

"This is a country in which anything can happen and frequently does." This moldy chestnut has been pulled out of the old-joke bag by generations of travelers in foreign countries. It never could happen here. But it has. And what are we going to do about it? Many have been told what to do any many are wondering what they will be told to do. The best to do is to do the best we can at what we are told to do. Temporarily, freedom of choice is gone, completely for younger men and partly for older ones. There are many important things to do. And science must do some of them. If the progress of science is interrupted, great values will be lost. It took certain countries at least 15 years to get back into scientific stride after the first world war, and they paid heavily for their enforced neglect of science during the war years. Even plant pathologists can contribute to the prosecution of the war, both directly and indirectly. Some of them are with the armed forces; the careers for which they prepared are interrupted; the future is uncertain. Those of us at home can only work harder than ever before and say "Good Luck and Happy Ending - Soon" to those who are in the armed forces.

In Service

1. Huey I. BORDERS, of Tifton, Georgia, was called into service some time ago but we have no particulars concerning his whereabouts.
2. Private Lawrence HENSON, Flt. A 357 S.S., Jefferson Barracks, Missouri, was inducted into the army on March 2. Olt-Timer E.M. JOHNSON, of Kentucky, informs us that HENSON and Miss Rhea Beard of the University staff, were married on February 24. Our best wishes to them both.
3. Remember that KERNKAMP used to show his muscle after returning from Ft. Snelling every summer? He is now 1st Lieutenant in Company E, 12th Infantry, at Camp Garden, August, Georgia.
4. Thomas H. KING, another reserve officer, since Feb. 14 has been 1st Lieutenant, A.F.R.T.C., Company A, 3d R. Battalion, at Fort Knox, Kentucky. He drives tanks and trucks from 6 A.M. to 9 P.M., and will proceed to Pine Camp, N.Y., on March 28.
5. H. H. THORNBERRY also was called as a reserve officer and is now at Camp Grant, Rockford, Illinois.
6. John VAUGHN has been at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, in the field artillery training center for officers since January 8.

Imminent, also, is the induction of the Barberton-Ohio twins, Herbert G. JOHNSON and Conrad OLSON. They are rounding up their work with Yoder Brothers and hope fervently to be able to remain together when they enter the service. More in the next issue.

The new tables for the seminar room arrived and the attributes of various furniture polishes were discussed. Coasters to put under coffee glasses were purchased to save the finish.

OLD TIMERS COLYUM

Dr I. A. WATSON, of down-under Land, continues his work with flax and cereals with Dr. WATERHOUSE, but what may have been personal news in his letter was scissored by the censor.

Dr. Stephen MACINDOE, of "Kendal," Middlecove, Sydney, writes, "I am assistant cereal specialist for the State with much travelling and organizing. At present I am reviewing the Plant Breeding before turning to other aspects with which we will have to deal. Minnesota was a splendid experience and I want the best of everything for you all."

Recently we received a new address for Dr. John CHURCHWARD; it is Soekamandi, Java. He has been in Java for some time but not at this station. Wish we knew how he was faring right now. Our very best wishes for him, anyway!

Our letters to Old Timers in China, mailed in November and December, have been returned with the notation "Service Suspended."

Larry TYNER, of Edmonton, Canada, breaks a long silence with news of himself and Canada. We were impressed by one statement particularly: "I've quit the pipe, myself, and am almost weaned of cigarettes." Should twins be separated, and blood brothers be torn asunder?

Thru Tyner came news of the ANDERSONS in Hawaii. Mrs. Anderson wrote on Dec. 4 that "they had no fear of any trouble..." and we repeat this, not to discredit her prediction, but because it probably represented the general feeling at that time. The ANDERSONS replied directly not so long ago, moreover, that their attachment to Hawaii remained unshaken.

Norman BORLAUG, whom we present to you for the first time as an Old Timer, finds his work at Wilmington, Delaware, "interesting and enjoyable." But he also finds the future uncertain, although he was recently given an A-1, then an A-3 rating in the draft. He has always had an A-1 rating in the Tottering Tower, without benefit of military examiners.

John T. PRESLEY has been transferred by the U. S. D. A. from Arizona to Pecos, Texas, for work on guayule. "Right now," says Pres on March 16, "we are arranging for experimental plantings across the southern end of New Mexico and Texas. Other men are working California and Arizona." Work hard, young man, for in the meantime we walk.

