

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 divers ways

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

OLD TIMERS

In Agricultura Tropical appeared "Presentamos Elvin C. Stakman" by recent Old Timer Ing. Agr. Daniel MESA Bernal. How truly Mr. Mesa wrote when he said of the Chief: "Su vida en los Estados Unidos es muy agitada, constantemente" (July)

Mesa sent his greetings to everybody at Minnesota, with particular thanks to the staff in the old Tottering Tower for their instruction, counsel, and friendship. Says he is working on nutrition of the potato, including particularly deficiency diseases. His address: Sección Biología, Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería, Bogotá, Colombia.

Ady Raul da SILVA has a new address and a new son. The latter is Raul Silvestre; the former is Instituto Agronómico do Sul--where da Silva is chief of the Section of Fitotecnia--at Pelotas, Estado do Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil.

At Torreon, Coahuila, Mexico, Old Timer Carlos BARBOSE (M.S. 1948 Minn.) is now Chief of the Campo Experimental "La Paz" (Apartado Postal No. 247), where he has been testing wheat varieties for different parts of the Laguna area. Reminiscing about Minnesota, he wrote: "I love the people and the land of 10,000 lake plus minus; my stay there was a dream from which I never wish to get up." Sent regards to "the Seminar people."

Dr. I. A. WATSON, University of Sydney, Australia, sends photographic evidence of the Fl: Graham Charles aged 3, Judith Anna 1, and Barbara June 6. Since the order of listing is the father's, we have to assume that the 3-year-old is the most important because he is a boy! Says he got some Minnesota news from Dr. Churchward on his return to Australia and sends regards to former colleagues here. Wants to know whether Borlaug still thinks the redwoods are taller than the eucalyptus of Australia.

According to Dr. R. J. NOBLE, Undersecretary of Agriculture for New South Wales, Australia, Dr. W. L. Waterhouse is recipient of the second Farrer's Gold Memorial Medal. AURORA SPORALIS congratulates Dr. Waterhouse for this recognition of his achievements. Back in the early 20's this distinguished scientist had office space in the famous 4th Floor Front of the Tottering Tower.

Extension Specialist R. C. Rose, in the course of his travels, talked with former secretary Rosemary Miltich in Virginia, Minnesota. Her new name is Mrs. Robert J. Pearsall Jr., and her address 1510 S. 11th St., Williams Addition, Virginia.

"Smokers' Boon... Dr. William VALLEAU, plant pathologist of the University of Kentucky, has produced a tobacco with 1/10 the nicotine of most cigarettes... a cross of Cuban cigar tobacco with southern burley..." Pathfinder, June 16

"Honored at the recent annual meeting of Maine Potato Growers, Inc., in Presque Isle were, left to right (in photograph) Dr. Reiner BONDE and Dr. Donald FOLSON." With the head of the Department of Agricultural Economics, the two Old Timers were cited for their long service.

Dr. J. Lewis ALLISON is now Research Professor in the Section of Plant Pathology, Department of Botany, State College, Raleigh, North Carolina. He is still working on forage crop diseases and represents the Bureau of Plant Industry of the U. S. Department in this field in the southeast, including North and South Carolina, Virginia, Kentucky, and Tennessee. Of the three little Allison's, two are now attending school.

On July 28, Olaf S. AAMODT, on USDA forage crops research, wrote from London, "I have just finished six weeks in Western Europe and northern Ireland,...I leave now for two weeks in Iceland on ECA program." Just after we finished writing this, who dropped in but Olaf in person!

Dr. Lee LING also went to England this summer in connection with his duties in the Food and Agriculture Organization of UN. Reports that he had a long reminiscent chat with Old Timer Jack Western in London about the good old times in the Tottering Tower.

Godfrey Hoerner, hop specialist at Corvallis, Oregon, sent a long newsy letter and from another source came two newspaper clippings, one containing a photograph of Mrs. Hoerner beside a "Welcome" wagon. She is the official hostess who calls on new residents at Corvallis, a tradition sponsored by the chamber of commerce. The other report gives Hoerner credit for being a good cook, unique for concocting sauces by taste and instinct. Says Godfrey, "I saw Melander at Corvallis in July; and as usual he was in a big rush!"

