

'PLAY BALL'

Spring is here; books have been laid aside, all rust and smut cultures have been discarded, fundamental research is dormant, the broken bats have been mended, and the spikes have been sharpened for the cry of "PLAY BALL" has echoed thru the Tottering Tower. The rains have ceased and even the seeds in the plots will remain dormant until the last strike is called. This drivel may not be poetic but helps me to say that the kittenball season is on.

Midst horseplay, laughter, and no serious thought a Thursday evening seminar was devoted to the election of officers as follows:

J.J.C.-----	Coach (with reservations)		
C.J.Eide-----	Associate Coach (promoted without salary increase)		
Borlaug-----	Manager		
Hart-----	Fifth Columnist	Andrews-----	Assistant Fifth Columnist
Dosdall-----	Cheerleader	Chen-----	Assistant Cheerleader
Gottlieb-----	Bat Boy	Vaughn-----	Score Keeper
Widow Saline----	Mascot	Miltich-----	Assistant Mascot
Gugler-----	Water Girl	Downie-----	Water Boy
Landon-----	Chief Heckler		
E.C.S.-----	Base Duster, Trainer, Commentator, and Talent Scout; with all the perquisites appertaining thereto.		

The season has now passed the halfway mark and already there are some blemishes upon our escutcheon. The winning complex is a thing of the past; this year we are using the recreational approach and find the games more enjoyable. E.C.S. has been really functioning in his capacity as Commentator, but nary a base has been dusted; also, we aint been hitting. However, three bats were broken at the last practice session, indicating that we may still get a few hits in the remaining three games. Scores to date are:

Plant Path. -- 19	Horticulture -- 2	Plant Path. -- 15	Biochemistry -- 4
" " -- 7	Orphans -- 9	" " -- 5	Dairy 7

The bowling season ended with the Plant Path. team on the bottom. This game was played for fun and a good time was had by all. However, our heads are bowed in shame and humiliation since we were unable to interest the Chief in this noble sport. In fact the only spectator of note during the season was Miss Dosdall. The bowling team hereby wishes to express its thanks for her moral support. The final individual averages were:

<u>Player</u>	<u>Average</u>	<u>Player</u>	<u>Average</u>	<u>Player</u>	<u>Average</u>
Young -----	145	Presley -----	118	Eide -----	101
Preston ----	137	Martin -----	116	Rose -----	97
Darling ----	136	Darley -----	109	Tervet -----	79
Shema -----	118	Downie -----	107	Sackston -----	73

'EROES OF THE PAST

S. O. S.

It's a turrible crisis! Something's gotta be done about it and us OLD 'EROES has gotta do it. The D-Ball team got itself 2 lickings. Ward Marshall was away from the first game, and both Tommy King and Bill Loegering were out of the second. Smelling his way to first, Tommy got nosing around too much in the prior game and got it broken, and Bill split his thumb telling the umpire what he thought his judgment on balls and strikes was. They been speculating on presence and absence hypothesis ever since! Team came back and beat Animal Industry but that wasn't enough. What they need is more help from us OLD 'EROES and more SCORES.

The infield is good, and the outfield is fairish (sometimes 3 blonds, and even if there is one brunet, one of the blonds is fatter, thus making fairishness epistatic). Base running is sporadic but not like rabbits. More like nature lovers, pickin posies between bases. The hitting aint like it was when Willie Keeler and murderer's row kept the enemy pitcher up in the air by knocking the ball back at him so hard that he had to jump into a woodchuck hole to save his life or go up into the air to keep the bat from hitting his ankles--the few times the bat missed the ball. There was athletes in them days! The esthetes these days are too polite. They won't throw a bat at the pitcher's ankle like it was an accident so as to keep him upset in the air. They aughta make the enemy pitcher throw the ball when both his feet are in the air. Maybe then they could get them some base hits. But, even if, what would they do with their hits iffen they got em?

