

Moore, M.B.

Jan 52



Wherein are recorded the recollections, the ruminations and the raspitations of those who have drunk from the foaming fount of the Department of Plant Pathology of the University of Minnesota and who now spout forth in divers ways

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

OLD TIMERS:

From F. L. LECLERG, of Washington's ARA, we heard on February 6, "Enjoying a month here (San Salvador) giving lectures on experimental design."

Also in February we heard from Tewfik ABDELMAK (Ph.D. 1948) who was married a few months after returning to Egypt and now has a son 8 months old. He also has fathered a book on plant diseases (in Arabic).

The BIRDS of Puerto Rico (Julio, M.S. 1950, Aida, Julito, and Lillian Isabel) admit they do not miss the cold weather in Minnesota, although they would like to see their friends again!

At Wooster, Ohio, Thor KOMMEDAHL says people there "think it is cold when the temperature falls below freezing....when snow begins to fall, the experiment station announces that quitting time has been changed from 5 to 3o'clock!" This ex-seminar-reporter also says he appreciates two things: (1) receiving Aurora; (2) the opportunity he had while at Minnesota to contribute to this illustrious publication. Thor and Faye (his wife) have a baby Aurora (mimeographed) called "Kommedahl's Thunder"

Another baby (No.2) was born February 27 to Curtis and Martha ROANE at Blacksburg, Va. A boy (Hurrah, says J.J.C!) - Ernest Lee.

New son "down under" is William CHURCHWARD, born August 21 in Australia under Zodiac's Leo. Says father John, "I do not know what this portends," but he was to see Little Willie, for the first time, during leave from Java this spring.

Long silent J. Gordon GIBBS, P.O. Box 196, Wellington New Zealand, put pen to paper in March and sent the result in our direction. "Well ensconced in botanical teaching," this Old Timer utters world-wide complaint -- "one scarcely has a chance to concentrate on any subject."

Speaking of spring (now that it's April) is to some odd ones to speak of fishing. Says Norwegian Martin TVEIT, "Try the silverhook (money) as bait for sardines". He is now on scholarship with the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London University, London.

In Colombia, Juan Orjuela was bragging about their springtime in December--"realmente agradable." On April 8 at St. Paul it was 65°F; on April 9 it snow and blew!

Ex-secretary Gloria ("Glorieta" after the street circles in Mexico) Forlitti, now tending baby and husband, was reminded by the last Aurora of her labors in addressing copies to OT's here, there, and everywhere.

Rosemary McLeod, ex-secretary, of an earlier era, was scheduled to depart from her home in Slayton, Minnesota, December 12 for Weisbaden, Germany c/o EQ 12th A.P., APO 633 c/o P.M. New York. (Maybe she caught the roving bug from ECS!)

Dr. F. A. (Rody) Rodenhiser of the once famous O.C.F., 4th Floor Front in the Tottering Tower, has been made head of the USDA's Division of Cereal Crops and Diseases at Beltsville, Md., to succeed a "minor" OLD TIMER Karl S. Quisenberry, who is now assistant chief of the bureau PISAE.

Ralph M. Lindgren, formerly in charge of USDA cooperative work with the Southern Forest Experiment Station, is now in charge of research on deterioration of wood products at the USDA Forest Products Lab at Madison, Wisconsin; and Arthur F. Verrall replaces Lindgren in the South. (Science Jan. 25).

There are other changes to record, into the our announcement may be. R. C. Cassell has returned again to farm management at North Prairie Farm, R. 1, La Perre, Ill. R.S. (Dick) Davidson went to Auburn, Alabama, at the time Thor Kommedahl went to Ohio to replace him. Kermit Kreitlow is in Washington in charge of forage crop diseases. George Nyland is at Davis, California. F.S. (Fred) Thatcher is with the Food and Drugs Laboratory, 35 John Street, Ottawa, Ontario. A. W. Feldman, formerly of Rhode Island, is now (November) with the U.S. Rubber Co. at Bethany, Conn.

Camille (Cam) Lefebvre, while in Texas in early March, took time to send a little stem rust to the Federal Rust Lab at St. Paul.

W. E. (Sex) Sackston, usually devoted to flaxpasma at the Dominion Lab. at Winnipeg, spared some time to teach plant path. during winter quarter at the University of Manitoba. In April they plan to visit California.

