

OLD TIMERS

AURORA has gone on a diet! No girl wants to be fat. You will notice that she is being pared right down to the bones. Drs. Waterhouse and Watson, of the University of Sydney, insist they are getting fun out of their work, despite obstacles.*** At an International Congress on Plant Protection in London last summer, Jack WESTERN met Lee LING, "who seems to have changed not at all from the days when Matt Moore used to keep a fatherly eye on him in the old building," says Western.*** OT-for-20-years K. G. McINDOE, Liberia, read Science to the effect that tropical temperatures contribute to a slow deterioration of the human species.*** M. K. PINGORANI, New Delhi, India says "We have passed through the hot season... I am sure St. Paul must be pleasant now."*** New Address for Daniel MESA is Ciencias Naturales, Ciudad Universitaria, Bogotá, Colombia.*** José VALLEGA sends regards from Buenos Aires.*** Olof TEDIN of Sweden sent pics of his wife and 5 children, writing for the first time since his visit in 1947:

"Since my happy ten months in the old TT in 1925-26, I used to dream of a second visit. The dream came true, and the only two faults were, that it was altogether too brief, and that you nearly killed me by your hospitality...Plodding along with potato breeding...I wonder whether we will see anybody here at the botanical congress in 1950..."See bookshelf

*** John VAUGHN was made Associate Professor at Michigan State on July 1.*** W. C. BROADFOT on the dedication of the New Science Servic Lab at Lethbridge, Canada, had quite a spread in the Lethbridge Herald of Sept. 17, as did OT M. W. CORMACK. The former is Officer-in-Charge, the latter is in charge of plant pathology.*** Recent Ph.D. Sax SACKSTON, of Winnipeg, was handed a clipping from The Saturday Evening Post:

"...The New Leader heard that 200 Ph.D theses have disappeared from the University of California....This is supposed to be a neurotic age, but the wholesale theft of Ph.D. theses, if it should develop into a trend, suggests depths of masochistic melancholia which old Doctor Krafft-Ebing never had the nerve to explore..."

We venture to opine that all 200 were not the size of Sax's thesis!!*** The New Yorker states "The redoubtable Minneapolis flour people... Pillsbury Mills... took over the grand ballroom of the Waldorf one day to celebrate their 80th anniversary with the windup of a national baking contest," and wife of OT now-Michigan-der H. W. BOCKSTAHLER was one of the contestants! We remember the things she used to send to Seminar!*** M. A. PETTY, of Lederle Labs, has shifted his research to aureomycin; played host to Dr. ANWAR enroute to India, and expected to do likewise for Dr. Wahl enroute to Israel.*** Ing. J. RODRIGUEZ, of Chapingo, Mexico, is looking forward to "the best plant path laboratory in the country" next year.*** T. C. LOH, of Liuchow, wrote in Oct.:

"Words failed me when I received the recent issue of Aurora, Vol. 25, No. 1. I hastened through the content like a hungry wolf and tried to gulp down as much information and news as I could..."

Richard NELSON moved Oct. 1 to Ohio State University as Associate Professor in the Department of Physics.*** Recent Old Timer A. A. ANWAR, Ph.D. Minn. in June, left England for Bombay in November.*** Also S. F. HASSAN, who was granted his degree at the same time, was waiting for the next flight to India when Anwar wrote.*** H. R. WANG, Peking, says P. graminis tritici ruined 75 pct. of crop in north-east China in 1948, representing a loss of 2,400,000 tons of wheat.*** Rumors from

