

Hamilton

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AURORA SPOREALIS

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May-June, 1941

OLD TIMERS COLYUM

Newest of Old Timers is Waldemar "Sax" SACKSTON, Canadian by birth, Russian by heritage, Minnesotan during the year 1940-41 through a Caleb Dorr Fellowship, and now a member of the staff at the Dominion Laboratory of Plant Pathology at Winnipeg, working on the root-rot project. SACKSTON has sent Aurora a group picture of the Rust Lab staff, among whom there are faces we know but have not seen for a long time. There is Dr. Craigie, hiding behind Miss Newton, Dr. Greaney looking happy, Plant-Breeder Dr. Goulden, Thorvaldur Johnson, Robert Newton, and W. J. Cherewick.

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Through Dr. WATERHOUSE comes word that recent Old-Timer I. A. WATSON has "settled in" and is going on with some of the lines of work he was engaged in while at Minnesota. Although busy preparing grain for the season's sowing when he wrote (April 28), Dr. WATERHOUSE said "one can not help wondering what conditions are likely to be like when the harvest time is here."

WATSON himself would prefer to be taking a more active part in the conflict, rather than occupying himself with the secondary line of defense. He writes that he was very sorry to leave Minnesota, and that "had it not been for the fact that I was returning to a country where we strive to think and live and work as you do in America, then I am sure the departure would have been almost too much to bear." Other things WATSON says are so complimentary that they are unprintable--they wouldn't get by the censor. We hope to hear from him later, when he is in a more judicial mood.

A third generation of Australian friends, if we may call them such, are the NOBLE's two boys of 7 and 4, who their mother says are "a positive delight...at present. Being boys, we are making the most of their youthful days, as they soon will have no use for father and mother." Mrs. Noble also says her husband is "flourishing...and liking his new position."

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Rubber-survey-man Rollo LORENZ is back on his own two feet again, to judge from the extra totters of the Tottering Tower. He looks just as capable as ever and says he feels fine. Who could help it, in our salubrious climate where it is 58° at 8 and 98° at noon, plus atmospheric saturation? When it is too nice here, Rollo goes to Wisconsin, or retires into the woods to carve his initials in a pet cache of rotted logs.

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George HAFSTAD, 1583 D Street, San Bernardino, California, wrote on June 2 from Phoenix, where he collected stem rust for the physiologic-race survey, that he had "been working with the Bureau (Entomology and Plant Quarantine) for about a year on virus diseases of peach...have been in Georgia, California, Texas, and now Arizona." He hopes that Plant Path. are again champs. (Woe is us!)

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"Inspection at no obligation" was offered by Mamma Helen and Papa Fred DAVIES of a baby boy born May 13 and now on display at 510 Radcliffe Street, Bristol, Pennsylvania. Let's see, on the basis of spore counts and the spectrograph, we predict Baby Davies will grow up to be a big administrator--with betting as a side-line, like papa.

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Another plant pathologist of the Future is Rodney Kemp, born on May 9 to Mr. and Mrs. E. K. VAUGHAN, of New Brunswick, New Jersey.

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News of Kentucky's Lawrence HENSON comes from "cook" Eve Morton, who sent us a postcard while attending a seed analyst's convention at Ames in July. She reported that "Man Mountain is fine but working himself to death." Must be HENSON has found outlets for the energy he formerly used on Thursday night wearing down the seminar

gavel. That was in the pre-draft era, when a true dissenter could dissent--even the Seminar Chairman!

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Old Timer Ted WRIGHT, "potato man" from Fairhope, Alabama, has pursued the potato from the Gulf of Mexico to the Red River Valley of the North. At least he SAYS it was the potato that brought him north. Only he says it "nawth." Although he originated from Washington, D. C., we do not recall that he talked thataway before.

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Further greetings from Alabama come from Dr. Jimmy SEAL, who sent his regards to every one.

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Henry "Hank" DARLING, once of Minnesota, then of Alabama, and now of Wisconsin, writes that he "has charge of potato certification and also of running the newly set-up foundation seed farm at Three Lakes--not far from Rhinelander. During the summer months I'll stay at the farm..a great place for little "Spud," and from about October to June I'll be around Madison, with probably a trip south with plots each year...I really like this farm, even with all its isolation, deer, fishing, AND BEAR." He asks AURORA to announce his invitation to the gang to visit him during the summer, and sends regards to everyone.