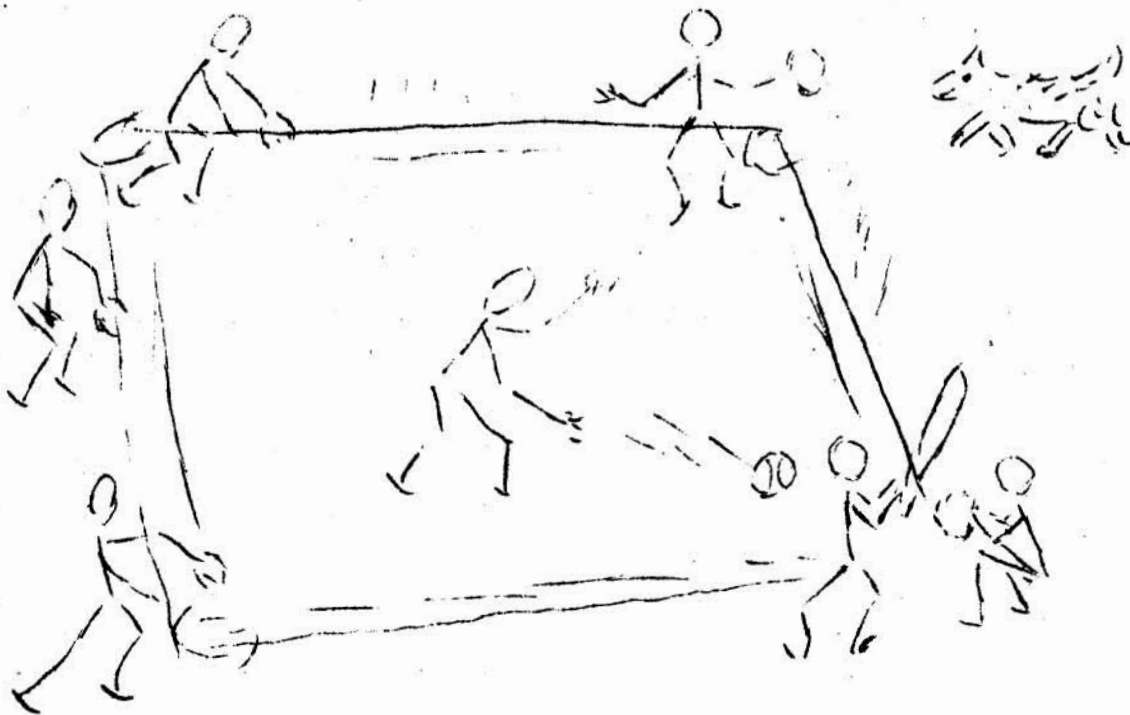
By very indirect means we learn that Munnockes and Cohens, those new Californians, get together once in a while.

M. G. (Doc) Fossalis is enthusiastic about his work in Nebraska, which is a combination of research and teaching. But wonders why his "disputatious" pals at Minnesota do not write!

"Please tell many good things to the Seminar from an Old Timer who does not forget at all 'the mood' and the sympathy I found in St. Paul."-- Jacques Ponchet, Paris, March 28.

Dr. J. G. Leach, father of the West Virginia Mountaineer, is reported in the last issue as a member of the National Research Council's committee on Plant and Crop Ecology. The magazine could give some pointers to Aurora if Aurora isn't too old a dog to learn a trick or two.

Participants in a cereal rust meeting in Cyprus, called by the UNESCO Middle East Science Cooperation office, were the following Old Timers, who sent regards on March 29-- T. Abdel Hak (Cairo), S. Iren (Ankara), and Lee Ling (Rome).