Howard E. PARSONS--we thought he had forgotten us--of the U.S. Pecan Field Laboratory, Shreveport, La., sends "Congratulations to you all on your new edition of Phytobrickhaus and best regards to all the moldy gang." It's been so long since we've seen Howard he may have fattened up. It hardly seems possible, however. Who ever heard of a Lombardy poplar getting plump?

L. A. SCHAAL at Greeley, Colorado, actually confesses that "it has been a long and very cold winter here." What IS the world coming to? (Shock No. 1 was TYNER without his pipe; No. 2 is Colorado cold to Coloradans) SCHAAL plans to be in Minnesota in May.

Dr. "Dutch" HARRAR, of Pullman, Washington, sends regards.

And Jimmie WALTER, of the Dutch Elm Disease Lab at Morristown, New Jersey, also has come to life! It is GOOD to hear from these Old Timers. WALTER is thinking during these times of this and that, and of the why and wherefor, as are many scientists. Among other things, he says, "The issue of Aurora Sporealis describing the migration to the new building was thoroughly enjoyable. I look forward to the time when I may visit you...From the account in Aurora I feel certain that the atmosphere of the Tottering Tower has been carried along, to the good of the sanitary air of the new building." He also writes, "I have had no word from LOH for 15 months and am wondering if he has been able to keep body and soul together. It has been only a month since a note written in November by Johnny CHURCHWARD reached me." Does this take you back to the canyon, when WALTER, up at the front desk by the window, had his eye glued to the microscope looking for stem and leaf rust spores, and when LOH was there in person instead of just his soccer shoes hanging on the wall, and when CHURCHWARD could be seen following Churchward's pipe around?"

L. W. R. JACKSON, who devotes his life to little-leaf disease of pines, even admits climatic flaws at Athens, Georgia: "We have 12 months field season down here, too cold and wet in the winter and too hot in the summer."

Thomas LASKARIS remains at the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research at least until the end of March; thereafter, who knows?

Dorothy BLAISDELL and John VAUGHN had a year as Mr. and Mrs., when John had to leave her for Uncle Sam. After just having got nicely settled in Morgantown, Dorothy did not enjoy storing the new furniture, the new dishes, and such--nor did she enjoy parting with her new husband. Before she makes plans as a bachelor girl again, she is waiting to learn where JOHN will be sent

Morgantown blown glassware graces the board set by the new Mrs. WRIGHT at Fairhope, Alabama. When Ted's breakfast "aig" is just a mite too firm (Let the fork flirt and the yolk squirt), he can look at the beautiful blue glass, think of Dorothy and John, and remember the good old days in the Tottering Tower. Many Old Timers, however, have remained to praise SALINE'S cooking--E.L. LeClerg among the most recent--and the doors are wide open to receive you! If you go down, you can see the sun disappear over Mobile Bay, you can have grits for breakfast, pick camellias for your hair, chase wild hogs before lunch, admire the long gray beard on General Jackson's oak, and you can listen to Ted talk. He talks more like a native than the natives themselves--but actually he is a native too. The Wright family--all 3--lived in Fairhope when Ted was 4! In January, Gladys and Ted went to Florida for the potato meet at Homestead and incidentally got in a little racing at Hialeah.

Disease-Doctors VERRALL and SIGGERS, doctors of dead wood and live wood respectively, are being shunted upward floor by floor in the modern Federal building in New Orleans in which they share office and laboratory space. The shunting comes about thru increased requirements for space by military units. The pathologists are nearly at the top now, but parachutes would take them into an attractive public square just across the street, where residence might not be so bad during the warmer seasons...Sightseers in New Orleans nowadays see not only the Cabildo and the cathedral in the Old French Quarter but the very balcony behind which some of our Old Timers have resided. (See Visitors' colyum)...Dr. SIGGERS plays the harmonica; Clemencia Siggers sings and concocts delicious Spanish dishes....Art VERRALL talks about the youngest member of his family, a daughter born last May.