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Donald deZEEUW also has a new address. He has been moved from Barberton, Ohio, to the Pennsylvania mushroom mine of the Yoder Brothers, and says "we are settling down with our Lares and Penates (and other clutter) in the town of Marwood, Butler County, Pa. Will endeavor to write at more length when I comb all the moving bugs out of my hair."

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Another Pennsylvanian by adoption is K. W. KREITLOW who made us a brief visit recently. After obtaining his Ph.D. at Louisiana, and spending the past year in a study of variation in bacteria at Rockefeller Institute at Princeton, N. J., KREITLOW will now take the position formerly held by St. John P. CHILTON in the Regional Pasture Research Laboratory at State College. Driving a new Buick and traveling about the way he does, KREITLOW may be attempting to compete with the Big Chief.

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Robert ZABLE also dropped in to see us, on his way to an eastern army camp. After some work in forest pathology at Minnesota, ZABLE went to the New York State College of Forestry at Syracuse, where he was granted the M.S. degree this June. Since then he has been working in the Dutch Elm Disease Laboratory at Morristown, N.J., but this work unfortunately has been interrupted by the call of the army.

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Another Old Timer to appear this summer was H. G. LACHMUND, who has been working at the Forest Products Lab at Wisconsin. He returned to Minnesota to construct the edifice of his thesis in the shelter of the Parthenocissus, where things manage to hang together despite weak joints and harsh gales, both within and without!

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Axel ANDERSEN also looked around briefly on his way from Lansing, Michigan, to his home at Askov, Minnesota, celebrated for its production of Danes, rocks, and rutabagas.

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Joe RUPERT, also now at Michigan State, paid us a visit too.

So did Dr. Howard JOHNSON, but he didn't stay long. After being as far away as the West Coast, Dr. JOHNSON probably thought of St. Paul as only a luncheon stop.

Dr. Olaf AAMODT also stopped in, but he came on Saturday and stayed hardly at all! If these gentlemen weren't so dignified, we would say that they f l i t in and out again. It is a pleasure to see them, however, if only for a moment. And we look forward to seeing other Old Timers as the summer progresses.

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#### BOOKSHELF

Among the volumes on South America, on rubber, and on the Oriente of Ecuador where the border dispute has recently flared anew, there are some plant path. contributions as follows. GREANEY\* on control of wheat root rots and WEISS on single-spored and

monosporous vs ? appear in the May Phytopath. BRIERLEY recommends storing Easter lily bulbs to hasten flowering, in the May Florists' Review. U.S.D.A. Circular 609, by LAMBERT, discusses indoor composting for mushroom culture. FORBES reports on onion downy mildew in southern Louisiana in the June 1 Plant Disease Reporter. LASKARIS\* reported in Science, Jan. 31, on gladiolus "smut;" and in the April Jour. N.Y.Bot. Garden on Botrytis core-rot of gladiolus. Phytopath. for June contains VALLEAU on tobacco ringspot, CHILTON\* on clover leaf rust, and WATSON on stem-rust resistance in wheat crosses. Less recent work that has just appeared on the Bookshelf includes BRIERLEY\* on mosaic and streak diseases of rose in November Jour. Agr. Res., and ISENBECK on Kombination von Qualität und Resistenz bei Winter- u. Sommerweizen in Mehl und Brot of August.

\*With others.

Local spoutings are designed to answer summer needs: TERVET on turf injuries in Greenkeepers Reporter, May-June; DOSDALL on gladiolus diseases in Minn. Extension Folder 93; EIDE on bacterial ring rot, Folder 95.

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|-------------|--------------------------------|
| What a fuss | There's the rose and the lily, |
| About the   | But work on them               |
| Gladioluss! | Is just as silly!              |

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VISITORS(May-June)

