end of the stadium, with about 25,000 people peering out into the darkness and a gang of faculty members peering back at them. Commencement is both a very dignified and impressive ceremony and one which brings the titters even to those who are preternaturally solemn because they think that is the way a fellow ought to be at commencement. For example, at the last commencement, the band played the March of the Wooden Soldiers when the members of the R.O.T.C. came up to get their commissions. Even the Colonel or General, or whoever he was who was up there to see that the boys marched past properly, permitted just the faintest suggestion of a smile to flit across his face, and his ear was observed to twitch once.

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But back to the New Old Timers! The commencement program shows the following:

Liang Hwang

B. S. '29, University of Nanking	M. S. '37, University of California
Major, Plant Pathology	Thesis, The effect of light on the viability of
Minor, Botany	urediospores of certain cereal rusts.

Lawrence Edmund Tyner

B.Sc. '31, M.Sc. '33, University of Alberta

Major, Plant Pathology

Minor, Agricultural Biochemistry

Thesis, The effect of crop debris upon the pathogenicity of cereal foot-and root-rotting fungi

Paul Victor Siggers

B.S. '12, M.S. '15, University of Michigan

Major, Plant Pathology

Minor, Forestry

Thesis, The brown-spot needle blight of pine seedlings.

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Time creeps on apace and the fledglings of yesterday are the soaring intellectual eagles of tomorrow. At any rate, welcome into the band, and the music will be the sweeter because of your participation!

** Tweet Tweet **

BOOKSHELF

On the Old Timers' Shelf this time are Reiner BONDE (with Wyman) on "Bacterial wilt and soft rot of the potato" as Me. Ext. Service Bul. 258; E. B. LAMBERT (with Humfeld) on "Mushroom casing soil in relation to yield" as USDA Cir. 509; C. L. LEFEBVRE (With Johnston) on "Chlorotic mottling of wheat leaves caused by infections of bunt *Tilletia laevis*" in May Phytopath.; and very-old-timer VALLEAU (with Diachun) on "Relation of stomatal opening to water soaking of tobacco leaves" in May Am. Jour. Botany.

On the local shelf are M. B. MOORE and E. C. STAKMAN (with Hayes) on "Studies of inheritance in crosses between Bond, *Avena byzantina*, and varieties of *A. sativa*" as Minn. Tech. Bul. 137; and L. M. HAMILTON on "Stem rust in the spring wheat area in 1878" in Minnesota History for June.

VISITORS

Olaf AAMODT*, Head of Department of Agronomy, University of Wisc., Madison, Wisc.
C. G. ANDERSON*, ("Big Andy"--Quarantine Inspector), Brownsville, Texas.
E. B. DAHL, Soil Conservation Service, Burlington, North Carolina
E. T. EDWARDS, (Sydney, Australia) now at Madison, Wisconsin.
H. FLOR*, U.S.D.A. Agricultural College, Fargo, North Dakota
J. G. HARRAR* and wife. Department of Biology, Virginia Agr. Mechanical College and Polytechnic Institute, Blacksburg, Virginia
R. G. HENDERSON, Virginia Agricultural Exp. Station, Blacksburg, Virginia
E. A. HOLLOWELL, (clovers), U.S.D.A., Arlington Farms, Rosslyn, Virginia
Howard JOHNSON*, Arlington Farms, Rosslyn, Virginia
Glenn KENKNIGHT*, Department of Plant Pathology, Agr. Exp. Station, East Lansing, Michigan.
G. H. HEPTING, U.S.D.A. (Forest Investigations). Appalachian Forest Exp. Station, Asheville, North Carolina.
F. R. JONES, U.S.D.A. (alfalfa and clover diseases) Agr. Exp. Station, Madison, Wisc.
J. E. KOTILA, U.S.D.A. Sugar Beet Investigations, Washington, D. C.
Mary L. MARTINI, U.S.D.A. Asst. Botanist, Barley Investigations, Washington, D. C.
J. M. WALLACE*, U.S.D.A. Division of Sugar Plant Investigations, Riverside, Calif.

* Old Totterers.