Remember the old one about Moose Melander pretty near gettin to first base on a home run? That aint unknown on our current team. Maybe they don't run fast enough thought to be called current! Some of them run like 2-ton trucks, not like us whippets. Even if they ever get a chance to run, some have to be cranked up on every base and between. It's a pretty good team except for the few little suggestions just mentioned. Anyway, they can still talk a pretty good game. That is, they could if they didn't talk so soft like; they never make the umpire and earth quake like we did. Competition is pretty sharp, and maybe too much can't be expected of a bunch of spring-buds. But they might at least sass the yumpire once a game; else why play? But maybe nobody ever told them nothin about sassin the Empire. There are some good pitchers here now, and 1 or 2 not so good. Trouble is our esthetes just about gets used to hitting fast pitching--AT IT I mean--Then they pose pretty for a slow pitcher and take a terrifical swing before the ball leaves the pitchers hand. That dont work 2 good, but try to talk them out of it or get them to put the blame on the bumpire where it belongs! Now what us Old 'Eroes want to do is, what are we gonna do about it? S.O.S. A postage stamp and self-addressed envelope is enclosed for each Ole 'Ero. Wrote a piece for the team! Maybe us athletes didn't learn rhetoric like the esthetes but we sure could wham that D-ball. Then and ever since--maybe better since than then. Hellup quick! S.O.S.

P.S. I forgot. How many balls did we knock the cover off in every game?

P.S. I forgot, how many barrels of balls did we pulverize that year when we wans't going quite so good?

P.S. We need these informations quick for the cornerstone of the new building.

P.S. The Editoress tried to say that S.O.S. stands for Strike out Stake, but he wouldn't stand for it and we all know there ain't nothing to it.

S. O. S.

THE FIELD

(Only Secondary to the D-Ball Field)

Spring was announced in the usual fashion: "All requests for space should be given to ---", posted prominently on the bulletin board. The results of that notice can now be seen; serried ranks of stakes adorned with inscribed white cards cover the margins of the plots. Patchworks of green--the results of the early birds--and brown--the effects of those who delayed--dot the landscape. And the perpetrators are as follows, not in order of research importance or of rank but just by the whim of the writer.

Downie--sugar beets, seed treatment and pathogenicity tests with some new and pathogenic fungi; Dsdall--a permanent, or apparently so, plot of iris now in flower but at times attacked by a Botrytis root rot; Sharvelle--the fungicide man--apple trees, young ones for the new orchard just north of the field house, strawberries and raspberries, and with Young, seed treatment of vegetables; Eide and his coworkers (Presley, Vaughn and Hendrix) diseases of potatoes and other vegetables; Hart and collaborators (Silverberg, Gottlieb, Schuster, and Young) on resistance of wheat to rusts; J. J. Christensen--breeding of flax resistant to wilt, rust, and other diseases,

corn and barley breeding in collaboration with Agronomy, and forage crop diseases-- Borlaug does a lot of this work and flax diseases too in his spare time: Tervet-- smuts of oats, barley and wheat, and diseases of Grasses: Clyde Christensen--tree nursery, a forest in miniature: Moore--"the seed treatment king"--naturally, seed treatment of cereals on a grand scale, also loose smut of wheat and oat breeding: Hanson--the disease garden and especially root rots of wheat: Levine--leaf rust of wheat: Loegering--timothy rust: Cotter--barberries: Martin--grass smuts: Andrews-- root rots of grasses: and E.C.S.--wheat breeding. Of course the Big Chief has a hand, more or less, in all the rest of the work.

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

Signs of Spring: 1. Eagle plows thru the mud to the field house, his summer residence. 2. Matt Moore and Tervet clutter up all available space with seed, bags, envelopes, smut, and WPA assistance. 3. Chris calls for requests for land and gets them up to and after all the available space is filled. 4. Kitten ball practice from 12:30 on every afternoon. 5. Warnings that the supply and travel budget to last until July 1 is less than \$100. 6. Coeds sitting on the grass by the Hort greenhouse. 7. Ph.D. finals.

Progress in teaching: Clyde Christensen has a student who misspells his own name.

Symptoms of thirst for knowledge: Darley brought a book to seminar, published in 1803. Matt Moore discovered that many of the pages had not been cut.

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE NEW BUILDING

May 12. 1941. The new Field Crops building at present being constructed to house the Plant Pathology and Agronomy Divisions is rapidly approaching completion. The two divisions will be located in separate wings each of four stories with head-houses at the rear connected to the main wings by enclosed bridge over the road. At the present time the shell of the building has been completed, the exterior brick veneer work, the decorative stone facings, the windows and stairways have been finished. The interior plumbing, most of which is concealed in the air spaces of the inside walls, will be completed this week after which the inside partitions will be blocked in. The inside partitions will be constructed of hollow cinder tiles which will be pointed up and painted with two coats of paint. The passages, toilets, and certain offices are the only rooms which will be plastered but nevertheless this finish while essentially utilitarian will be quite pleasing.

The new plant pathology wing has been designed with a very definite plan in mind. The ground floor will be devoted to classroom and laboratory facilities for college and graduate student instruction. The library, herbarium and Federal workers offices and laboratory will be housed on the second floor.