Said Dr. MELANDER himself, on return to Minnesota, "I saw Bamberg and LeClerg, Mullin, Miller, Persons, Lyle, Wilson, and Presley." Again in a big rush, M's only comment was, "Lyle has a beautiful wife and a beautiful home--I spent all Sunday afternoon with them."

George HAFSTAD, who has a wife and two charming daughters, sent a snapshot of a group of Old Timers gathered at his home in Chester, Maryland (Bamberg, LeClerg, Rodenhiser, Tervet, Hines, and Churchward). Although Hafstad had not seen Churchward for 18 years, to him it seemed like only 18 months. How time flies!

Morris N. TELLER, who is associated with Parke-Davis and Co. in Detroit, recommends that the members of the Seminar read the paper entitled "The Society Fellow" in the winter issue of the American Scientist, as "it should prove enlightening and also increase their appreciation of unique freedoms and contacts available in the Division."

THURSDAY EVENING SEMINAR, or, Cowbell Serenade.



With the pealing of the cowbell through the illustrious halls of Phytobrickhaus erectus for the 377th Thursday night, seminar convened on September 29 for the last time before the beginning of the fall term. On the north side of the seminarial chamber recline the personages of Stakman, Loegering, Kernkamp, and King who, while the chairman ransacks the drawers for the gavel, chat amiably with others across the room, among them Chris, that is, when he is not engrossed in trying to predict the outcome of the local baseball game, or somewhat amateurishly smoking a cigarette. In the corner by the bookshelf sit Boosalis or Ehrlich, idly thumbing through a book--surreptitiously plucked from the shelf behind (a trick thought to be learned from Eide). Meanwhile like a London fog, cigar smoke and ideas intermingle,

Cutting through the haze, learned thoughts are conceived, once, into considering the influence of physical theory on biological thought, as suggested in a paper. The author opined that physics and biology have gone through the same thought processes. Furthermore, to the delight of Krog, Heisenberg's Principle of Uncertainty was applied to organisms. Uncanny, that,

Certainty was again assured when personable Lee Hines espoused the cause of Ecuadorian agricultural science. Lee, who, like the Chief, suffers occasionally from "Soroche" (sickness due to high altitudes), waxed enthusiastic over the progress made, and lamented the want of phosphate in the soils, as well as the diseases of cacao. Incidentally, the Big Chief had some difficulty in trying to remember when



he had ever suffered from "soroche".

A favorite question of Stak's is, "How many 'I's' should a good research man have?" Eight, apparently--as the Chief and the seminar more or less got together and decided as much and, in order of importance, these "I's" are: Intelligence, Interest, Industry, Initiative, Inventiveness, Insight, Imagination, and Insatiability. When Indolence was suggested, it was frowned upon, although as a stimulus for doing things more easily and more effectively, a point was conceded in its favor. When called to vote on the list of eight as valid criteria of research ability, the "I's" were found to be above the "No's".

Speaking of research, not all is performed in the laboratory and, as any pathologist knows, much of it is carried out in the field--but not because it stinks. One such excursion was on "Melandor Day"--the annual rust survey of July 8. Recounting this occasion, Munnecke, with cheeks pinker than usual, presented these all-important statistics, viz., of 1006 Minnesota grain fields surveyed, 697 were planted to oats, 150 to Barley, 69 to spring wheat, 50 to rye, and 17 to winter wheat. Although Goto, Gibler, and Bedi also had experiences to relate, they were somewhat overshadowed by Dr. Rodenhiser, who dropped in to contribute some additional field data.

"Rody", one of the original Q. C. F.-ers, and a student at Minnesota in the decade when Ceres wheat was produced, commented at first that the MINNESOTA SEMINAR was one of the two places in the country where a statement will not go unchallenged; then he neatly presented evidence to show for the first time that an interspecific hybrid, in this case bunt, can and does increase in the field. Though not because it was challenged, the succeeding seminar discussed a paper reviewed by S. Goto, concerning the work of an Italian where a new species of Tilletia was described--a species, which in a similar work, Rodenhiser had designated as a hybrid. Again the spectre of nomenclature.