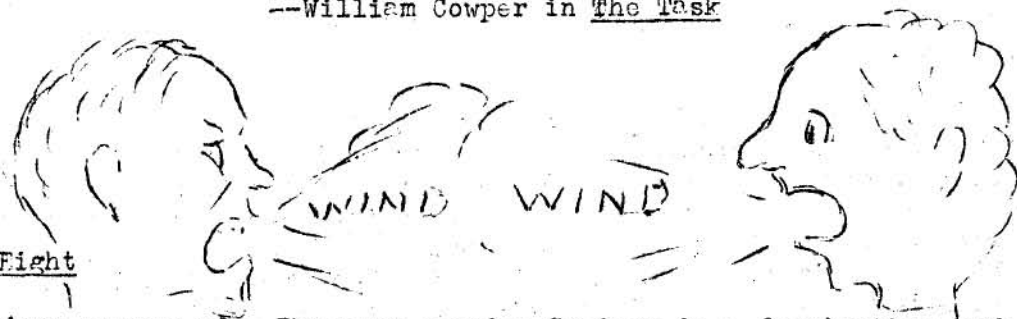
BOOKS/FILE

FLOR, Genes for resistance to rust in Victory flax, agron. J. Nov.
 WELLENSIEK, Theoretical basis of polycross test, Euphytica Feb.
 ORTEGA, Limpia, seleccion y desinfeccion de semilla de trigo..., agronomia,
 Jan-Feb. JOHNSON-PETURSON*, Cereal rust races in Canada in 1951,
 Dom. Lab. Pl. Path. Rept. #2. THATCHER*, Nutrition of
 Corynebacterium sepedonicum, Canad. J. Bot. June. TFORMBERRY*, Streptomycin
 production..from peanut and soybean fractions, Arch Biochem. and Biophysics
 Oct. SCHAAL*, Potato growing in the Western States, USDA Ear. Bul. 2034.
 STEVENSON*, Florida breeding program for sweet corn resistance to
 E. turcicum, Pl. Dis. Rep. 11/12 C. G. ANDERSON*, root-lesion nematode
 disease of narcissus, Ibid. 12/15. FRIERLEY*, Chrysanthemum virus disease
 survey, Ibid. also new records: Frierley, Witches' - broom of lilac;
 duCHARME*, Xyloporosis of citrus in Florida, Ibid. GRAHAM*, Ascochyta
 leaf spot in tobacco beds, S. Caro., Ibid. 1/15; also Ed ANDREWS*, Yellow spot of
 winter wheat, Michigan. Ibid. 2/15; SPARVELLE, British work on systemic
 fungicides; FRIERLEY, viruses in gladiolus. VANCE, Experimental and
 laboratory techniques, American Biology Teacher March.

Phytopath. Nov. THOMAS*, Seed transmission of red node virus in pinto beans;
 SCHAAL*, pentachlorophen acetic acid against Strep. scabies; HOLTON*, varietal
 reaction to dwarf bunt, and flag smut; PETURSON, Growth substances on crown
 rust sporegermination. Dec. LEACH*, blackpatch of red clover; SANFORD,
 chemicals on material healing of fresh potato cuts, E.K. VAUGHN*,
 Physiology of Sclero. sclerotiorum.
 GRAHAM, Nicotiana and nematode spp., Pl. Dis. Rep. 3/15.

"An idler is a watch that wants both hands;
 As useless if it goes as when it stands."
 --William Cowper in The Task

* With others



Thursday Evenings at Eight

Following the devious course of a Thursday evening Seminar is a fascinating task. One unanswered question, and the Seminar may end up millions of light years away from the starting point. As an example of what may happen when the Chief is in a quizzical mood the following true and unexpurgated train of events is given.

A letter was received by the Seminar from Old Timer Pierre Louis of (Haiti). This naturally prompted the question, "Where is Haiti?". The question was not answered properly, so --

1. Who was Jean Christopher?
2. Who was L' Ouverture?
3. Who was Wendell Phillips?
4. Who were some of our greatest orators?
5. Who was Daniel Webster?

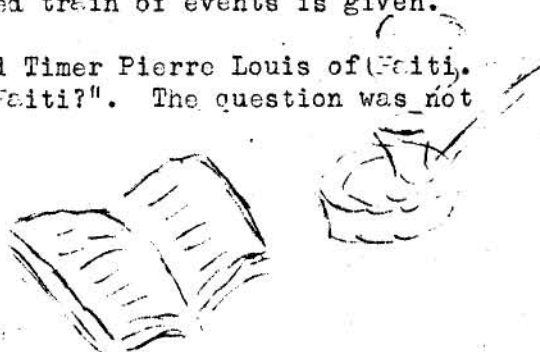
a. Where was he educated?

(Hint) At a college originally founded to convert Indians to Christianity

b. Where is Dartmouth?