The administrative office, the chief, offices and laboratories for staff members, the preparation laboratory, histology lab. and photo lab. will be on the third floor, while the fourth floor will be for the use of graduate students who will be provided with individual offices and laboratory facilities. The seminar room will also be located on the fourth floor and should be sufficiently large to meet the constantly growing needs of the group and will be adequately ventilated.

The interior finishing of the building will be commenced within the next two weeks and the plant pathology wing should be completed by July 15. The new building while not exactly beautiful from an architectural standpoint gives the impression of neatness and efficiency and should be a great improvement over our present facilities.

HOBO COMES HOME

"Come! Yes, he surely came.
But he has gone.
A moment ago the place was full of him
He is not there now."

After three jaunts, any one of which would be an event in the life of an ordinary man, but which truthfully must be termed minor in the existence of the LIFE TIMER, Dr. Elvin Cast-your-collar-in-a-bag Stakman is, for nonce, home again!

On March 22 he tossed toothbrush and 100 rust collection envelopes into Don Fletcher's car and away they went to Mexico City and beyond. Return date, April 13.... On April 29 he rode the rails to smoke his pipes and make Big Talk with barberry chiefs at their annual meeting in Chicago. Return date, May 3.... a day ahead of time But this was merely so that early on the following day he could back out his new blue Buick and "over the hills and far away" to Missouri, where the lodge brothers of Sigma Xi were to listen to his counsel. Return Date, May 8.... Verily, 'tis the habit of a humming bird to dart and dart, yet never to alight!

"How shall I know unless I go
to Cairo and Cathay,
Whether or not this blessed spot
is blest in every way?"

Our Occasional-Chief has now had his photograph taken and threatens to leave behind him, when he goes, a life-size print, so that we may tremble at a glance without his actual presence!.....WHEN he goes -- and already as we go to press we know the distant place and not-so-distant date!

"Hark, the empty highways crying
Who'll beyond the hills away?"
"Up, lad, when the journey's over
There'll be time enough to sleep."

THURSDAY EVENING SEMINAR...MARCH AND APRIL, 1941

March 6. Dr. C. S. HOLTON from Washington was the guest speaker. He told about his work with smuts, his comments being frequently interspersed with frequent remarks and questions from the Chief, whose most characteristic contribution seemed to be, "Now let me give you one specific example."

April 3. The discussion for the first part of the evening was on viruses, therefore vigorous. Later, it swung over to the problem of the inferior English used by members of the student body and faculty, with suggestions for methods of improvement being asked, and given. Clyde CHRISTENSEN startled the group by walking in attired in a new check ensemble that embodied a suggestion of spring. Oh to be young, again!

March 20. BORLAUG and DOWNIE had taken their M.S. degrees at the convocation earlier in the day. Borlaug confined his remarks to a review of two papers in forestry; Andy Downie was more talkative, and described his sensations as he tripped over his gown on his way to receive his diploma. Apparently the dominant thought in his mind during the whole ceremony was, "When the hell will this thing be over?" This seminar was taken over by the foresters by force. All the papers reviewed dealt with forestry or related topics. Clyde should have been proud of his followers; he would have been proud, no doubt, if he had been there! Refreshments, including malted milks and Sunkist oranges of tremendous size, were provided by the gentleman from California, Harry LACHMUND, who told of Stanford in the good old days before the first World War.

April 10. The seminar was given over to preparation for the kittenball season, all elections being held this evening. Outstanding results of the election were Miss HART'S successful candidature for the position of minister of propaganda, a bureau with an unlimited budget, part of which was to be used to provide the cheer-leading staff, Miss DODDALL and S. M. CHEN, with uniforms "with more snap."

April 17. Two visitors had the floor for the evening. Bill CHEREWICK, down from the Winnipeg Rust Lab to take his prelim., told something of his activities at the lab. Bill HARLAN, newly returned from a two-year stay as a teacher in Afghanistan, tried to portray some of his experiences in that country, and the impressions he brought away. Particularly entertaining were his descriptions of conversations in Persian, a tongue which which he was not intimately familiar. Some of his photographs, (including views of the Khyber Pass, which passed the censor, but not pictures of the Taj Mahal, which were taken away from him) showed beautifully the primitive nature of the country and its inhabitants.

