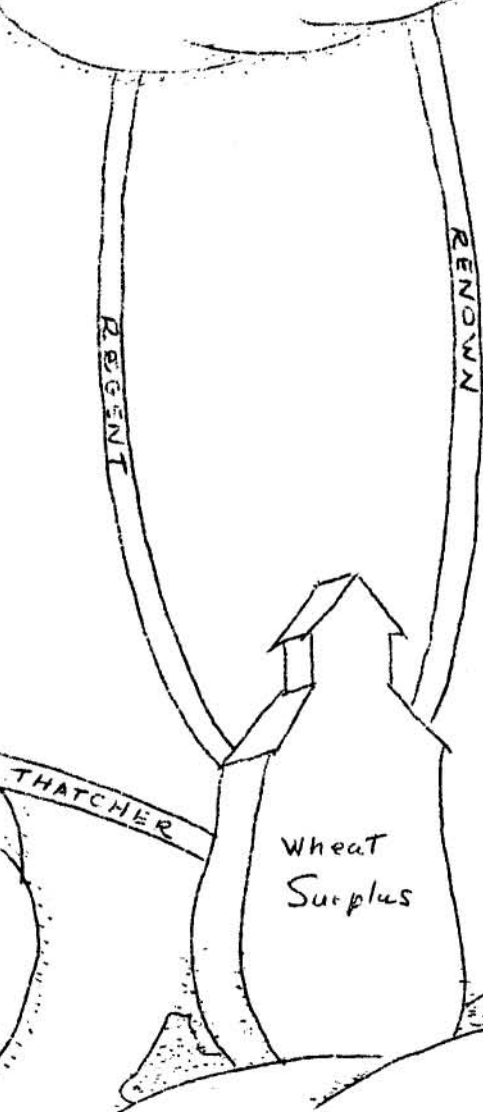
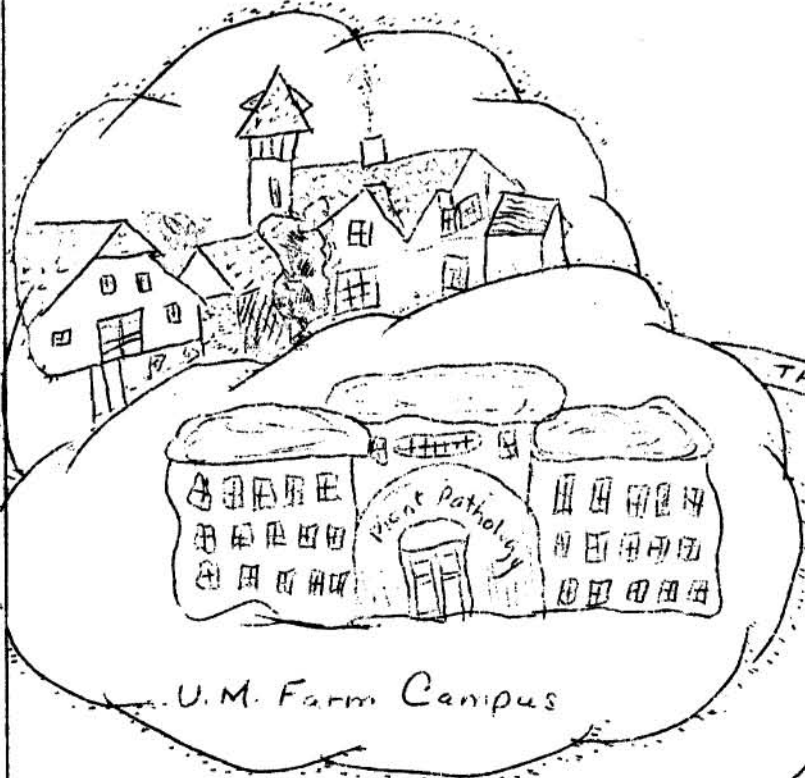
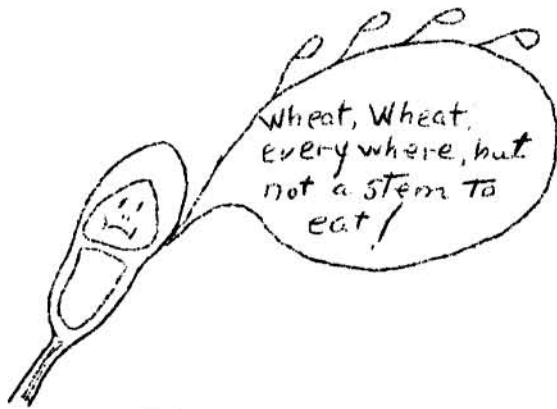


Aurora Sporealis

(var. Borealis)



Science's contribution
to the wheat surplus.