From the Minneapolis Star-Journal of March 23: "Dr. Paul D. Peterson, former University of Minnesota student and teacher, has been appointed director of agricultural research for the Freeport Sulphur company to head the company's development of new agricultural uses of sulphur, Langbourne M. Williams, Jr., president, announced today." Dr. PETERSON now headquarters at New Orleans, La.

One-time rubber-extractor Harry G. UKKELBERG no longer has to commute from Savannah to his lab on the Ford Farms at Richmond Hill, Georgia. Harry and Blanche moved into a spacious new bungalow on the station property last fall and have enjoyed the process of furnishing it. Old Timer H. G., so Miz Blanche says, has good ideas along this line! If he uses his old-rust-hunting technique on the chairs and the table legs--which consisted in a light rust year of getting down on hands and knees and peering painstakingly at every stem--he should be a flaw-finder of no mean merit. The rubber work, which was being continued at Richmond Hill, is now at a standstill, however, due to the loss of the laboratory by fire. Records were saved but the Lab has not yet been rebuilt. In the meantime, HARRY occupies himself with lettuces. There are acres and acres of them, those which are not nibbled by the dairy Georgia deer being shipped to Eastern markets. When problems arise, all Ukkelberg needs to do is cool his fevered brow in a crisp fresh lettuce head! ...Stop in, say the UKKELBERGS, on your way by, and we will show you where General Sherman marched his hungry men to the sea. Mr. and Mrs. Lee HINES occasionally saw them before Lee went to Ecuador, but otherwise they have not had many Minnesota visitors.

Old Timers certainly are buying furniture! Two other fledgelings who took flight from the Tottering Tower not so long ago have furnished a home in the metropolis of Marwood, Pa.--Dorothy and Donald deZEEUW. The metropolis consists of 20 houses, 1 hardware store, 1 general store; and people 10 miles away say "Marwood? Never heard of it!" Five miles distant is the mine, where the mushrooms are grown. Says Dorothy: "We both think the hills and mountains are beautiful here...Of course the westerners would probably laugh at our mountains, but I'll bet theirs aren't any nicer even if they are higher...Olson and Johnson were down for a week-end shortly after they were in Minnesota and they gave us all the news at that time, and of course we both read AURORA from cover to cover. In fact we usually have to take turns reading aloud as we can't wait until the other finishes." They say they would like to see Old Timers at Marwood any time.

The GRAHAMS are planning to come to Minnesota in June, when TOMMY's thesis will be presented with the accustomed fanfare. VERA will not find the half-size histology room where she spent her days before becoming Mrs. Graham; nor will Tommy find the canyon nor his other haunts. They will find, however, some of their old friends, who will be very glad to see them...The GRAHAMS live in a very comfortable and interesting house, which they designed, situated in a wooded section at the edge of the town of Florence, South Carolina. The tobacco laboratory of the PeeDee station is across the city and is now as completely equipped as even our W. e. Equipment Loegering could desire. Due to a shortage of muslin, Graham must now do extension work in an attempt to decrease the size of seedbeds and at the same time increase their efficiency...The first week of February he attended the meetings of the Southern Agricultural Workers at Memphis, Tenn.

Frances HAGLUND, Old Timer of 1931-33, now at St. Mary's Seminary, St. Mary's City, Maryland, expects to spend her Easter holidays with the GRAHAMS at Florence.

On February 6, Dr. Milton A. PETTY at Lafayette, La., pulled at our heartstrings with this: "We began a new semester last week. MY hoped for but not expected raise in salary came through and it was retroactive October 1. We had steak last night."

H. G. LACHMUND sends best wishes from Carmel, California (Box 422). At Carmel, we think, it should be easy to generate good wishes; there are colorful artists' homes tucked into the trees beneath tall pines, there is a dazzlingly white sand beach dotted with dark and wind-bent junipers, and then there is the ever-changing ocean. (The Ed. momentarily forgot this was a news sheet, not a travel folder).

Critics of Minnesota weather (especially boys from the south) had little complaint to make on this winter's sample.

"Sax" SACKSTON, of the Rust Lab at Winnipeg, extends "the proverbial hand across the border far enough to administer an approving pat on the back" for the Aurora which described "the long trek from P. tremuloides to P. erectus." He says, "I'm really looking forward to getting back to the Thursday brawls; if they are staged under comfortable circumstances and in tolerably breathable air, they must be of even more interest and value, as the participants will be able to devote most of their energies to the topic under discussion, instead of using nine brain cells out of every ten just to fight off unconsciousness...my greetings to the gang.."