(Here the train of events was interrupted by a correct answer)

6. Which is the farthest east - Puerto Rico or Haiti?



7. What is sisal?
8. What is agave?
9. Which is best — Manila or sisal hemp?
10. What is Indian hemp?
11. Is an Indian giver a giver or a taker?
12. What is the hemp grown in Italy?
13. Do they grow basswood hemp in India?
14. What does jute come from?
15. What is hashish?
16. Where does heroin come from?
17. What species of Cannabis do we have here?

And so from Pierre Louis to the geographical location of Haiti to Cannabis our education gradually rounded itself out.

Mal Shurtleff from poor little Rhode Island was our first eminent old timer to speak in '52. He gave us a kodachrome view of Rhode Island plant pathology beginning with bottom rot of lettuce and during the next 84 slides showed us such diverse and devastating fungi as a fairy ring in a cranberry bog, Botrytis cinerea on everything, and Verticillium sp on catalpa.

The fascinating mystery of "who stuck the cork in the autoclave" kept the Seminar in suspense one Thursday night. It seems that someone stuck a cork in one of the steam inlets either to keep his cotton plugs dry or to keep his hand from being parboiled when taking out plants; and the villain forgot to remove the cork! The autoclave was almost dismantled by Matt Moore before he discovered the corky culprit.

A wide diversity of subject matter has been reviewed. Jim DeVay discussed the possibilities of the application of electrophoresis to the study of viruses and proteins. He and John Rowell also discussed U. zea, 10A4, 17D4, and 410qq from time to time. Paul Fridlund, who seems to be a little behind the times in his reading, gave us the benefit of an article in a 1922 National Geographic on airplane spraying.

Dick (Curve Ball) Nelson took us into the realm of the exotic in his review of virus diseases of orchids. How Dick became interested in viruses of orchids after soft rots of potatoes and the lowly alfalfa plant is not too clear. Emerick reviewed an article on variation in Fusarium sp. which was written in Omsk, Siberia. The validity of the work was not questioned nearly as severely as the existence of Omsk. However, Omsk it is (Longitude 73° E, Latitude 55° N). Glen also filled in a few more of the missing details in the history of corn by telling us of a macromutation in corn which produced a grass-like corn plant. Myra Smart also described a paper on corn history and one on archaeology.

Many other weighty problems of the phytopathological world were discussed, such as the effects of 2,4D and mineral nutrition on Duane (Prelim Passer) LeTourneau, did Ibriham really predispose oats to rust, (Stakman vs Moore with Eide as moderator) Aphanomyces of sugar beets by Chuck Schneider, and the effect of temperature on oats by prelim passer Goto.

Another oat expert—Matt Moore—in discussing the Chicago Oat Rust Meetings made (forgive me please) a "Franch" by way of "Landhafer" on the "Santa Fe" to a "Bond" with "Victoria".

Newcomer Riley Konerza reported on the use of antibiotics for the control of bunt. Skiles kept us posted on all new and interesting strawberry viruses, and Chao on his work on the effects of 2,4-D on duckweed and water fern. Mary Ann Swaebly told us what to expect when pollen grains are analyzed, where the contamination comes from in the building, and what happens to the mold content of a foam rubber pillow when Ralph Anderson sits on it for a few months.

Other timely reports were given by Postigo of Peru and Stakman of Minnesota on races within the race of race 15. Cardenosa gave us the latest report on the progress of agriculture in Colombia, and Makila discussed cytoplasmic inheritance thru plastids.

It is a matter of record that the coming of spring was discussed as early as January 17, 1952. In spite of the advent and eclipse of progress reports, spring still hadn't come as of March 22-23, when there was a 15-inch snowfall.

LOCALS

So many people have taken Masters exams, prelims, and finals lately that advice from those that have to those that haven't has been unusually abundant. John Gibler started the parade of candidates by taking Ph.D. in December and then leaving for Mexico, with words of advice to us left behind. Perhaps LeTourneau offered advice based on better sampling, as the December Masters exam was followed by the Ph.D. prelim before he could catch his breath. Ismail Ibrahim made some comments and left for Egypt with Ph.D. degree and quick late in March. Bob Atkinson left for California also in March after taking his final and finally convincing everyone that Western wheat mosaic really does have symptoms. Two clear-cut schools of thought emerged—prelim-passer Goto advised saying as little as possible, let the committee ask and discuss the questions, and finally the committee will answer them. Herb Johnson, on the other hand, claimed to have tried the Goto method in his prelim and is now a strong exponent of the "know-your-stuff school". Herb claimed that his committee was downright insistent that he answer some of the questions. It probably can be said that exam taking is at best an experience shared by many, enjoyed by none.