A U R O R A S P O R E A L I S

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Dear Aurora:

Those of us who in former years drank at the foaming fount and later became members of the Rust Research Laboratory at Winnipeg, send you greetings and a few contributions. Until a count is made, one scarcely realizes just how many Old Timers can be included in such a category. Some, of course, are more ancient than others. Some, too, remained longer than others at the fount, but none seem to have reached a state of satiation - all would gladly return for more.

A few of these Old Timers are no longer with us, but only officially is their separation recognized. Dr. Bailey, who was formerly in charge of the Laboratory, left us for Toronto University. Mr. Conners was needed at the Central Laboratory in Ottawa. Dr. Neatby, who came to the fount at regular intervals to quaff of its stimulating flow, went to the University of Alberta, but recently returned to Winnipeg to a broader field of activity. Dr. Bisby, a member by adoption, has taken up his abode in England. Dr. Hanna is temporarily absent on military duty (Canadian Air Force) in Britain. We regret that among our contributions we cannot include a personal contribution from each of these absentees.

We have the word of Julius Caesar that Gaul was divided into three parts, and that each part differed from the others in language, customs and laws. Like Gaul, the present membership of the Laboratory can be divided into three groups, but unlike the Gauls, the three groups speak the same language, observe the same customs, and obey the same laws. The differences lie only in their life histories. We have those who have never drunk directly from the foaming fount, but who have gone to other springs to assuage their thirst: Gordon, Machack, Hagborg, Brown, Johnston, and Wallace - all in plant pathology. The second group comprises those who for longer or shorter periods came to the fount at regular intervals - the plant-breeding group: Goulden, Peterson, Welsh, Waddell, and Robertson. And, thirdly, we have those who drank at the fount regularly and to capacity so long as opportunity lasted - more plant pathologists: Newton, Greaney, Johnson, Craigie, Peturson, Cherewick. All wish to pay their respects to the foaming fount.

We are fortunate in the happy relations which have always existed between ourselves and the denizens of the Tottering Tower wherein gushes forth the foaming fount. On several occasions the presiding spirit of the fount has paid us a goodwill visit. From time to time others have come to renew friendships. As opportunity offered, we have re-visited the fount. We are pleased to make a special offering to Aurora at this time. It is true that we have a war of the first magnitude on our hands just now, but, except for the temporary, though much-felt loss of Dr. Hanna, the even tenor of our ways has not been very noticeably disturbed. Our Southern border is wide open, and we extend a cordial invitation to all who inhabit the Tower and drink at the fount to come and see us.

J. H. C.

THE RUST LAB NEWS FEEL

The 1940 Edition

Dr. Margaret NEWTON, having in past years explored Central Europe, Spain, Russia and Mexico, has recently turned her attention to one of the few remaining unexplored regions -- this time nearer home. Late in August she visited Aklavik at the mouth of the Mackenzie on the borders of the Arctic ocean. The north-bound trip was by aeroplane, the south-bound by boat. But she speaks for herself in another part of this issue.

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Prof. A. H. R. BULLER has, since his return from his summer visit across the line, divided his time between his old office at the University of Manitoba, the Rust Lab., and the fungous flora of Manitoba and Western Ontario. He expects to be present at the American Association Meetings in Philadelphia, where he is to give an invitation paper on the subject of the flexuous hyphae of P. graminis and other rust fungi. During this trip he hopes to visit Washington, Princeton and Boston.