Sigs of Sling

Appearance of stake labels.
Extensive seed counting.

J.J.C. having long conferences with Eagle.

Matt Moore getting bogged down in the mud around the new building.

Boys practicing pitching kittenball in halls of new building.

Silverberg passing cigars--candidate for kittenball captain.

"Stak" reports no new kittenball talent picked up on his last trip.

Eide (Associate Coach) and J.J.C. (Head Coach) arguing on the salaries of the various players. (Actually there is positively no proselyting.



BOOKSHELF

New things are still coming in, despite the perils under which they are transported: WATERHOUSE and WATSON on specialisation in flax rust in Jour. and Proc. Roy Soc. N.S.W. 75, Nov., on biotypes of race 34 of P. gr. tritici in Proc. Linnean Soc. NSW. Dec. 15; L. HWANG* on storage of Citrus grandis (English summary) in Kwangsi Agr.; Feb. 1941; and VALLEGA on stem rust races in Uruguay (in Spanish) in Inst. Fito. Santa Catalina. Pub. 16. Other new rust papers include JOHNSON and NEWTON on race 56 in relation to Ceres wheat in Nov. Scien. Agr. and on relation of high temperatures to stem rust resistance in Nov. Can. Jour. Res.; also GREANEY* on effect of stem rust on Marquis in Sept. Scien. Agr.

The Plant Dis. Reporter for Dec. 15 presents LEACH on willow black canker, KENKNIGHT on Texas peanut diseases, and LEFEBVRE and JOHNSON with a grass disease and pest list; the Jan. 15 issue includes J. L. ALLISON*'s grass disease list for Wisconsin, and the continuation of WEISS' check list. JACKSON on possible causes of little-leaf of southern pines in a report* on January 9 by U.S. Dept. Agr. Div. For. Path. and 3 States.

The prize for production goes to HOLTON, however, for there is HOLTON and FISHER on hybridization between Ustilago spp. in Jour. Agr. Res. Jan. 15, HOLTON on oat smuts, Ibid. Feb. 15, HOLTON* on varietal reaction to bunt in western U.S. in Jan. Am. Jour. Bot.; and in Feb. Phytopath. the Alfonse and Gaston boys, HOLTON and RODENHISER and RODENHISER and HOLTON on new races of Tilletia spp. and variability in reaction of differentials to Tilletia tritici and levis races, respectively.

Local news includes PRESLEY on Aecidium gossypii in Jan. Phytopath.

(Plant Path Seminar)

In spite of the fact that many strategy experts (by their own admission) are in attendance, the war question has not yet been discussed in the Tuesday afternoon seminar. The speakers have confined themselves to Plant Pathology and closely related subjects and even Matt Moore agrees with the Chief that the seminars are getting better every year.

W. D. Thomas, Jr. opened the Winter quarter with a discussion on "The Present Status of Mycorrhizae." According to Walt this involves a compromise between the theories of Hartig and Stahl. According to the latest information ectotrophic mycorrhizae are generally beneficial but endotrophic forms range all the way from strict parasites to mutualistic symbionts and are beneficial only when the host and fungus are in a state of physiological equilibrium.

Inside dope on "Cankers of Hardwoods in the Lake States" was dished out by Rolland C. Lorenz. Drawing on personal experience as well as published reports, he discussed types of cankers, causal agents, economic importance, distribution, epiphytology, and control. Since cankers are usually more prevalent on young trees, suppressed trees, and trees on poor sites, control measures should be limited to selection of good sites and should include stand improvement, pruning, and other sound forestry practices.

Eldon A. Behr, the forester who talks like a chemist, came up to bat with a paper on "Chlorinated Phenols as Preservatives." According to Eldon pentachlorophenol and its sodium salts have several advantages over creosote as a wood preservative, one of the more important of which is their suitability for use on wood for interior finishing.

"Classification of Plant Viruses" was the somewhat misleading title of the discussion by J. E. Mitchell, since no new system of classification was advanced. However, Jack did a good job of comparing the different systems now in use and evaluating the characters used in different classifications.