The charm of Little Canada, Florida, and Argentina repose in one Ernie DuCharme, visiting Old Timer who was the spellbinder with his talk on the trials of citrus trees in sickness and in health. From here, Ernie was reported as being in Argyle and Crookston in the Red River Valley, and again in Marine-on-the-St. Croix with Dr. Loegering, B.S. (boy scout), Bill and Ernie that is...And who knows where Ernie is now?

In every seminar there are the usual announcements, e.g. books and petri dishes--announcements pertaining only to the esoteric. Of the former, Doc Eide suggested the seminar acquire "Dr. Dogbody's Leg" by J. Norman Hall; and concerning the latter announcement, the same Dr. Eide urged that dirty dishes be returned to the prep lab for class use especially, drily commenting that it is Moore, Shurtleff, and petri dishes that make Plant Pathology I such an outstanding college course.

The physiologically-trained reviewed the outstanding papers given in a symposium on growth held recently at the University of Wisconsin. Topics varied from the function of auxins in plants to the formation and structure of cell walls. The work of men like Skoog, Went, Thimann, and Blakeslee received a considerable share of attention. In the meantime, Gibler, clad in khaki, puffed contentedly on his cigar, while Hemerick, solemn in horn-rimmed glasses, exhaled huge volumes of smoke sucked out of a corn cob pipe. Smoking seems an integral part of seminar; however, as in all biological phenomena, variation exists. The cigar protruding from Goto's clenched teeth slides off to one corner of his mouth in moments of relaxation, and with hands folded in front of him, ideas and smoke come in and go out together. Eide, on the other hand, smokes a pipe, and his forefinger is usually locked around the pipe stem at the bowl end--all the while pondering the proceedings.

Well, perhaps the omission of smoke at appropriate intervals serves to punctuate one's speech, and thereby improving one's speaking ability....perhaps. At any rate there is more to smoking than is suggested by the equal numbers of chromosomes present in man and tobacco.

SPORTS



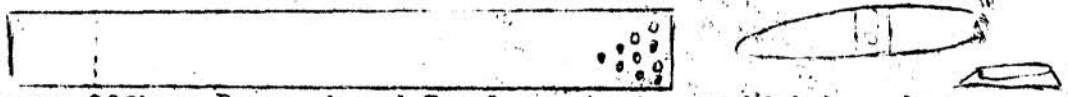
Sports can be summed up very briefly in one four-letter word: NONE. Except for a few scattered rounds of golf here and there by the tee men, Mike Boosalis, Mike Daly, Jim DeVay, Dave French, Don Munnecke, and Mal Shurtleff, the active sports scene was barren during the past three months. However, observers report that the story-telling ability of these plant path putters improved more rapidly than their games!

Hot weather, though, seemed just the thing to bring spectator sports into full bloom. July, August, and early September saw most of us hovering hopefully and pridefully over the association baseball returns. When the St. Paul Saints came through with the pennant, we were confident they would make a sweep of the playoffs and little world series; but that seventh playoff game decreed otherwise, so we fickle fans turned our attention to football. In case you hadn't heard, Minnesota romped over Washington in the first game 48-20 and in the second game left Nebraska behind 28-6.

Rumors are flying that the Plant Pathers cagemen are getting organized for their second season of basketball with the Agronomy grads as their chief (and only) opponents.

The list of volunteer bowlers for the regular grad-faculty Wednesday-night league is on the bulletin board, but so far no definite team has been organized. Watch this column for further developments.

LOCALS



The Reserve Officer Research and Development groups which have been organized during the past year by the armed services have elicited a more-than-moderate interest in the Division. At last count, five members of the staff were participating in the Navy program, while no less than nine were attending the Army meetings. RORD activities include part-time research projects, talks on a variety of subjects of general scientific interest, and familiarization of officers with current work of the armed services.

AURORA apologizes humbly for omission of the name of Dr. Donald de Zeeuw (Michigan) from the list of June Ph.D's at Minnesota. Don has so long impressed us with his erudition that we had subconsciously awarded him the degree long ago.

