



AUGUST 1976

Wherein are recorded the recollections, the
ruminations and the respirations of those who
have drunk from the foaming fount of the Dep-
artment 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

AS THE HEAD SEES IT

Dear Ole Timers:

It was good to see many of you again during the National APS Meetings in Kansas City in July of 1976. It seems that the annual APS Meetings are always a success but the Kansas City Meetings, at least for me and for many others with whom I have talked, were especially good. It was a convenient meeting for members of our Department to attend and consequently we had a large number of staff and students in attendance. The Minnesota alumni suite was crowded most evenings and the Minnesota alumni social hour the second evening of the Conference was attended by between 150 and 200 individuals. The combined alumni suite and designated social hour as utilized in Kansas City has been our most successful alumni effort to date and we plan to use a similar format in the years to come.

Dutch elm disease has developed into a major problem in Minnesota and especially in the Twin Cities area. The disease was discovered in the state in 1961 and progressed very slowly until recent years. There are between 4 and 5 million elms in the 7-county area around the Twin Cities and at the present time approximately 5% of them are affected. The highest concentration of infected individuals is in the St. Paul area. It has been estimated that 50% of the elms will be lost within the next 10 years or so and the removal costs alone amount to something in the order of 500 to 600 million dollars. Needless to say, there is much concern at all levels in the state about the devastation of our elm population which lies ahead. Drs. French, Stienstra, and Shrum of the Department along with members of other departments in the Institute of Agriculture are working toward the development of a unified disease management program which we hope will result in a reduction in the rate of spread of the disease and thereby increase the life-span of our elm population.

Dr. James Percich, a graduate in Plant Pathology from Michigan State University, recently joined our staff in a post-doctoral capacity on the wild rice project. Dr. Percich will be working with Dr. Kernkamp on various aspects of the wild rice disease research program.

Our illustrious retired professors are fairing very well. Dr. Stakman is in good health, spends time in the office almost every day and actively participates in seminars and faculty meetings. He is also working with Dr. Wilcoxson and his graduate students as a consultant on our "slow rusting" project. Dr. C. M. Christensen is still very active in research and is currently receiving credit for one of his most recent discoveries which has to do with moisture transfer in grain while in transit and the relationship of moisture transfer to changes in shipment weight and deterioration by microorganisms. Dr. Carl Eide still works every day, is responsible for departmental publicity and is editor of the Aurora Sporealis. In addition, he also works with Dr. Shrum and other members of the faculty on the potato project. Matt Moore is also active and took more than a passing interest in the major outbreak of smut that developed in oats in Minnesota during the past year. I recently visited with Dr. Tom King and Shirley in their home near Grand Rapids, Minnesota. Tom is fully recovered from the disease he contracted while serving with FAO in Indonesia earlier this year. He plans to become involved in several departmental activities and is looking forward to getting involved in international agriculture in the near future. In a nutshell, I think one can accurately conclude that the old guard is setting a good example for our young faculty.

In general, things continue to go well for the Department and I hope that this issue of Aurora finds you in good health, and wish you the very best for the Holiday Season. Incidentally, if you know of any "ole timers" who are not receiving Aurora, please let us know, and if you would like to send a "message" to any "ole timer" through the pages of Aurora we would be happy to publish your letter or letters.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "F. Aloysius Wood". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

F. Aloysius Wood
Professor and Head

OLD TIMERS COLUMN

Dr. Dennis McGee, who was a Post-Doc in the Department in 1968-69, became a member of the faculty of the Department of Botany and Plant Pathology of the University of Maine in March, 1976. He will spend about 20% of his time teaching and 80% doing research on diseases of apples and blueberries. Dr. McGee was formerly a Senior Plant Pathologist at the Victoria Research Institute, Melbourne, Australia. Last year he was on Sabbatic leave at the University of Saskatoon, Canada.

Shirley Nelson, secretary in the office during 1968 - 70, is now Mrs. Rick Beartsch and lives in Portage, Wisconsin. She and Rick were married almost 3 years ago. Shirley is working in a bank in Portage where she is a teller.

J.M. (Peewee) Wallace, MS 1927, PhD 1929, recently wrote to Prof. M.F. Kernkamp that, although he retired officially in 1970 from his professorship at UC, Riverside, he still has about 500 citrus trees under study in the field and comes to his office regularly to do some writing. PeeWee was principally responsible for the establishment of the International Organization of Citrus Virologists (IOCV) in 1957 and has been active in the organization ever since, attending meetings in various countries, including South Africa in 1972 and Greece in 1975. PeeWee and Adeline visited the Lee Hines and Stu Holtons recently in Sun City, Arizona, where they played a little golf as they used to of yore. He complains that recently his game has been so bad that he is about to lose interest. God forbid!

Larry Schaal, Ph.D. 1941, and Mrs. Schaal now live in a retirement village in Loveland, Colorado. Larry suffers from Parkinson's disease and is in the nursing section of the village.

Larry Tyner, Ph.D. 1939, writes to E.C. S. that he and Mrs. Tyner have lived in Victoria, B.C. ("The City of Flowers") for the past 5 years and "are quite happy to get away from the rigorous prairie winters". Son Jimmy and family live in L.A. where the Tyners visit during January (to escape Victoria's winter?). They visited O.T. Earl Anderson and Marian who now live in Santee, Cal., just east of San Diego. Re matters phytopathological Larry says "The equipment in the present day lab is a far cry from that in our labs of the 30's and 40's, but one must concede that ideas do not come from a piece of equipment".

R.C.F. Macer, who was a Post-Doc here in the spring of 1962, has accepted a post as Director of the Scottish Plant Breeding Station, Pentland Field, Roslin, Midlothian, effective August 1, 1976. He was formerly professor of crop production at the Edinburgh School of Agriculture.

John Siwula, MS 1971, now lives in Jamestown, N.Y. where he teaches physical science in Jefferson Jr. High School. John and Sally have 2 daughters, one born 12/12/75 and the other about 16 months older. They live in a large old farmhouse near Jamestown where John gardens and adds to his income by his skill in woodworking.

Benjamin Ortega, as Director General of the Sanidad Vegetal in Mexico, was instrumental in having a new federal Law for Plant Protection approved by the Senate last year. He has also started a national campaign against the golden nematode.

Old Timer Luis Siller is now working at Chapingo at the Technical Department for Agricultural Research. Luis took Graduate work in the Department in 1956-57.