The New York meetings indicate that E. M. Johnson is improving in health; that David GOTTLIEB is presenting a paper at a spring congress in Italy and will take a Mediterranean cruise enroute; that EZEKIEL was busy organizing a new society for microbiologists; that Cam LEBEVRE is now with the Office of Experiment Stations of the USDA. (Not responsible for errors in time, place, or fact.) *** Instead of going to the meetings in New York, Huey BORDERS enjoyed the "flu" in Georgia. *** Adelaide EVENSON, who spent last summer here, is teaching mycology at Arizona U, and her picnic equipment now includes hand lens, knife, and collection box. *** Lawrence MILLER (Va.) is maintaining the fine reputation for generosity of peanut pathologists (cf. Coyt Wilson, Alabama) by sending the Seminar 50 lbs. of peanuts and a lot of holly. Pathologists working with many other crops seem to be a little backward, hmmm? *** Patricia VAN BURGH, Ohio, passed her prelims, oh happy day! *** Willie FELDMAN and his work on Dutch elm disease were written up in the New York Times Jan. 1 and also in the local Rhode Island paper. *** Stuart ANDREWS, of New Mexico, is working on his thesis. *** So is R. S. MULLIN in Virginia *** Glenn KENKINIGHT has moved from Indio, California, to the U. S. Horticultural Station at Fort Valley, Ga. *** Rosemary McLEOD has a new job, traveling in Japan. *** The SIGGERS have taken another trip into Mexico. *** The BORLAUGS, of Mexico City, were disappointed in not getting a new car in time to visit Minnesota this winter. *** Lilia is the third little ROBLES in Leonel and Magdalena's family at Monterrey. *** The T. R. WRIGHTS, of Wenatchee, Wash., have a new house, after living in various size boxes for some time. *** Paul PETERSON and Ellis DARLEY discussed the smog situation (fog and smoke) in southern California recently. The Darleys announced the birth on Dec. 6 of Ruth Lynn, first daughter. *** For the sake of those who have "bugs" in their tobacco, Tommy GRAHAM went to Washington this fall to study nematology. *** J. G. HARRAR and the Rockefeller agricultural program in Mexico got a big spread in The New York Times Magazine for January 1. ECS was also mentioned! *** Congratulations to Dr. WATERHOUSE, of whom Nature reported on October 22:

"Professor W. L. Waterhouse, research professor of plant pathology and agricultural botany in the University of Sydney, has been awarded the Farrer Memorial Medal for 1949 in recognition of his work on wheat diseases and their control."

For the F₁ gallery we have acquired snapshots of 2 Davidsons (Jo Lynn and Chip, Bill (the younger) Borlaug, Linda Wright, Cynthia and Linda Sharvelle, Paulie and Ruthie Hanson of Wisconsin, and 5 Tedins in Sweden (Hans, Kirstin, Bodil, Olu, Gunnel).

CHRISTMAS greetings came from many, among them the following who are not mentioned elsewhere: Tyners, Cherewicks, Walters, Hensons, Persons, Roanes, Melendez, Barbosa, Felix, Lindgren, Thornberrys, Christopher, Davies, Sherfs, Murakishis, Andersons, Wismers, C. G. Anderson, Kreitlows, Weiss's, Pu, Jacksons, Youngs (with an invitation to stop enroute to New York), Aamodts, LeClergs, Lyles, Saboes, Ellett, Churchward.

We are sorry indeed to write of the death in October of Mrs. Donald de Zeeuw, of East Lansing, Michigan. Old Timers who know Don extend their sympathy to him and to little Anne Marie.

BOOKSHELF ** HASANAIN*, Popular methods of plant disease control, Pakistan, Agr. Pakistan Sept. KAUFERT*, How long will your fence posts last? Minn. Farm and Home Sci., Oct. ROBLES, Flag smut of wheat, Agronomia Sept-Oct. FELIX, Malas hierbas, Ibid. Nov.-Dec. SANFORD, Prevention of early decay of cut potato sets by chemical treatment, Scien. Agr. July. MESA, Efectos del calcio en el desarrollo de las plantas, Agr. Tropical Nov. DAY, Growing fungi on leather, J. Am. Leather Chem. Assoc. Aug. RUPERT AND BORLAUG, Wheat downy mildew in 5 localities, Mexico, Pl. Dis. Repr. Oct. 15. LYLE, Sclerotium boll rot of cotton, Alabama, Ibid. Nov. 15.