F1 Department: Shirley, daughter of Ralph Cotter, is the first of the F1's to take graduate work in the Division. She's a Botany major, Plant Pathology minor, and morely incidentally, was Summa cum laude at her March graduation, plus Phi Beta Kappa.

Only new F1 is the young Pon lad, who at this writing had not yet been named.

This summer saw graduate students working at some distant points. Dave Baskin was again holding down the Northwest Station assignment. Ralph Anderson is completing 4 months study of Hypoxylon on aspen in northern Wisconsin and Minnesota. Herb Johnson worked on Green Giant peas at LeSueur.

Paul Fridlund has accepted a permanent position with the state of Minnesota as Assistant State Entomologist.

Add benedicts: Erwin Schwinghamer, Research Assistant, married Joyce Kemponich on September 10.

So rare are new automobiles in Faculty circles and so common with the New graduate student that there were those who declared that Miss Dossdall had gone over to the enemy's camp when she appeared in a new green Ford.

We welcome Mrs. S. K. (Marjorie) Freiberg as the new Secretary of the Division. She replaces Margaret Johnson who has returned to teaching school.

Clyde Christensen's most recent off-the-campus lecture was delivered to the Rochester Garden Club on September 15. The subject was "Molds." In addition to his other duties, Clyde is giving a course in Mycology to students in the Divisions of Bacteriology and Immunology of the School of Medicine.

On July 27, our botanists took active part in a weed and research tour, including the fruit breeding farm at Excelsior, Rosemount, and University Farm.

As of September 27, there are 43 graduate students in Plant Pathology and Botany.

BOOKSHELF



TEDIN, Tobacco breeding (crossing Swedish with American), Sver. Utsadesföronings Tidsskr. No. 3.

NOBLE, Report of Dept. Agr. of New South Wales for year ending 6/30/48.

MESA, see Old Timers Column.

DICKINSON, Pts. 3 and 4 of Studies in the physiology of obligate parasitism (rust mycelium growth; formation of haustoria membranes in rust and mildew), Ann. Botany, July.

LEFEBVRE* Undescribed sp. of Periconia, Mycologia July-August.

TYLER*, Hylurgopinus rufipes in association with Dutch elm disease, J.A.R. Apr.

HANSING, Yellow-dwarf of potatoes control, Cornell Bul. 792.

SHEMA, Slime control fundamentals, Paper Indus. and Paper World, August.

KREITLOW*, New virus, Ladino clover, Phytopath. July

MARTIN*, Black rot control, sweet potatoes, Ibid.

PRESTON*, Field legume seed treatment, Ibid. August

FELIX, Seed cotton certification requirements, Agronomía, July-August

ROBLES, La mosca prieta invade Nuevo Leon, Ibid

BOOKSTÄHLER*, Sugar beet breeding for black rot resistance, Mich. and Minn., Proc. Am. Soc. S. B. Tech. 48; Tests of US215 x 216 etc. for leaf spot resistance, Ibid.

FOLSON, BONDE*, Maine potato diseases, insects, injuries, Me. Bul. 469.

BONDE*, Control of late-blight tuber rot, Me. Bul. 471.

* * * * * Local Work * * * * * Local Work * * * * *

J. M. CHRISTENSEN*, Grain storage VIII. Molds in cottonseed and increased carbon dioxide, fatty acids, heat, Cereal Chem. March. STAKMAN, Stem rust and barberry eradication, Abs. in Proc. 25th Ann. Meeting, Central Plant Board, March; also Science and its sphere of influence, Gamma Alpha Record, May.

* With others.

Since the last publication of Aurora, we have had many comings of Old Timers, inspecting their old haunts.

During the month of June, Richard Nelson of Northwestern University in Physics visited the Department. Also, visits from Jake Leavitt, University of Missouri and John Zalor of General Mills.

July was a month full of visits from old friends. Lawrence (potatoes) Schaal from Colorado; Ernest and Lucille DuCharme (tristeza of citrus) from Argentina; H. A. "Rody" Rodenhiser from Beltsville; Earle W. Hanson from Wisconsin; Glenn Kenknight, wife and boy from Alabama; C. G. "Big Andy" Anderson from Salem, Oregon; Kermit Kreitlow from Pennsylvania; Dr. and Mrs. Ian Forbes and son Ben from Louisiana (via Washington State); Fred Chandler; the three Orellanos from Venezuela; and Philip Hamm from the Midwest Research Institute in Kansas City.