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It may be of interest to denizens of the Tottering Tower to learn that Big Game Hunter BLAIR has returned safely to Winnipeg. But the margin of safety was small. In the wilds of northern Minnesota he and his companions were attacked by a deer (at least that is what we heard). Don't get too worried. They escaped unharmed, though their car and the deer did not. Blair says he will, in the future, avoid this method of hunting on account of the expense. There are some things we can't understand about this episode. If the deer attacked them and did not escape, what happened to the venison? Some have suggested that the deer was pink. If so, what sort of entertainment did Blair and his companion receive from those of the Tottering Tower?

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Dr. BISBY, formerly of the University of Manitoba and now of the Imperial Mycological Institute, Kew, writes frequently to various Old Timers in Winnipeg. Thus far, he says, the war has not interfered greatly with his work or comfort. Some windows at the Mycological Institute have been broken, and also at the Kew Herbarium, but no serious damage has been done.

Language difficulties are still more or less serious. To quote: "I am perpetually astonished to find that English (my English) is spoken almost nowhere in England, Scotland, Wales, or Ireland. Now in America I understood everything that was said in Iowa, New York, Canada, California, Texas; but here I have some difficulty in Kew, more in Hackney, much more in Wiltshire, and in Cornwall I speak a foreign language. (And to think that a young lady from Budapest, learning English in Paris, told me I spoke beautiful English - much easier to understand than what the English spoke!)"

We trust that he will experience no difficulties greater than the linguistic ones.

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Dr. Yun-Chang WANG writes occasionally from China to his friends at the Rust Lab. where he worked on a scholarship from the China Foundation from November, 1938, to September, 1939. Previously he had worked for a year and a half with Professors Gregoire and Martens at the University of Louvain in Belgium, chiefly on the cytology of several rusts including some of the cereal rusts. On his return to China (via French Indo-China) he was at first stationed in the province of Kwangsi, but was presently obliged (by the China Incident) to move further west to the province of Kweichow where, as he says "the weather is never fine for three days, where one cannot go three li without running into a mountain, and where nobody has three pennies". Life, it seems, has not been without incident since he arrived home. Within twelve hours he had to run from the first Japanese bomb, and, as he says, "how I ran". The native Chinese ran too, but, to his amazement, rarely discussed the war while doing so. Life is not all "beer and skittles" at the University of Chekiang, but somehow or other the tough and philosophical Chinese manage to carry on.

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News of Dr. W. F. Hanna

Many of Dr. W. F. HANNA'S friends among the Old Timers will know that he joined the Royal Canadian Air Force at the outbreak of the War. Perhaps it would be better to say that he re-joined it, for he saw active service in the Royal Air Force in the last war. During the years of post-graduate work that followed the War, his connection with the R.A.F. lapsed but was again resumed some time after his appointment (in 1928) to the Staff of the Dominion Rust Research Laboratory. For several years past he has been a member of the Winnipeg Flying Club and has served for the past four years as an officer of the Reserve of the R.C.A.F. When War broke out a little over a year ago he was immediately called up with the rank of Flight-Lieutenant and sent to Trenton, Ont., for a course of training in the operation of the latest types of aeroplanes. In April of the present year he was promoted to the rank of Squadron Leader of the 112th Army Cooperation Squadron which was shortly afterwards sent to England under his command. Since then some of his friends in Winnipeg have heard from him occasionally but (perhaps naturally enough) he has said but little concerning his military duties.

The most recent news of him is contained in a news dispatch printed in the Winnipeg newspapers on September 30.

"Somewhere in Southern England, Sept. 30 - Air-Marshal W. A. Bishop V.C., today unfurled the new Royal Canadian Air Force flag which flew for the first time in England when he visited a Canadian Army Co-operation Squadron in this beautiful rolling country. Air-Marshal Bishop flew here - the first time in the air for the former war ace since he reached Britain last week - with Squadron Leader Bert Evans, of Winnipeg. Air-Marshal Bishop was received by the commanding officer, Squadron Leader W. F. Hanna, of Winnipeg. On the inspection he was accompanied by Hanna and Air Commodore G. R. Walsh, senior officer of R.C.A.F. headquarters in Britain."

All of the Old Timers who knew Dr. Hanna and many who know him only by reputation will wish him the best of luck in the gallant and hazardous work in which he is now engaged.