PLANT PATHOLOGY FIELD EXPERIMENTS--1939

A. E. EAGLE, Chief in charge of field work at University Farm, in a recent interview assures us that the scientific curiosity of the current crop of Totterites is at as high a level as in previous years, judging by the number and

extent of the experimental plots. It appears that almost everyone in the department is running some kind of an experiment, so that many new and interesting discoveries should be forthcoming. The bulk of the field work is a continuation of previous studies initiated by the experiment station staff which are more or less routine in nature. The remainder of the field work consists of a heterogeneous group of experiments involving many and diverse crops and pathogens on which aspiring graduate students indulge their fancies and imagination as well as a minimum of energy.

Considerable inconvenience and delay was experienced as a result of an unexpected curtailment of W.P.A. funds. Nevertheless, planting was completed despite this serious setback because certain hospitable individuals ventured to offer their assistant to needy members, especially after they had received assurances that the arrangement was a reciprocal one. C. T. Tsiang and S. M. Chen were even so kind as to hold their planting in abeyance until they were certain that everyone was through in order that they might not interfere with anyone else's work. Special thanks are due those individuals who helped others just for the sake of gaining "experience".

It might be of interest to Old Timers and informative to New Timers to summarize briefly the nature of the work that is being done this year in the field.

- Allison--Physiologic specialization in Septoria bromigena
- Ausemus and Stakman--Wheat rust nursery (in cooperation with U.S.D.A.)
- Chen--Rhizoctonia root rot of grains and corn.
- Christensen, C.--Establishment of a forest tree nursery near horticulture orchards north of Green Hall.
- Christensen, J. J.--Development of disease resistant varieties of barley, corn, and flax.
- Dosdall--Diseases of Iris Spp.
- Downie--Effect of seed treatments on sugar beet stand.
- Eide--Potato virus plots, purple top, potato seed piece treatments.
- DeZeeuw--Rhizoctonia of potato.
- Graham--Helminthosporium gramineum.
- Hanson, E.--Disease garden for wheat (reaction to bunt, scab, black chaff, root rot, etc.) Effect of fertilizers on development of bunt.
- Hart--Effect of environment on development of stem rust of wheat.
- Henson--Clover disease studies
- Laskaris--Sorghum smuts
- Lovine--Bacteria parasitic on stem rust: effect of dusts on leaf rust.
- Moore--Loose smut of wheat, ergot, rye smut, breeding oats for resistance to crown and stem rust. Seed treatment of cereals.
- Preston--Physiologic specialization in brome smut
- Tervet--Smuts of oats and barley, bunt and certain grasses.
- Voorhees--Strawberry root rot.
- Watson--Breeding for stem rust resistance in Australian wheat.
- Schaal and Vaughn--potato scab at Coon Creek and Elk River.

MORE SERVICE FOR OUR PUBLIC

We write of the services that the inmates of T.T. give to the public and mention the speeches, extension trips, radio talks, demonstrations, and researches which are material additions to the well-being of the agricultural folk of our state. There is, however, another type of service given daily with a sincere appreciation of its importance about which we never write.

A man walks down the hall of T.T. carrying a package under his arm. He stops you, unwraps the package and asks, "What's wrong with these strawberry plants and what can I do about it", or "Here are some mushrooms I found, are they good to eat?"

It may be a lady with a sick flower wondering how she can cure the disease and save her prized plant. Many do not come personally but send letters asking how to treat tomato seed and with what or how to control smut of wheat. Or it is a telephone call asking someone to come out and look at peas that are dying or trees that look blighted. Each query, which is of paramount importance to the person making it, whether put personally, by telephone, or letter, is answered as well as the information at hand will permit. Certainly no service strikes closer to the individual than this type and none is more important in bringing about good-will towards the University and consternation to members of an already overloaded Experiment Station staff.

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The Annual High School Agriculture Students' Congress was held May 18-20. On the morning of the 19th small groups of the boys assembled for classes. Matt MOORE gave a talk and demonstration on seed treatment, Andy DOWNIE and Bill LOEGERING spent a few minutes with the boys in the greenhouse discussing root rots and rusts. J. J. CHRISTENSEN and M. F. KERNKAMP took them through the laboratories and told them about the culturing of fungi.