(Ed. note: our regular reporter was away during July)

In August, Dr. Adeliade Evanson arrived from Tucson, Arizona, for special work in mycology during the second summer session. Mr. and Mrs. Lee Hines, from Ecuador, were among Old Timers to stop in during August. Clyde Allison, of Ohio, was here late in the month; as was John Mitchell, of Camp Dietrick; Richard Zeitlow, with the Northern Pacific Railroad, Brainerd; and Russell Nielson, of Great Western Sugar, Colorado.

(Ed. note: our substitute reporter left town, too!
 Needed--a reliable stay-at-home who sees
 all and knows everybody!!)



Quoting one of the graduate students from India, Mr. Khan, "Minnesota is the mecca of plant pathology." Thus the following New Timers have come to the mecca of Plant Pathology--

Tung-Fong Chao of Feechien Shantung, China (M.S. in Horticulture, Minn., 1948) has been minoring in Agricultural Botany since last spring.

July 20 -- From Puerto Rico came Julio Bird (with bride Aida) for graduate work.

August 26 -- Nelson Delgado arrived from Colombia, S. A., to minor in plant path.

September 14 -- From Maryland came Joseph A. Keplinger for graduate study.

September 19 -- From Surinam (Dutch Guiana to the uninitiated) arrived Frank Albert del Prado for advanced study.

September 21 -- Rosendo Postigo Mendevil, from Peru, joined the student group, bringing a letter of introduction from Old Timer Garcia-Rada.

Late September -- From Prairieview A and M College, Brenham, Texas, came Lavaniel Henderson to study for a M.S. in Agricultural Botany.

George Failles, graduate of the local St. Thomas College, joined the Division to major in Agricultural Botany, also.

September 26 -- Last student to arrive before we go to press is Marco A. Flores of Guatemala, who has been working with Rolland Lorenz' group.

September 27 -- Last staff member to arrive is new secretary Mrs. Marjorie Freiberg, formerly of Wisconsin

During September, Former secretary Dorothy (Johnson) Berglund came visiting from Willmar. Her former team-mate, Helen (Pearson) Davies, telephoned the same day from her family home in Minneapolis; reported that the Davies live at Maple Beach, RD 2, Bristol, Pa., and that husband Fred was vacationing at Saratoga; New

York. (Any one who knows Fred knows the attraction that horse racing has for him!) Bjorn Peterson, of Winnipeg, spent two days here. One of Old-Timer D. L. Bailey's students, Mr. MacIntosh, of Canada, inspected the Division. We sent sweet messages to Bailey with him.

On October 1 The Big Chief returned from Mexico in time to attend a meeting in Chicago. While south of the border he flew to Guatemala City with Dr. Norman E. Borlaug and Joe Rupert, where they conferred with OT Rolland Lorenz, director of the station there. Out Latin reporter also saw José Vallega, who had come to Mexico City from Argentina to attend the First Inter-American Congress for Agronomists and Growers, and other former Minnesotans.

Dudley Preston returned to San Diego, California. Secretary Margaret Johnson resigned to resume teaching, now at Bloomington, Minnesota. To Madison, Wisconsin, went Duane LeTourneau, Norman Krog, Herbert Johnson, Michael Daly, and Harry Heggeness to attend the symposia on (1) mineral nutrition of plants, and (2) growth substances. Old-Timer Earle Hanson extended the very special Hanson Hospitality at Madison and also contributed talent and time as guide. Dr. Mir Ahmed Ali Khan Anwar and Dr. Syed Fakhrul Hasan, who departed early in July, are still touring in the United States, but expect to be home again in Hyderabad, India, in October. In a recent letter Anwar said, "I have not been able to overcome the feeling of separation from that serene, friendly and inspiring atmosphere of the Department of Plant Pathology, particularly of the Seminars and coffee hours."