April 24. There was a visitor to the seminar, one who was to be introduced by Dr. J. J. CHRISTENSEN. J. J. C. introduced KERNKAMP instead; KERNKAMP introduced MARTIN, who introduced KING, who introduced CHRIS again, who introduced TERVET, who finally got around to introducing Dr. G. W. FISCHER, sent to Minnesota from Pullman, Wash., to take an advanced course in kitten-ball. To prove his worth, he told of his recent work with grass smuts in Washington. The talk, a highly interesting one, was well illustrated with slides, showing many smuts on numerous hosts. The card which had the key to the slides on it had been lost just before the seminar, so Dr. Fischer had to talk entirely from memory. He seemed to do an excellent job of it, but Chris. still can't believe that some of the names supplied after a moment's hesitation, weren't made up on the spur of the moment. Among the media used to grow his smuts, Dr. Fischer had various kinds of p.d.a., including some without "d", and others with maltose instead of "d."

May 1. The seminar had to run in competition with a discussion going on in the C. C. F. office across the hall, and therefore started with only ten members present. After a while, however, the "high-priced-help" broke up their meeting in favor of the regular one, and literature was reviewed apace for the remainder of the evening.

May 8. John (Stoop) MARTLAND, a minion of the Minnesota Valley Canning Co., and a winter-quarter resident of the Canyon, came back with propaganda for his concern. He showed a technicolor movie, complete with sound-track, describing the processes involved in getting peas, corn, etc. into the can. For the first time, many members of the seminar realized that "sinkers" didn't necessarily mean the doughnuts with which the seminar is so frequently regaled.

BOOKSHELF

Propaganda

- BONDE*, Potato ring rot, Me. Ext. Bull. 286.
- CHILTON*, Orchard grass and timothy, rust reaction etc. March Jour. Am. Soc. Agron.
- HOLTON*, U. avenae and perennans hybridizing, J. Agr. Res., Jan. 15.
- LAASKARIS*, Populasporea gladioli, in Bul. Torrey Bot. Club, May.
- LING*, thermal death point, Mar. Phytopath.
- SANFORD, virulence of Rhizoc. solani, and *potato purple dwarf, Canad. J. Res., March.
- TYNER, virulence of artificial inoculum of H. sativum and Fus. culmorum, Ibid., Feb.
- WALTER*, on beech dying in Nov. Pl. Dis. Rep.

Not propaganda (or The Optimists Section)

- KERNKAMP and PETTY on Ustilago zeae, Phytopath., April.
- LAASKARIS on Sphacelotheca sorghi, Ibid., March.
- LECLERG on Rhizoc. solani, Ibid.
- STAKMAN and LOEGERING on rust races in 1939. USDA Circ.

*With others

OLD TIMERS COLYUM

Dr. I. A. WATSON, late of the mezzanine coffee den, arrived safely at Sydney, according to Dr. WATERHOUSE, and is hereby conscripted into the ancient and honorable order of Old Timers!

Bill HARLAN, upon completing two years teaching in Afghanistan, set forth for home from Bombay, where he waited for a British boat to carry him via Singapore to Hongkong. With no lights allowed on board, the trip was very quiet. From Hongkong he sailed via Japanese liner to San Francisco, thence to reunion with the Harlans in Arizona, thence Washington, D. C., thence Minnesota, where he was instructive and entertaining, thence Washington Again, and now at the U.S.D.A. lab in Sacaton, Arizona, for the summer, pinch-hitting for Presley.

CHEREWICK, W. J., managed to get thru the customs too. We gave him an exam, and he gave us cigars and candy! Everybody was happy. Prelim behind; thesis and Ph.D. ahead!

January 25 Progress Report on Falkland Islander GIBBS: In 6½ months this Old Timer accomplished results as follows:

- Introduced three hives of bees (bees to be used as models for native labor)
- Constructed modern henhouse
- Grew enough vegetables to feed most of cattle in addition to public and visiting ships
- Put dairy herd on self-supporting basis
- Began experimentation with legume nodule organisms

"Chemist Harry G. UKKELBERG, who is in charge of Henry Ford's laboratory at his Georgia plantation," according to the St. Paul Dispatch, had his picture in the paper! He looked very professorial indeed behind a pair of spectacles. Harry and Henry were examining a kitchen tile made from tree bark and corncobs, and Henry or the reporter foresees cars made from plastics or nothing.