The "Systemic Rusts" were discussed by William Q. Loegering as to heterogeneity as regards nuclear behavior, life cycle, etc. and he concluded by leading an interesting and informative discussion on the phenomenon of "Diploidisation."

A number of insects were indicted, tried, and convicted of aiding and abetting the enemy by G. F. Carter in a paper on "Insect Transmission of Fruit Spoilage Diseases of Figs." Experimental evidence indicates that the fig wasp is responsible for the perpetuation and dissemination of Fusarium moniliforme which causes internal rot of figs. Aspergillus niger, cause of a smut of figs, is spread by thrips and predacious mites. Souring of figs is caused by yeasts which are introduced into the fruit by the dried fruit beetle.

"Southern -blight" was discussed by Coyt Wilson. This disease is caused by Sclerotium rolfsii and is quite a problem in the South. The fungus is not choosy about its host but is known to attack almost 200 different plants. Since it is a facultative parasite, control is difficult but judging from the success with peanuts and rice it appears that resistant varieties may be the answer.

PUBLIC SERVICE AROUND HOME

The 'Singin' Towa' was well represented at the Annual Branch Station Field Crop Conference held during the middle part of February. Talks on diseases of cereals, flax, legumes, and grasses were given by E.C.S.; J.J.C., M.B.M., I.W.T., and E.A.H.

The Farm and Home Week was in full 'swing' during the week of January 19-24. The program was quite successful but because of an absentee Big Chief it was not quite complete. The department workers escorted several groups of progressive farmers through the plant pathology building and greenhouse; and outlined the type of work being done. Other speakers and their addresses were as follows:

- L. Dossdall - Some Flower Garden Diseases
- J. J. Christensen- 1. Stalk and Root Rot of Corn
2. Flax Diseases and Seed Treatment
- M. B. Moore - Rust of Wheat and Oats and Scab
- C. J. Eide - 1. New Fungicides for Disease Control
2. Potato Disease Control
- R. C. Rose - Mitigating the Frost Hazard
- C. "Merulius" Christensen awed the laymen with the presentation, "Why Wood Rots."

J. J. Christensen went to LeSeuer, Minnesota, on Tuesday, February 17, to give the how and why of experimental setup for the testing of selfed lines and hybrid corn to stalk and root rots particularly.

Home Defense - Our extension pathologist, R. C. Rose, has assumed a new role. Lately he has been devoting most of his time bolstering and encouraging defense gardens.

Honorable Mention - The department was honored by a visit of the University of Minnesota Board of Regents. Evidently they realize and assume that beauty is but skin deep, for they were not particularly interested in the building, but more in the research work. To appease their curiosity the members of the department set up a fine spur-of-the-moment demonstration using physiologic specialization of pathogens as the main theme. Dr. E. C. Stakman elaborated on the 'origin of new races and impressed upon them the necessity for cooperation of the branches of the University, particularly Plant Pathology, Agronomy, Horticulture, and Entomology Departments.

Mental Gymnastics at Lit. Seminar

- Wilson: Organic fertilizers are detrimental to the zoological flora of fish ponds.
- Preston: What kind of a zoological arrangement is that?
- Chen: Wilson is trying to be fauna.

LITERATURE SEMINARS

1-8-42. Having had a week in which to get home, do penance for their sins and read the abstracts, plant path representatives at the meetings related their adventures to envious stay-at-homes. Each explained a paper which seemed to him especially enlightening or significant. The evening was punctuated by veiled allusions to deviltry, especially on the part of Matt Moore and J.J.C.

Stak was still in Mexico so Chris gave his speech in praise of Minnesotans who presented papers and otherwise added luster to the glory of the Tottering Tower (We still have to mention the Tower for literary purposes). We hope that Old-Timers who read this will not be lead into complacency thereby and relax in their pursuit of the truth.

1-15-42. Dr. Stakman presented the Seminar committee with a check for \$50, made payable to the Seminar and signed by the treasurer of a womans club to which Doc had talked recently. The money will be or has been spent for books for the Seminar Cultural Library.

Stak gave a talk on rubber, followed by a general discussion of synthetic rubber, guayule, leafy spurge, and dandelions. Bill Loegering then related his adventures in Mexico, including his hunt for the famed super-orange described by one of the early explorers of that region (ECS). Bill added further weight to the general opinion held by most reputable scientists that the super-orange has become extinct.