ECS's spring trip to South America brought forth more profound statements at a tea held in his honor on March 27. Peruvian Ambassador Postigo made some excellent comments on the progress made and the need for interchange of plant pathological information between countries and continents. Dick Nelson defined philosophical terms so well that the Chief admitted he'd been an apt pupil. Brooklynite John Tuite was so moved as to resort to poetry to do justice to the occasion. John claimed to have overheard the Chief say, in an "Ode to a well-rusted wheat plant"—



30 years ago I saw you
Not since then have we met
Could it be — that I'm all wet?
O NO !, that's unsound
O NO !, you've been found
Acme, Spelmar, Mindum fine
It seems the rest fall into line
Blue blazes what a cuss !
Why 3 + on Khapli instead of 3 + + ?



The next morning the Seminar adjourned to the airport where ECS promised a personal letter from South America to all the faithful. With that the Chief was gone.

Births: The Ralph Andersons, a girl, Thale Lynn. The Jim DeVays, a third daughter, Sally Jane. The Gabriel Murillos, a second son, Gabriel Fernando. The Yen Fromfields, a son, Fenneth George. The Ricardo Cardenasas, a second son, Juan Fernando. (Oh the smokes and the sweets we have had !)

Weather notes:

Snow 1950-1951 88.9 inches - an all-time record
Snow 1951-1952 78.5 inches - one of the three snowiest winters.
Temperatures - cooler than usual according to the weather bureau.
Climate - still S a l u b r i o u s !

Local Shelf

Rodenhiser, J. J. Christensen, and I. W. Tervet, Reaction of cereals to rusts in S.A. (Mimco.) CMChristensen*, Anderson, Aspen report 22, Lake States For. Exp. Sta. In Pl. Dis. Reporter: Rowell, Rhizoc. solani on bent grass. (May); Kernkamp, Gibler, Soybean diseases new to Minnesota (Nov.)

JJC and Daly, Adaptation in fungi, Ann. Rev. Microbiol., 57-70.

DeVay*, Histidine and tyrosine identification by partition chromatography of their azo dyes, J. Amer. Chem. Soc., Oct. CMChristensen, Fungi on and in wheat seed, Cer. Chem., Sept.

Stakman, Science and international understanding, School, Science and Math. (Jan.); Contributions of science to international understanding, Chicago Schools Jour. (Jan.-Feb.)

JJChristensen, Flor*, Seed-flax production in the North-Central States, Farmers Bul. 2036. JJC, Technologicals of increasing food production, IN World Population and Future Resources.

November Phytopath.: Ibrahim, 2,4-D on stem rust development in oats; Esia and JJC, 2,4-D on seedling blight of wheat (*T. sativum*).

Eide*, Can resistant potatoes lick late blight, Minn. Farm and Home Sc., #2.

Abstracts in Nuclear Sc. Abstracts (Feb.): Tutler, Rowell, Abnormal spore germination and microthellus development of fungi induced by dilute colloidal polonium; Rowell, Stakman, Tutler, Mutagenic action of dilute colloidal polonium on fungi.

Abstracts in Phytopath. by Croyles, Fotsen, on rust; DeVay, Rowell, Stakman and DeVay, Rowell, on *U. zeae*; Kernkamp, Hemerick, on alfalfa wilt; Schneider, Johnson, and Schneider alone, on sugar beet root rot fungus; Schwinghamer, on *Colletotrichum lini*; Skiles, on onion blotch.

Happy Easter Eggs to You!

COMINGS AND GOINGS

The wanderlust, travel-bug of Chief ECS, has not abated and these same wayward traits have been stimulated in many Old Timers. Dick S. Pon, in passing through St. Paul January 21, had time only to telephone his regards to staff and students, and to report that for all who might pass through Frederick, Maryland, the Pon's new home has a beckoning welcome mat.