NEWS IN THE TOWER

Springtime is degree time. Here they are--look 'em over. LARRY TYNER, L. HWANG, and PAUL SIGGERS have completed requirements for the Ph.D. degree. Earle HANSON has passed his prelim, and also will receive his Masters degree. Lew ALLISON has also passed his prelim. Congratulations and salutations.

JOHN PRESLEY has returned to Sacaton, Arizona, where he will continue his cotton root-rot investigations, during the summer. However, he expects to return to the Tottering Tower next fall.

Old Timer BOB ATKINSON is back with us again. For the past three years BOB has been at L.S.U., where he worked out his Masters thesis on the red rot disease of sugarcane. Welcome back, Bob!

VALLEGA has been giving his Ford (Cherry-Bounce) another workout. He has recently returned from Ames, Iowa, after visiting various departments and making pow-wow with several of the investigators there.

That the Tottering Tower is still holding its own is evident by its new Sigma Xi initiates, namely; SIGGERS, TYNER, VALLEGA, CHILTON, HWANG, LASKARIS, HANSON, and KING. Congratulations to all.

HAVE YOU HEARD? The Big Chief (DR. STAKMAN) has been honored with the chairmanship of the section of plant pathology, at the 1940 meeting of the International Botanical Congress, to be held in Stockholm, Sweden. Congratulations to the Chief.

CURRENT LITERATURE OF A THURSDAY EVE

Coincident with Spring, such as it is in this country, there have been numerous visitors to the Tower; some have been new, but for the most it has been a return.

One of these was Larry TYNER, south from Edmonton with his Ph.D. thesis and a new corn cob, but otherwise unchanged. He favored us with a presentation (in shirt sleeves) of his work on the "Effect of Debris on the Pathogenicity of Foot and Root Rots of Cereals". As is his wont, he had accumulated a mass of information, which, in general, indicated less infection and poorest growth of wheat grown in soil containing oat straw and inoculated with various organisms.

Another to return to the fold was "Pee Wee" WALLACE, fresh from another spurt of history-making, which is nothing new for him. They say he began at an early age, as far back as knee pants in fact, to impress people. It was the Governor of Mississippi the first time. Years later, a true scientist by then, he took in Evening Seminar on his wedding day. Now, he tells us that as far as Curly Top of Sugar beets is concerned, the term "acquired tolerance" is more applicable. Acquired immunity connotes the action of antibodies, and he has not found evidence of their presence from an excellent series of experiments.

Paul SIGGERS, demonstrator of a thousand and one blends of Pineapple juice, was kind enough to present, for the edification of the Seminar, his thesis in which he changed Septoria acicola to Lecanosticta acicola, discovered and named the perfect stage Scirrhia acicola, and obtained extremely good results from heavy fertilization to overcome the effects of the needle-spot. His discoveries being revolutionary, opposition in any form was expected, so Siggers was re-inforced during the proceedings by those well known belligerents, Borlaug and Voorhees. True to their duty, these stalwarts invited everyone that interrupted to step outside, Stak included.

Naturally, with such distinguished visitors to pump, but little literature has been reviewed. Last week Stak covered fifty publications in the same evening. Surely the balance has been restored!

SUMMER PHYTOPATH MEETINGS JUNE 21-23

With many a yawn and grumble some fifteen Plant Pathologists from Minnesota rolled out of bed around 4:00 A.M., June 21, to make the trip to the Summer Phytopathological Meetings at Madison, Wis. Four cars made the trip in the rain and were greeted by a deluge at Madison in the afternoon. However, those fortunate enough to be at the right place enjoyed the afternoon program of papers and demonstrations dealing mainly with Plant Physiology. In the evening the pathologists had their dinner in the University Club after which were shown moving pictures of Wisconsin's mushrooms, flowers, deer, and rivers, followed by NO speeches. A short business meeting was held at which it was decided that next years' meeting would be held in South Western Illinois near East St. Louis in the vegetable growing area.

On Thursday morning the highlight was an invitation paper by E.C.S. on "Variability of the Smut Fungi" and a mighty fine talk it was into which the "Chief" packed a lot of information. This was followed by other papers on various subjects not specifically dealing with Plant Pathology. The afternoon was spent on field trips to the plots and in visiting demonstrations and exhibits.