K. KADOW, Dept. of Plant Pathology and Soil Bacteriology, University of Delaware; K. F. MANKE, Division of Forage Crops and Diseases, Lincoln, Nebraska; C. G. ANDERSON (Big Andy), Brownsville, Texas; Dr. BENGWELL, Firestone Plantation Company (Liberia); A. W. DIMOCK, Plant Pathology, Cornell University, New York; C. A. KRUG, Campinas, Brazil; K. H. LIN, Citrus Exp. Station, Riverside, California (China); T. R. WRIGHT, Gulf Coast Experiment Station, Fairhope, Alabama; Dr. and Mrs. Carl C. LINDEGREN, Mayo Foundation, Rochester, Minnesota; H. H. FLOR, Agricultural College, Fargo, North Dakota; G. H. COONS, Division of Sugar Plant Investigations, Washington, D. C.; H. W. JOHNSON, Division of Forage Crops and Diseases, Washington, D. C.; C. L. LEFEBVRE, Division of Forage Crops and Diseases, Arlington, Virginia; J. RUPERT, Department of Botany, Michigan State College; Roy STUTZMAN, Jacques Seed Company, Prescott, Wisconsin; A. Dale CHAPMAN, 7 South Dearborn, Chicago, Ill.; K. W. KREITLOW, Assoc. Pathologist, U. S. Pasture Regional Lab., State College, Penna.

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The value of the tourist trade in Minnesota in 1940 was \$151,872,600. Why don't you come and see us some time, pleasant surroundings, reasonable rates?

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#### 4 TO 6 TUESDAY AFTERNOON

Despite the advent of spring and competition with such important activities as seed inoculations and spring plantings Seminar still held its head high. Nothing daunted its adherents and they came from all corners of the farm and campus. The sight of one of the company, begrimed from an afternoon's planting and panting, making a slightly tardy entrance was not unusual.

Spring quarter began with a survey of "Plant Disease Control before 1850" by Ellis Darley. After confusing the librarian he was able to borrow some of the original publications for our perusal. Some of these dated back to the seventeenth century. One conclusion was easily reached: we decided that not only had pathology evolved but also pathologists. The moderns seem to have lost the art of real anger and name-calling of Ye Old Days.

The problem of clover diseases was surveyed by Dorothy Vaughn who is currently working on the northern anthracnose of red clover. In addition to field material, kodochrome slides were shown of Lew Allison's researches on this disease at Wisconsin. Almost simultaneously with corn planting time Emmet Pinnel of the Agronomy department presented the problem of "Bacterial Wilt of Corn". The most recent developments in the "nature of the beast" were stressed.

Since summer has finally arrived and there will be no more seminars till autumn breezes blow, this column will rest its "type" till October rolls around.

Eric Sharvelle spoke on "New Fungicides and Insecticides and Methods of Application" at Frenatae, the Entomological Club, on Monday, May 19. I. W. Tervet gave a talk on "Entomogenous Fungi" before the same group on June 2.

The Chief, the much sought for speaker since his return from the tropics, has been dividing his time between "Rubber and Its Place in Defense" and the old favorite "The Epidemiology of Black Stem Rust." On May 5 he presented a Sigmund Xi Lecture entitled "Science and Our Rubber Supply" at the University of Missouri. The following day he gave a talk at the Botany Seminar of the same institution on "The Epidemiology of Puccinia graminis". Rubber was also the topic of a talk delivered before the American Interprofessional Institute in St. Paul on May 15. On June 13, the Chief returned to form and spoke on "Rust Control" before a group of grainmen and railroad men in Minneapolis. Saturday, June 21, he journeyed to the metropolis of Gull Lake and gave a talk on Rubber Production. With the release of this information by the Minister of Propaganda we can now begin to realize why it is so difficult to catch him in the office these days.

I. W. Tervet has been devoting considerable of his time and effort to helping the Golfcourse Greenkeepers with their pathological problems. Sometimes however some of the Towerites wonder how much pathology is involved in these expeditions for he frequently has been seen to leave the building with a set of golf clubs on his way to the course to control these poor helpless fungi.

The Big Three, Moore, Tervet and J. J. C., attended the Annual Field Day at the Morris Substation on July 10. And Andy Downie did the one at Waseca Substation on July 9.

With all of the rain the past month conditions have been ideal for the development of headaches by Clyde Christensen and Miss Dodsall--the reason--a continuous buzzing of the telephone with another person asking about a diseased tree or some disease destroying his flowers.

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Of the total flax production of 30,000,000 bushels in 1940 Minnesota produced 16,000,000.

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#### HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FIELD

Ergot--according to recent reports Dr. J. J. C. spends his resting moments strolling through the rye, his purpose to ensnare unwary insects which he dissects crudely but with skill. Chris concludes from his study of overdistended abdomens in many flies that greed for ergot is not uncommon in the insect world.