Oscar Soosa flew from Guatemala the last of December to join his countryman, Marco Flores, in studying at the crossroads of pathologists in salubrious Minnesota. Riley Konerza also began graduate study the winter quarter. He's a converted agronomist and native Minnesotan (but one who has traveled abroad).

Malcom (ex-seminar chairman), Margaret (ex-secretary) and Robert (Fl) Shurtleff departed mid January and visited Old Timers on their return to Row di Land via Madison, Wooster, and other experiment stations. Shurt utilized the library more in 3 weeks than he did previously in 3 years.

Paul Fridlund and Tommy King journeyed to Columbia, Missouri, March 13 to discuss their favorite field of research. Officially the Regional Conference of the Technical Committee on Stone Fruit Viruses, Project NC 14, met at the University of Missouri - O. T. "Oilwells" Thornberry represented Illinois. M. F(orange) Kernkamp attended a comparable conference at Champaign, Illinois. O.T. Kreitlow, of Eltsville, was present.

No foolin! April 1st Mrs. Lois Osterberg retires as senior secretary of the division. Her training in managing the office so capably will now be devoted to home management. Mrs. Veva Späer, secretary, succeeds to the long line of plant path. secretaries.

Rodrigo Orellana, Ph.D. '48, has been studying at the Foaming Fount in preparation for his new position in Costa Rica where he will work on diseases of cacao, at the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences, Turrialba, beginning in May.

Dr. Imle, USDA Rubber Experiment Station, Turrialba visited the division and conferred with workers on the Firestone project in March. He reported that O.T. W. Q. Loegering is advancing in his attack on diseases of abaca. Also, although still a bachelor, Will now inhabits a house!

An oak wilt conference in Chicago January 18 at seq. drew Dave French as Minnesota pathological representative. O.T. J.G. Leach (perhaps others) was among the conferees.

O.T. F.H. Hotson, now of Dugway Proving Grounds, Tooele, Utah, has visited the Hall of Ideas several times since taking his finals December '51. Other Toocleans, O.T. Ian Tervet and Dr. Talbot, came to see the chief a few weeks before Dr. Hotson's last visit in March.

January 29 Dave French, the forester plant pathologist, attended the Insulation Board Institute in Chicago. (What logs are sawed for insulation board?)

C.M. Christensen, author extraordinary, joined M.D's of the American Academy of Allergists when they met in Chicago February 14-19.

Tea for two! New Dr. R. F. Atkinson and New Dr. Ismail Ali Ibrahim were properly tead off Thursday evening March 20, both departed March 21. Dr. Ibrahim and Buick filled with his accumulation of earthly and spiritual possessions journeyed eastward to sail from New York in late March for Egypt. Dr. Atkinson and wife and 4 children drove westward to Los Angeles, where he will set up an agricultural service on a private basis.

T. N. Shukla proudly introduced Dr. T. Pathi to the division and the division to Dr. Pathi who was returning from several years of study in California to Ravenshaw College, Cuttack, Orissa, India. He was much impressed with the Minnesota springtime. (?? 78inches of snow this winter; second to last years total!)

Dave French--what again? He is getting as bad as ECS in traveling--February 17-23, participated in the conference in New York of TAPPI (Technical Association of the Pulp and Paper Industry). Oak trees (wilt), insulation board, paper pulp, what next will happen to the poor trees?

Following the barley conference February 12 at the Nicollet Hotel, Dr. James Dickson, phytopathologist, and Dr. Allen Dickson, chemist, both of Madison, Wisconsin, visited in the building on the hill. Also Dr. Gus Wiebe, USDA, conferred with barley experts of the division.

Miss Frances Haglund, O.T. of the Tottering Tower, after some years of teaching has returned to solve some rust problems on a cytological basis.

An opportunity to order equipment and supplies for his new greenhouse brought Fry Schwinghamer, who recently joined the army carrying the P.g. tritici banner, back to St. Paul about two weeks after going to Fargo the last of December, 1951. He still is enthusiastic about flax and Colletotrichum lincolnum. Dr. and Mrs. Flor, Fargo, whose elder daughter is enrolled in Carleton College, Northfield, renewed acquaintances in St. Paul in February. A brief visit in February by Dr. Walt Hendrix was sandwiched between transferring his activities from Honolulu, Hawaii, to Pullman, Washington.