TEDIN*, Svalöf 1886-1946, History and present problems (book of 22 articles, mostly plant breeding)

JOHNSON AND VALLEAU, *Cercospora* spp. synonymy, Phytopath. Oct. LASKARIS, *Fusarium* stem canker and wilt of delphinium, Ibid. Nov. HOLTON, BAMBERG * Dwarf bunt of winter wheat in Pacific NW (progress); VAUGHN*, *Botrytis* leaf and blossom blight of Saintpaulia, Ibid. Dec. VERRALL, How to prevent rot of outside woodwork (USDA No. 2503)

***** (Other Authors also.) *****

Out of Minnesota comes: ANWAR, Survival of *H. sativum* and *F. lini* in soil; ROBLES, Pathogenicity of *Helminth. spp.* on corn, Phytopath. Dec. KERNKAMP AND GIBLER *, Damping-off of alfalfa cuttings by *Rhizoctonia solani*, Ibid. Nov. HART, Nature and variability of disease resistance in plants, Ann. Rev. Microbiology vol. 3. KERNKAMP, Minnesota's international flax wilt nursery, The Visitor Oct.

SPORTS

It is rumored about that Bill Loegering, Mike Boosalis and Don Munnecke are giving each other the run around on the hand ball court. Bill still wears the chamros crown, but he admits that Don may be knocking it slightly askew some one of these days.

The faithful bowlers have been striking out for the main campus alley's every Wednesday night, Captain Loegering leading the way, but so far the news that has been filtering back has not been too cheerful. In the final standings at the end of the fall quarter the plant pathers found themselves too far from the top (or too close to the bottom) to warrant celebration.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

TEARS < & HOPE ☺

October will be remembered, for it not only spelled heartbreak for the Golden Gophers and the Rose Bowl, but also for the arrival and departure of New and Old-timers.

Dr. Isaac Wahl was "teed" Oct 19 for his return trip which, although circuitous, nevertheless will take him eventually to Palestine.

Mike Daly and Herb Johnson represented the department at the joint meeting of the Societies of Agronomy, Horticulture and Soil Sciences which was held at Milwaukee October 24-28. Mike presented a paper. Other Old-timers reported in attendance were Ed. Andrews, John Vaughn and Earle Hanson.

Dr. John Rowell was welcomed back to Minnesota Oct 31 and so again Minnesota's game fish will feel the "hook of a master."

Its getting to be a habit, for King left for Chicago Nov. 3 to attend the North Central Regional Technical Committee conference on stone fruit viruses.

As usual the Annual Flax Conference in Minneapolis on November 4 and 5 brought forth its quota of Old-timers and visitors. Dr. H. H. Flor, Arden Sherf, Sax Sackston, J. E. Machacek and C. M. Nagel made their appearance at Literature Seminar. Heggeness and Kommedahl reciprocated by presenting papers at the Flax Conference.

Bob Cassel paced the halls of the New tottering tower and discoursed on the superior quality of Bertram pipes and Eastern United States (Kodachrome slides--- excellent too!). Marshall Evans of the Minn. Valley Canning Co. enlightened the the seminar by showing a colored motion picture of the development and procedure involved in Canning peas and corn (Dec. 8).

Al Larson and Harry Heggeness attended the Annual N. C. Weed Control Conference at Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Dec. 6 to 8. Al was presented an honorary membership in the organization for his long and faithful service and especially for his effort in establishing this organization (1200 present).

Tom King participated in the joint Wisconsin and Minnesota fruit growers meeting at La Crosse, Wisconsin on Nov. 8, and Ernie Du Charme (Dr.) completed his thesis Nov. 15 and is now returning to Argentina. Stanley Buckman of Buckman Laboratories Inc. visited in the department a few days, and Bondé stopped long enough to deliver a sermon on potatoes and their diseases at Literature seminar just prior to Christmas. Isobel Christison also dropped off her Christmas greetings personally. Dr. R. J. Haskell stopped by Nov. 2 to see if the old tower was still tottering (It did, too, during the 100 mile per hour gale).

As usual the trek to the annual Phytobath Meetings held in New York this year was started by the Big Chief (Dec. 26), followed by J. J. Christensen, Cohen, Baskin, Tveit, Kausar, Kommedahl, Goodman, Hart, Daly, Butler, Loegering, Boosalis, and Shurtleff.

Don Stewart stopped in Nov. 12 to let us know he was coming down from Duluth for the Winter Quarter.

Picnic

The annual Plant Path picnic was held on October 13 at, of all places, Como Park. Mary Ann Swaebly and Howard Erhlich comprised at least the major portion of the food committee and did such a beautiful job that several people made gluttons of themselves and dropped down next to the fire and went to sleep. This process is known as gluttation drops. **** When asked who was responsible for all the good wood we had for the fire, bashful boy-scot Loegering smiled shyly and said, "I did it with my little hatchet!" *** Pop, pop, went the skins of the wieners; and pop, pop went the flash bulbs of photographer Herb Johnson!