One of the most interesting events was, of course, the Minnesota dinner missed by G. KenKnight but attended by O.T.'s Mr. and Mrs. "Dutch Harrar, Mr. and Mrs. Olaf Aamodt, C. C. Allison, and Thornberry. All of them and others gave talks using "The Minnesota Spirit" as a theme. Interspersed here and there were comments, talks, and speeches by Stakman. As the evening progressed Dr. C. H. Bailey, Vice Director of the Minnesota Experiment Station, dropped in on us and said a few words. Everyone had a good time and we are looking forward to other such dinners.

One of the most interesting field trips was the one to the Forest Products Laboratory near Madison. It is truly inspiring to visit this modern research center. On Friday everyone started home, stopping enroute to see the country through which they traveled.

THE ARGENTINE

On a Thursday evening Dr. Jose Vallega discussed the Argentine and its breeding problems in the wheat and flax improvement programs. Disease resistance and quality seem to be the chief objectives in the wheat program, so that Vallega and his co-workers have quite some problem on their hands. Besides breeding for that elusive character known as quality they must contend with such diseases as stripe rust, leaf rust, stem rust, loose smut, both stinking smuts, root rots (chiefly H. nativum) and black point. Many wheat varieties, American, German, Italian, English, and Australian, are used as parents in an attempt to obtain resistance to all diseases that are destructive. However, for Watson's benefit, Vallega does not think that Australian varieties show very much promise in Argentina. Various methods of making gluten determinations as criteria of quality were discussed. The audience, composed entirely of pathologists with meagre biochemical experience, got a great deal of new information from this.

The chief problems in flax breeding are rust and wilt, the most important sources of resistance being American and Indian varieties of flax. Genetic studies are now in progress.

The strictly scientific discussion was followed by an enlightening talk on the crops of the Argentine, the types of livestock, the height of the mountains, the prevalence of chinooks in Patagonia, the forests of the northwest, and the cities and universities of Argentina.

AUSTRALIA

Vallega is returning to Argentina to study some of the many plant disease problems and difficulties in the way of increased crop production just as old Minnesotans W. L. WATERHOUSE, H. J. HYNES, R. J. NOBLE, and J. G. CHURCHWARD returned to Australia to help in a solution of troubles there. Where these great men work cereal diseases do not present quite the complicated situation that is evident in the U. S. Race 34 of stem rust continues to predominate in the rust survey studies done at Sydney University. Breeding for resistance to various diseases is proceeding at a number of institutions. A new variety "Eureka" with stem rust resistance inherited from a Kenya colony parent was released last year by the N. S. W. Department of Agriculture. Flag smut, at one time Australia's most destructive wheat disease, has, owing to the development of resistant varieties, passed into the background although well to the fore in any improvement program. No physiologic specialization in the flag smut organism has been demonstrated from Australian collections. Septoria tritici is becoming increasingly important under New South Wales conditions probably due to an accumulation of inoculum as well as to the growing of susceptible varieties.

All plant breeders welcome a parent that possesses immunity to a group of diseases. Few common wheats have this feature and besides the recent stress on the need for wheats with high quality flour adds to the essential requirements in any improved variety. Among the durum Waterhouse has exploited the possibilities of using Gaza and has successfully transferred to vulgare wheats its resistance to stem rust, flag smut, and leaf rust.

STARS IN THE SOUTHERN SKIES

Youngest stars in the down-under hemisphere are Dr. Jose Vallega of the University of LaPlata and Ministry of Agriculture in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and Irwin Watson, representative of the University of Sydney, New South Wales, Australia. Old Timer Vallega soon returns to the Argentine to establish another T. T. dynasty and to watch over the destinies of South America along with Dr. Garcia Rada, who is

in Lima, Peru. Watson comes from a long and illustrious line of Antipodean Towerites, bright stars in the skies of Australia; W. J. Waterhouse, R. J. Nobla, H. J. Hynes, and J. G. Churchward. Practically next door to the firmament of kangaroos and wallabies is that fairee isle of New Zealand, where J. G. Gibbs shines at Palmerston North near the constellations of Wellington. And on the Dark Continent, far from the Tower that Totters, Len Verwoerd sheds light at the University of Stellenbosch not far from Capetown, South Africa. Near the African section of the Equator K. MacIndoe glistens in the Liberian metropolis of Monrovia.