O.T. Ralph Lindgren, Forest Products Laboratory, passed through the division in February. Potatoes, ah, yes! Dr. Eide made his annual winter trip to the Red River Valley in February.

The Chief went "flying down to Rio" March 28. A large delegation saw him off at the airport - many even missed their breakfast. He was invited to deliver the opening address of the Segunda Reunião Latino-Americana de Geneticistas e Fitoparasitologistas at Sao Paulo March 31. Dr. Stakman will tour other parts of South America in company with O.T. Dutch Farrar and return home via Mexico.

George Papavizas, a graduate of Salonika University and veteran of the National Greek Army, (now of Boston) began graduate study spring quarter -- the beginning of another great rust man! Bob Campbell, another Minnesota forester to see the light, took his first sips at the Foaming Fount spring quarter.

The Annual Tri-State Soybean Processing Conference beckoned Dr. Kernkamp, March 4, to Ames, Iowa, home institution of O.T. Arden Sherf, extension pathologist for Iowa.

The appropriate title finally has been conferred upon Dr. Stakman. Late in January at UNESCO meeting at Hunter College, New York, the great traveler was designated as "Roving Scout". Early in January the chief roved his way to Berkeley, California, for the AEC advisory committee meeting. Other roving included meetings of the National Science Board and the governing board of the National Research Council.

"Winter, lingering, chills the lap of May." -- Goldsmith

"Sweet daughter of a rough and stormy sire, hoar winter's blooming child, delightful spring." -- Mrs. Berbauld

Tuesday Seminars

The Tuesday afternoon seminars were invaded in force by our neighboring Department of Agronomy. Almost all of the papers were given by these future plant breeders and agricultural experts. The role of insects in the corn streak disease of Africa was discussed by a future agronomist from the Gold Coast of Africa. The possibility of Felminthosporium turcicum becoming an important problem on corn in Minnesota, races of bunt of wheat, and pasmo of flax were other subjects carefully surveyed. Breeding for bacterial blight resistance in brome grass, corn borer resistance, and resistance to Fusarium wilt of cotton were discussed, debated, and digested by the Old Timers and neophytes of the 4-6 seminar.

Rust was a popular topic for conversation in the Seminar (!) and the papers on the relationship of temperature to the rust reaction of barley seedlings, the source of resistance to stem rust race 15⁷, the breeding for rust resistance with Agropyron elongatum, and the value of Phapli emmer in breeding gave us the viewpoint of our partners in fighting the "red terror".

Mary Ann Swaebly summarized her work on molds in the home, in house dust, and in furniture stuffing. In addition to discovering that kapoc comes from a species of Caiba, we learned that "allergen-proof" foam rubber may contain several thousand molds per gram. In fact these fungi will grow within this seemingly tasteless substrate.

Bob Drescher conducted us through an imaginary tour of a paper mill and pointed his accusing finger at a few of the guilty parties causing the plugging of paper machine wet felts.

Howard Erlich delved into all of the available literature on the subject of nuclei in bacteria and, in addition to finding that many workers have decided that nuclei are here to stay, he found some who even had evidence of chromosomes, mitosis, and reduction division.

Jim DeVay gave us an interesting session on his studies on the amino-acid and carbohydrate metabolism of Ustilago-zoae in relation to pathogenicity. Jim is getting some interesting and valuable information by concentrating on the physiology of U. zoae and by making use of some of the newer techniques such as paper chromatography.

During the course of the quarter the big Chief and all of the assistant chiefs decided to institute a military regime into the proceedings of the Seminar. In future the new grading scale will be:

1. Gunshy
2. Marksman
3. Sharpshooter
4. Expert

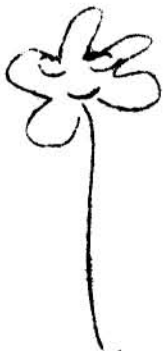
I wonder what happens to conscientious objectors?

* * * * *

"As a vessel is known by the sound, whether it be cracked or not, so men are proved by their speeches whether they be wise or foolish." -- Demosthenes

If a man hasn't got plenty of good common sense, the more science he has the worse for his patient.--O. W. Holmes

If a man love the labor of any trade, apart from any question of success or fame, the Gods have called him.--Robert Louis Stevenson



It is good to get to work early in the morning, because then you feel virtuous all morning and tired all afternoon! -- Carl J. Eide