The ceremonies were mastered by Martin Tveit (pronounced Tweet as in birds), of Norway, who gave a detailed account of the extracurricular activities of the grad students. It's amazing what those rascals will think of to do! This was followed by music by the group as a group, by students from foreign countries, and by Erick Johnson, who accompanied his Swedish songs on the zither. Perhaps the biggest surprise of the evening was the ability of Mrs. Freiberg, our new secretary, to sing in Spanish, French, German, English, and Sanskrit. Although the Big Chief was not with us, his place as song leader was quite capably filled by that baton wielder of all baton wielders, Dr. (himself) Melander. ****

LOCALS

Bruce, son of Duane Le Tourneau, was one of the first arrivals of the Twentieth Century's second 50 years, having been born on January 3, at St. Paul.

AEC PROJECT AT MINNESOTA

Last summer the Atomic Energy Commission initiated a four-year project in the department under the general direction of Dr. Stakman. Immediately, the fourth floor strategists imagined each strange visitor as a furtive FBI man investigating departmental security, speculated on the secret research objectives, and listened for oaths of allegiance and otherwise. These suspicions were confirmed when Old Timer John Rowell arrived October 31 for work on the project and for a time thereafter carried his office in his hat. Such circumstantial evidence was demonstrated as invalid when an office full of new shiny desks and tables was produced and the Project duly installed therein.

The actual limits of the project are of a fundamental rather than a secretive nature, as it is an expansion and amplification of the work instituted by the Chief on variation in fungi. The purpose of the project--to study "the effect of radioactive substances on plant pathogens and other microorganisms in an attempt to determine the biological significance and usefulness of changes induced by radioactive substances." In addition to Dr. Stakman, M. L. Gattani, Mike Daly, Isaac Wahl (Old Timers), and Shi-I Lu have made a contribution in this field. Working on or associated with the project, along with Rowell, is a corps of graduate students, including Jim DeVay, Howard Ehrlich, Lu, and Cecil Damron, assisted by Mrs. Julio Bird and undergraduate Duane Robey.

SANTA KLAUS

The departmental Christmas party was held Dec. 20 in the Ag. Union. Although this party had more committees than any other party in Division history, nevertheless it got under way despite the confusion caused by these overlapping, energetic committees. Warm-up games came first. Then Mr. Bedi, of Punjab, in the big show of the evening, demonstrated the art of weight lifting. At 29 years of age he had been a 99-lb. weakling and the despair of his mother. After taking up weight lifting he gained weight to 135 lbs. and could hoist 180 lbs. at the peak of his prowess. At the party he lifted 160 lbs. overhead. George Failles and Mel Shurtleff acted as his straight men. When George got the bar over his head, two red lights flashed in his bow tie, while other contenders simply got red in the face!! Bartlett Rowell, John's eldest, took advantage of the mat to do an endurance head-and-toe stand. Dancing following, with Dr. and Mrs. Stakman twirling a waltz, and the Latin Americans Del Prado, Flores, Campos (and shall we include Ibrahim?) demonstrating their various proficiencies.

Christmas music was furnished during refreshments by the voices of Secretaries Marjorie Freiberg and Gloria Forliti, with Mr. Freiberg at the piano and Del Prado on the violin. Jim DeVay poured coffee, assisted energetically by Erwin Schwinghamer, Rosendo Postigo, and others. Big Chief Santa Klaus then arrived, in loose white whiskers and snug red suit, amid clanging of bells. He had had trouble getting down the chimney (and probably into the suit). He brought gifts--to little Jonathan Pon a racing car to help him return to native China, to Eagle because he has an eagle eye for work to be done; to Erick Johnson because he takes care of Phytobrikhaus so well; to little (?) Ray Landon for his collection, an archeological find of Santa's; to JJC--who zips here and zips there with so much energy--a jumping jack to play with --to Mat Moore's son a camera, with the promise that if he were a good boy Santa would bring him a film next; to Mary Ann Swaebly, the keeper of the coffee (now 73 cents or more a lb.); a purse to hold doubloons; and to Schwinghamer's new bride a frying pan--to use on stove or head. When S. Klaus left with his remaining whiskers, there was much chatting and various gatherings afterwards. **** MERRY CHRISTMAS TO EVERYBODY!!