Rust--sulfur dusting by WPA from Levine's leaf rust plots makes us realize that crown rust is not alone responsible for the yellow dust which prevails around these plots now.

Smuts--Moore bewails that his loose smut differentials don't act as they should. He blames dry weather, cold weather, weeds and the way they were planted for his grief--even the moon. Maybe they're just ornary, Matt.

Small fruits--While the strawberries apparently were free to be picked by those who had the energy, the raspberries are reserved. A dire and doleful sign at the edge of that plot warns that E. G. Sharvelle has been trying the effect of various noxious compounds. Maybe it's just a gag, but the berries look good and apparently untouched.

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SPORT SPLUTTERS

Summer has finally invaded the musty confines of Ye Aulde T. T. This means that the sporting events are at a low ebb and, consequently, this column will be filled with reminiscences and whatnot.

The kittenball season is ended and with it went some of the rumored glory of former P. P. teams. The current edition may be excused for dropping a couple of games, especially since salaries have been lower than normal this year. Our ears were pinned back nicely by the Orphans and Dairy outfits. However, the season ended in a blaze of glory as we swamped Animal Industry (10-1), beat the pants off the Ag. Engineers (22-5), and romped over Agronomy (8-7). The record of five wins and two losses was good enough to give us a tie for second place in the league.

Rebellion is fomenting in these hallowed halls of Iarmin. The kittenball team is all set to stomp the living daylights out of any creaking old timers who pop off about our diamond activities. Those who have tasted the bitter dregs of defeat know how prone certain bulbous Old Tetterers are to level the finger of scorn and heap words of abuse upon the tender feelings of such sufferers. One such furzy "Old 'EROE'" (See Aurora Sporealis Vol. 17, No. 2: 1-2) did most flatuently give forth noxious and disagreeable exhalations in antiquated diction some literary absurdities charging us with not being able to hit. Such a statement hardly measures up to the facts; gadzooks, the opposing teams quaked in their boots every time one of the current "Caseys" was at bat. Likewise, we were charged maliciously with lacking enough intestinal fortitude to sass the umpire. However, the record shows, on the other hand, that we were too tough for them. After the second game the umpires refused to officiate for us because we argued too vociferously, and because we insisted that they read the rule book. Even the Chief has admitted that the wonderful batting averages of yore were figments of the imagination. His exact words were that "most of the Old Timers batting averages," including his own, "were based more on what the individual concerned liked to remember rather than on the cold statistics of the game."

Pitching has reached a high peak this year. The other teams had good pitchers, so that our hits were not made against a bunch of softies, as in the olden days. Many of the Old Timers would be hanging their heads in shame if they had to face this year's collection of fireballers. If'n you don't think so, just bring on any ten of the former "GREATS" and the "daisy pickers" of our team will be pleased to whap the britches off'n you.

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Can anyone conceive of a confirmed bachelor buying a new house, then an 8 cubic foot refrigerator? These steps led to tying the martial knot; date, 8/3/41; participants, Earle W. Hanson and Maryan McIntosh.

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PERSONALS

Tommy King waited just long enough to miss the last issue of Aurora and then went and got himself married. The bride is Miss Hammer of Fargo, N.D. The Department extends best wishes to the newlyweds.

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- Four Doctor of Philosophy degfees were granted this spring. They went to:
  - Thomas Laskaris---Studies on Delphinium Crown Rot.
  - Lawrence, A. Schaal---Variation and Physiologic Specialization in Actinomyces scabies.
  - Milton F. Kernkamp---The Relative Effect of Genetic and Environmental Factors on Growth Types of Ustilago zeae.
  - Richard K. Voorhees---The Life History and Taxonomy of Physalospora rhodina.

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Drs. I. A. Watson, L. A. Schaal, R. K. Voorhees, M. F. Kernkamp and M. A. Petty were elected to Sigma Xi. We also hear that Jo Rupert was elected an associate member at the University of Michigan. Thomas Laskaris has been an active member--in

good standing, we hope---for some time.

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Prelims were rather localized this time. Both Mr. and Mrs. John R. Vaughn took theirs on July 11, and "Scrapper" Wes Martin passed his on July 17.

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We have had two departures and one arrival at the Tottering Tower. John Presley returned to his "job" in Arizona, and Waldemar Sackston left to take a "position" with the Dominion Rust Laboratory at Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.