Newspaper publicity was given also to an explosion that rocked the lab of the Institute of Paper Chemistry at Appleton, Wisconsin, just at the time of arrival of a new staff member, our new Old-Timer Bernard F. SHEMA. He was always Hess-like in his quiet here!.....A recent message follows:

"Today was a day with much sorrow in my heart, because I had heard that Plant Path. had lost a kittenball game. But there is some consolation; the great Roman Empire had to fall, Ceasar was not invincible, Napoleon met his Waterloo, Rome had burned, and last but not least Cleopatra had to die--so with these facts in mind do not let your spirits be dampened with the tears of defeat but strike back with the spirit of ammonia, and look the enemy in the eye and he will be yours.

"On to a more serious view the work here at the Institute is becoming more interesting every day. The problems range from some identification of fungi and bacteria, however most of the problems are bacteriological in nature. That is various attempts are being made in controlling the number of bacteria in the finished paper. Another serious problem is the degradation of felts, caused by bacteria--this is a considerable loss to the industry. Various chemicals are now being tried, at least under laboratory conditions, to determine whether they can be used as effective bacteriocides.

"Another problem is the value of various types of paper in preventing the spoilage of various fruits and vegetables.

"Shortly after I arrived at Appleton I received by mail the AURORA, and am looking forward to the next issue. So until next time, and may I express my gratitude for all of your kind consideration while I was at the Tottering Tower,

Sincerely,
Shema

P.S. Have I now been gone long enough to be considered a young little fella from the old Tottering Tower?"

Chuckie HOLTON came and left and came again. Remember how he used to bite on the high ones when he was Captain of a championship kittenball team? (Them championship days are over now!) But Holton is still hitting at the high ones. We had a good reunion and it was fine to have him here again.

Dr. K. ISENBECK, after almost a year in war service, wrote that he had been released for scientific work. Since last November he has been head of the Institut f. Acker- u. Pflanzenbau at Admont, Steiermark, formerly Austria. His station is beautifully situated, at an altitude of 700 m., with a mean temperature of 6.4° and annual rainfall of 1200 mm. One of his principal projects is the breeding of cereal and forage crops that are adapted to high altitudes and can withstand the snows of the long winter. Not least among disease problems is the abundance of barberries and heavy losses by stem rust. Potatoes and virus diseases also are important projects. Contact is maintained with Halle and some work is carried on cooperatively. ISENBECK wrote on February 2 that his new station had the advantage of being convenient to winter sports! He says he reads AURORA--which still reaches him occasionally--with the greatest interest. "Auf diese Weise bleibt man doch immer noch mit dem alten Kreise verbunden, in dem ich so glückliche Zeiten verlebte."

Phares DECKER has been asked to join the staff in plant pathology at Cornell University, and states that he is "now working with Dr. Reddick, attempting to combine scab and late blight resistance" in potatoes.

At Michigan State, Joe RUPERT is watching ring rot work havoc with their potatoes. He sends regards and says he may, because of a low draft number, be a candidate for the M. S. degree in June.

(Maybe it's because of the draft that so many people have colds this spring)

Robert ZABEL, very new Old Timer now at Syracuse University, New York, says he "certainly would enjoy playing a few, good kittenball games with the crew this spring." Instead, and because of a low draft number also, he is concentrating on requirements for an M. S.

(With a low draft number, 'tis better to take an M. S. than an M. R. S.)

Doctor PETTY of Southwestern Louisiana Institute says his best student in Path. is a young lady who reminds him very much of Miss Hart. (Has she red hair, or is it because she knows so much?) PETTY has been appointed to the faculty of the summer session, has accumulated for a library that contained only Stevens, Heald, McBride, and Bessey, a thousand separates and bulletins, and amidst an abundance of fungus flora reports that it is "really Mouldy Louisiana." His special message for this issue, however, is as follows: "I remember you once admonished us to collect a mycological and pathological herbarium--for gosh sakes tell them again!" We expect a visit from him in August!

Clyde ALLISON, long not heard from, bursts into spring blossom with this moment from his busy life: "My work this past winter has been very interesting and certainly varied. One week I had six meetings in four days, 2 on fruit disease control, 1 on melon disease control, 1 on potato disease control, 1 on general vegetable disease control, and 1 with fungicide and insecticide dealers. By the end of the week I felt 'able!'".

Old Timer Rollo Lorenz came back from his rubber exploring expedition from Central America with malignant malaria and other ailments. Here's wishing him a speedy recovery.

Three Old Timers who want to wear again those ^{cute} four-cornered hats and black kimonos are rushing at us from the West, the East, and Sunny South. From Colorado comes Lawrence SCHAAAL, from Florida Dick VOORHEES, and from New York the Flower-Boy "Klebs" LASKARIS. Open arms of the Tottering Tower are extended with anticipation!