2-9-42. Among other things, speeches were made for J. E. Mitchell because he was going to get married Feb 21 and said so. Mitchell was presented with an electric casserole and a rolling pin with which to equip the new home.

2-26-42. The Chief started the meeting by making a few announcements. Lock the doors--things are starting to disappear again; Shut the windows --they warp if left opn; Nobody is going to get a degree hereafter without knowing photography; Everybody is going to take Methods from now on; Everyone is going to learn how to write a good paper in good English. So a discussion of good English was started.

Letters from Kerny and King, now in the army, were read and much appreciated. Kerny says he is camped on the site of Tobacco Road, while King, from the land of Fast Horses and Beautiful Women, thinks it should be vice versa.

Hendrix furnished the food, but since he was sick, Chris gave the birthday speech.

----Set 'em up in the other alley----

One of the sages aptly stated that "you can't keep a good team down." After spending most of two seasons in the cellar, the Plant Path. bowling team has suddenly come to life and is making it's belated bid for honors. At the moment the team revels in the glories attached to fourth place, chief contributing factors being Downie's recreational approach and Scrapper Martin's gutter hook. Much improvement is to be noted in the following averages:

Young-----	155	Martin-----	123
Preston-----	149	Schuster-----	123
Loegering-----	144	Eide-----	121
Silverberg-----	144	Downie-----	120
		Rowell-----	100

The kittenball season is fast approaching; already advantage has been taken of the unusually warm weather to loosen up flinging arms. The boys are rarin' to go, but strangely enough, the chief has been very reticent to discuss our chances in the league this year. Perhaps this is due to the dismal failure of his search for a pitcher while in Mexico. This year it will be necessary to develop a new infield, since the greats of last year (Shema, Presley, King, and Borlaug) have passed along. Associate coach Eide believes that he will be able to field another fine team, even if he has to use assistant cheerleader Chen at shortstop. The old timers have been inclined to scoff and sneer because the team dropped a couple last spring. However, it is confidently expected and hoped that these same will pull for victory this year.

The dire prediction in the last issue of Aurora has come true, and the University basketball team failed to make the grade. The boys must have been reading their pre-season press notices. However, the opposition didn't scare easily and drubbed them six times, leaving the team in a tie for fifth place at the end of the season.

The rifle team, usually undefeated (by hook or crook) has been officially beaten three times. In fact none of the various Minnesota teams have emerged unscathed.

Some mention should be made of the Ag. School wrestling team, which was coached by Norm Borlaug. Norm may swell his chest with pride, since the boys came through to win the championship of this league.

Eide's athletic ability cannot be questioned. He bowled 3 games--averaged 121--That was five months ago. How many years can he rest on his laurels.

Minnesota Personels

The past 2 month period has seen the departure of another member of the "Old Bachelor's Club" to the ranks of matrimonial bliss. J. E. Mitchell took off time enough from the construction of his complicated respirometer last February 21st to marry Miss Jane Cavert of St. Paul. For the benefit of those interested they now reside at 2095 Commonwealth, St. Paul.

Miss Hamilton in a recent trip through some of the southeastern states visited many of the Old Timers in that region. Upon her return she was promptly conducted to the Thursday meeting where she gave a very interesting resume' of her trip, the people she had seen and the work they were doing.

In spite of the general contempt of Herr Hitler, German exams are still being given, and still being passed too. Just ask Bill Loegering. He took the German Department "into camp" this quarter.

Due to the absence of the Chief (Washington and New York this time) and the Acting Chief's illness Borlaug upon his departure was given the benediction by sub-acting Chief Eide. All word received from Borlaug indicates the benediction was quite satisfactory, for he seems to be doing well.

Since Chris is running his hand through his hair an abnormally large number of times these past few days we may assume with reasonable certainty that Borlaug's thesis has also been received. Along this same line Wes Martin has recently placed his thesis on the Chief's already overburdened desk.

Sam Silverberg, Bill Loegering, Dudley Preston, and Harry Young were recently initiated into Gamma Alpha Fraternity.

Richard Gruenhagen, teaching assistant in Plant Path., University of Wisconsin, Madison, recently paid us a short visit.