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The new member is Walter D. Thomas from Colorado State College. He spent his senior year on an exchange fellowship in Germany, and then returned to teach Botany for two years at Colorado State. He will endeavor to learn something of potato diseases. After a few more fellows from Colorado work on potatoes, Eide ought to have a well rounded education on potato diseases.

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'Melander Day', or the day of the 'Great Rust Hunt', took place as usual early in July and a majority of the Towerites took part. 'Tis reported that an enjoyable time was had by all at the "technological picnic".

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Miss Louise Dossdall is spending her vacation up along the North Shore.

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#### THURSDAY EVENING SEMINARS

May 15---The seminar was shocked; its regular chairman being absent, the committee tossed a coin to decide who should take his place. The shock came when the temporary chairman announced that he had LOST the toss. Such manners! The Big Chief showed slides of part of his South American trip. An interesting item was his account of ascending two thousand feet up a mountain in five minutes by train, using the switch-back method. Some enterprising mathematicians noted his figures for the grades involved and calculated that the train must have done better than sixty miles an hour, up hill. That tasted too much like those Mexican oranges!

May 22---Three finalists had to run the gauntlet. R. K. Voorhees told of putting species, formerly in four genera, all into one genus; for this the seminar voted him its heartfelt thanks. T. Laskaris, in telling of naming a new species during his work on Delphinium crown rot, was questioned as to its validity by the Chief; he bridled, and answered, "It's alright!" The third to report, L. A. Schaal, told a tale of Actinomyces, with all their horrible doings in culture, including attenuation of virulence. If he wins all the bets that were offered him on that point, he should be able to retire in comfort.

The source of grub for the evening, when asked a question by Dr. Stakman, with the familiar rider, "just for my own information", made bold enough to reply, "If you really want to know, tell them!" Are they all like that in Wisconsin, Miss Hart?

May 29---Lacking a quorum at 8:10 p.m., the seminar investigated and found that the Big Chief had started holding forth down in the Forest Path. Lab., instead of coming upstairs. To show him that competition would not be brooked, the twelve loyal, punctual souls hid in the Q. C. F. office, with the lights out. At 8:20 dainty steps were heard approaching the darkened seminar room, and Earle Hanson was heard to ask plaintively if it was Thursday? One of the others then went down, and found that the sign had really been posted, so that there was no reason for the poor turnout. After staying in the Q. C. F. just long enough to be convulsed with laughter at the remarks, and also to prove its point, the main body of the seminar marched into the room singing "Hail, hail, the gang's all here!". Dr. Stakman did not like their rendition of the piece.

Axel Andersen, on his way home from Michigan, dropped in to say his "hello" to the group, and stayed to tell of his work on the muck crop diseases. The rust situation was reviewed up to date by Dr. Stakman, who proved himself a "splitter" on the Berberis-Mahonia question.

June 5---"The Advance of the Fungi" was reviewed by Miss Dosedall. The author did not even mention J. J. Christensen; said Miss Dosedall, "I think the book is very superficial in some respects."

Several issues were raised by the review; for one thing, the author claims that the father of botany was never known. The seminar decided, privately, that such slander of poor Mother Nature could not be tolerated.

The author's cynical comment, that barberry eradication in the United States was merely a "technological picnic", was bitterly contested. Chief critic of the statement was Dr. Eide, who earned his way through college in the eradication work.

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Rumblings from the Mezzanine floor indicate that the walls in the new building are "baby pink" with the doors "sky blue green". Some of the plant pathologists in their childhood, no doubt.

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#### NEW BUILDING PROGRESS

Since the last issue of Aurora the Plant Pathology wing of the New Field Crops building has progressed to the finishing stage, all partitions and structural work being completed and all that now remains is to install light fixtures, built-in fixtures, plumbing fixtures, and to paint the interior. Painting of the inside walls has already been started and many of the plumbing fixtures are already in place. The mill-work, consisting of book-shelving, built-in cases, and laboratory counters will be started very shortly. Floors of mastic tile will be laid down throughout the entire building last.

As a result of the recent additional appropriation by the legislature acoustical correction will be installed in all large classrooms, and an electric dumb-waiter servicing all floors will be included. This same appropriation makes it possible to erect a 75 x 25 greenhouse unit, the foundation for which has already been completed. The appearance of the new building is very satisfactory and it is expected that the division will occupy their new quarters some time in September.