MINNESOTA PERSONALS

Romance got ahold of C. T. Tsiang early in May and led him down the path to marriage. The bride was Miss M. C. Shi. Tsiang is now on a Chinese fellowship in Kentucky working on all phases of tobacco production.

Language exams were successfully passed by Tommy King (German), Dorothy Vaughn (German), and John Vaughn (French).

H. G. Lachmund left in April to accept a temporary position at the Forest Products Lab. at Madison, Wisconsin.

W. J. Cherewick hurried across the border from Canada for a few days late in April to take and pass his prelim. Milton Kernkamp took his final exam just in time to make this edition of AURORA.

John T. Presley has returned from Arizona for the spring quarter.

Dr. George W. Fischer of Pullman, Washington, joined the happy throng at T. T. for a month to put the rusts of grasses on a paying basis.

The Barberry meetings were held at Chicago, May 30 through April 3. E. C. S., L. W. Melander, Bill Loegering, R. U. Cotter, Ward Marshall, and F. B. Powers represented Tottering Tower, while R. O. Bulger, R. K. Smith and George Mayoue represented the downtown St. Paul office.

Early in May, E. G. Sharvelle addressed Frenatae, the Entomology club, on Recent Advances in Plant Protection.

Broken and wrenched bones among members of the Tower that we can not refrain from mentioning. From head to foot they are:

Tommy King---broken nose (kitten-ball---a rough game in these parts)

Bill Loegering---Smashed fingers (kitten-ball)

Louise Rohrs (formerly of barberry office)---broken leg (?)

S. B. Silverberg---twisted ankle (kitten-ball)

Laura Mae Hamilton---broken foot (volley ball)

As a result of all these "tissue changes", Stak's "papilloma" has been pushed into the dark background.

4 TO 6 ON TUESDAY AFTERNOONS

No longer need one look further for the "seat of all knowledge". We have decided that its roots are in the Tuesday seminars. Of course the topic of the day is always some phase of plant pathology or a related field. Yet, be not deceived by such titles for they only camouflage the broad and varied scope of our discussions. It is hard to believe that the subject "Phylogeny of Angiosperms and Gymnosperms" bears the seeds for a discussion of the philosophies of Kant, Goethe, and Spinoza. Still more amazing however, is the manner in which the Chief so adroitly weaves them into the life cycles of Puccinia graminis and Ustilago tritici.

During the past weeks most of the papers have dealt more directly with problems of pathology. From the Entomology department came one on the "Central bud rot of carnations". On exhibition at the time were Fusarium poae, the pathogen, and a mite which is associated with the disease. The latter may be the carrier of the spores of the fungus or, as another theory postulates, feed directly on the fungus in the host tissue. Another "furriner" but this time from the agronomy department presented "A survey of diseases on brome grass and crested wheat grass." Because of the recent intensive research in the breeding of forage grasses there was a keen interest in the subject. Later the writer of the paper was heard to whisper confidentially, "if I'd

known that there were so darned many diseases on these grasses, I'd have chosen a different topic". Such seem the pitfalls confronting the novice. Also unaware of the dangers hidden behind some innocent titles was a stranger from Australia. He presented a discourse on "The place of genetics in the taxonomy of fungi". Hardly had he begun before the battle waged furious. Lumpers and splitters clashed head on. Geneticists battled mycologists. It was every man for himself. Finally, when peace was again restored, nothing more harmful than frayed tempers and bruised feelings were found. But we did learn of the increasingly important role that genetics is playing in the phylogeny of fungi. Not to be outdone, the plant pathologists also had their turn at pyrotechnics. From them came treatises on:

Translocation of the virus agent in plants
Pathological aspects of vegetable seed production
Genetics of Puccinia graminis.

CLEAR OR MUDDY?

Is our thinking clear and deep, or is it muddy and full of bubbles? Do we concentrate on essentials or are we befuddled by inconsequential? Facts are the building stones of thought; clear concepts should be the product of thought; wisdom results from proper use of concepts. Facts are acquired through observation, study, and research. They can be either confusing or clarifying. The problem is not only to acquire facts but to use them. Clarity of expression is the result of acquiring facts, of arranging them in logical sequence and drawing correct conclusions. Many facts and concepts must be winnowed and sifted to develop wisdom. Wisdom is characterized by directness and simplicity. Willie Keeler's formula was, "KEEP YOUR EYE ON THE BALL AND HIT THEM WHERE THEY AINT." A singleness of purpose is implied in this simple little formula. Plitudinous, as usual, but maybe worth thinking about.