MINNESOTA LUNCHEON

Fifty six (56) old and new timers gathered together at the Vanderbilt Hotel in New York for a luncheon on December 29. It was a notable occasion, as we had the Chief with us---one of the few opportunities most of us had to see him during the meetings.---Also because we saw some faces at the dinner that have long been absent --- George Hafstad, George Fischer, H. A. H. Wallace, D. L. Bailey, C. K. Kightlinger, Norman Borlaug, Glenn Ken Knight, and W. K. Myers.

Shurtleff, Seminar Chairman, took a load off his own shoulders by having various old timers introduce men from their own area, and then made the "mistake" of allowing Chris (J.J.) to introduce those that had been forgotten. All in all it was a delightful event for everyone, and we hope to see all of you at the Memphis meetings next year.

TUESDAY SEMINARS... (written when hungry)

Someone suggested a recipe, how is this? Choose a well-rounded major, or an enchanted minor, thrust on him an assignment to summarize in a typed page, some research, or if a minor, pen a 250-word abstract on "any" subject; stow such an one into a designated cubicle, and allow to ferment; add editorial condiments when needed. When fermentation is nearly complete, stir up and fit said victim snugly into appropriate vessel (a 4-legged stool with a back will do), and ply well with interrogations and rhetoric, allowing occasional eruptions of fermented material. To improve flavor, let student stew thoroughly in own juice, and when simmered down sufficiently take to Graduate Club for consumption. This recipes usually serves 65. Cooking time: 15 min. \pm 30 min.

Daly condensed 2000 years research into a 15-minute offering, himself utilizing the energy crammed in energy-rich phosphate bonds, as well as delineating their role in respiration of microorganisms. Another item on the bill of fare pertained to nutrient relationships between parasite and host served a la Baskin. With microorganisms "Papa" (2 boys) Schneider found that a "pinch" of 2,4-D often stimulated growth in some and inhibited growth in others--microorganisms, that is.

The homely potato, discovered by English aristocrats and used as a staple food by the Irish and German proletariat---if it survives the leafroot viruses and abetting aphid---is eventually fried by the "French", and eaten with hamburgers throughout America. However, Fridlund, a Swede, dealt solely with aphid transmission of the virus, neither of which has gastronomic possibilities. But then, why should they? Goodman continued with an explanation of the technics used for separating and identifying viruses by utilizing chemistry, physics, and biology.

Schwingamer's preservatives omitted jams and jellies, but included creosote and similar concoctions, into which fence posts were "dunked". Unpalatable specimens remained unpalatable with this treatment. If variety is the spice of life, one would work with corn smut, as variations in number and types of growth are great when grown on media containing arsenic, as attested by Shirley Cotter. Not even a Smorgasbord contains such a multitude of types; and if Tviet, the Big Norwegian, disagrees, it is because of his all-consuming interest in Chaetomium. Here he adds spoonfuls of this mold to the soil and finds other molds destroyed, pathogenic ones at that!

At last a use has been found for old, dried-up cultures. K. S. Bedi, weight-lifter extraordinaire, effects epidemics on Gram by suspending dried agar cultures above test plants and rain-splashes spores from the dried agar. It works in the Punjab. Air-borne spores, spore-trapping equipment, and numerous problems on wheat:

stem rust, loose smut, septoria disease, and black chaff, all filled a significant niche in the scheme of things. Blind seed disease of ryegrass, rot in sugar beets, and, here is one: polyhedrosis of the alfalfa caterpillar—get Eide to tell about that one, and if time permits, get "Chris" to elucidate the topic he proposed in the beginning: "Truffles in the Desert". (Dessert?)



H E R E is the space for write-up of the AAAS meetings
in New York, but the contribution requested has not been
received!

On January 15, 1950, Dr. Roger Adams, of the Chemistry Department
at the University of Illinois, becomes president of the AAAS, and our
Big Chief becomes chairman of the Executive Committee

Editorial Committee:
Louise Opsdall
J. J. Christensen
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