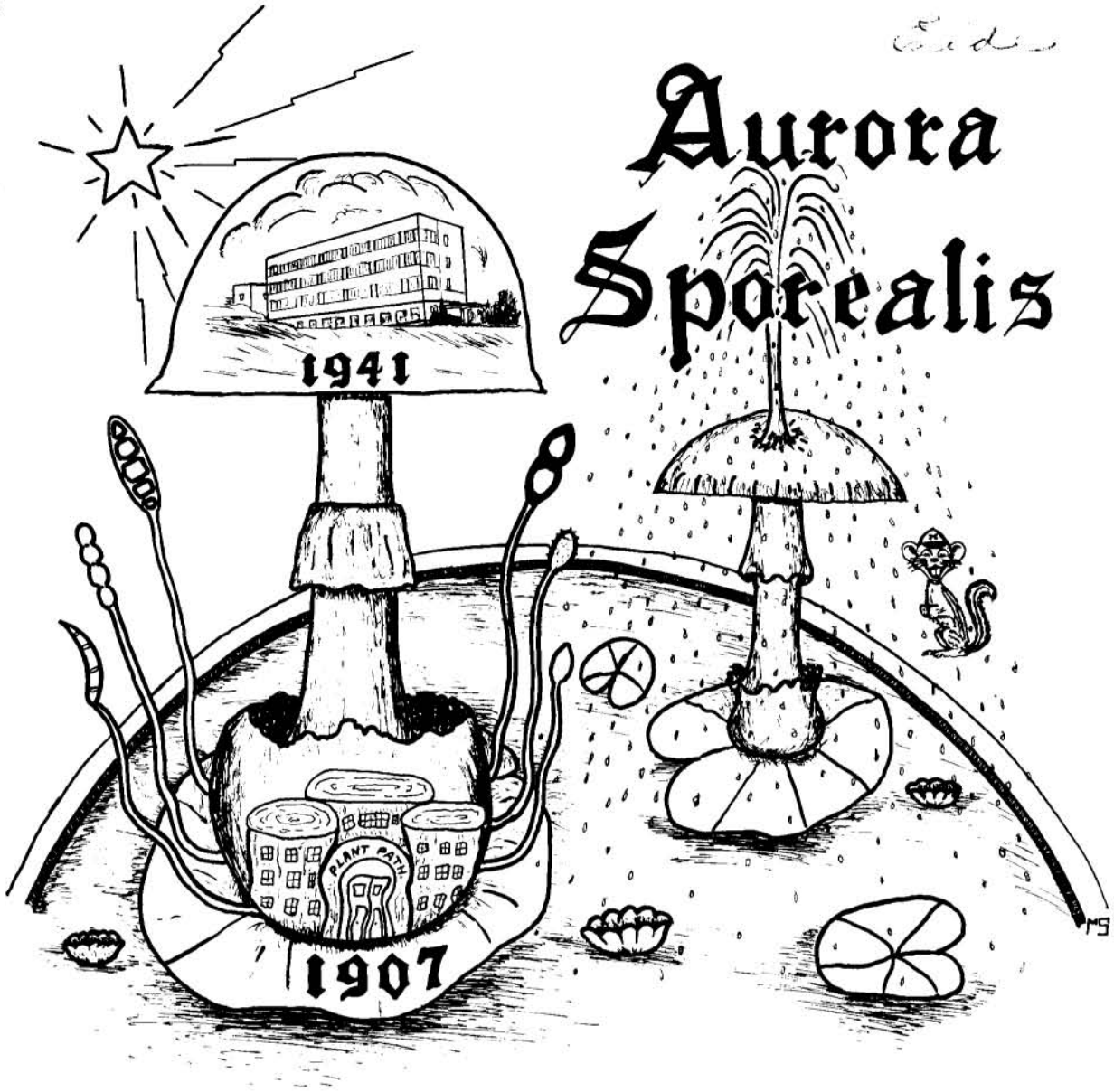
Aurora Sporealis



Wherein are recorded the recollections, the ruminations and the raspirations 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

PLEASE NOTICE

J J C SAID YOU WOULDN'T RESPOND! He claimed we would have to write each of you a personal letter, inquiring about each of your children by name, in order to get you to send us a snapshot of yourself for our soon-to-be-revived PICTURE GALLERY OF OLD-TIMERS. The Seminar has much greater confidence in you, especially after bribing you with the attached Departmental portrait. We know that you will SEND US A PHOTO OF YOURSELF--preferably 3 x 4 inches, but any size will be gladly accepted. Please write your name on the back, the years you were at Minnesota, and degrees received here. DON'T DELAY. DO IT NOW. --K. D. Fezer (Chairman, Picture Committee)

COMINGS AND GOINGS--by C. J. Eide

Starting with the staff: Prof. E. C. Stakman went to Mexico in September to help establish graduate instruction in the National School of Agriculture at Chapingo; returned in late October to prepare for a series of Phi Beta Kappa speeches; departed a few days later to give said speeches at several eastern colleges; at present is expected home at any moment. Prof. C. M. Christensen left about September 25 with Mrs. Christensen and 3 daughters for Mexico, D.F. where he will investigate storage diseases of grain for 6 months.

The grain storage project sustained another major loss in early November when Subhi Qasem, having acquired a well-earned Ph.D., returned to his home in Jordan. Also returning home, in August, were Dr. J. C. Edward of Allahabad Agricultural Institute, India, and Dr. Wolfgang Koch of Frankfort/M., Germany, both of whom had spent a year with us as post-doctorate fellows. Other departures included Siriphong Intrama and Prakob Kanjanasoon, both of Bankok, Thailand; and Jerome Koenigs, who went to New Orleans to take a job with the Southern Forest Experiment Station. And Mrs. Vivian Schwab resigned from her job as secretary to go to Arizona with her husband. Well, Arizona is a fine place to be.

Jesus Fernandez, one of John Niederhauser's disciples in Mexico, spent a couple of weeks with us in July, exchanging information and ideas about potato diseases. Among other places, he visited the Red River Valley. Lucky man!

Roughly 90 individuals, great and small, signed the visitors' book in JJC's office since June 30. Several others were here who either were not asked to sign or couldn't write. (Some who signed can't write either; we will never know who they are). Since this is a family paper, we will mention only the Old Timers: Frances Haglund, Glenbrook High School, Glenview, Ill.; Duane LeTourneau, University of Idaho; Martin Tveit, Svenska Sockerfabriks Aktiebolaget, Arlov, Sweden (a VIP who travels far and fast these days); M. G. Boosalis, University of Nebraska; H. C. Young Jr., and H. C. Young III, just back from a canoe trip (Oklahoma A and M or State University, as the case may be); P. R. Fridlund, Irrigation Experiment Station, Prosser, Wash.; J. S. Hendrix, Washington State University; Leon Tyler, Cornell; H. D. Thurston, Bogota, Colombia (looking for some climate-control equipment. This is a good way to get some free travel. Linck and Sudia also worked it.); David Gottlieb, University of Illinois; Roger Anderson, recently returned from a year in Norway, where he acquired a German wife, and now taking graduate work at the University of Wisconsin; E. L. LeClerg, Biometrical Services, ARS, Beltsville (talked at regular Seminar); Mal Shurtleff, Extension Service, Iowa State University (exhorted at regular Seminar).

Since June 30 several new students have joined us, some with wives and other dependents, some without: Yong Sup Cho and Yong Joon La, Korea; Edmundo Davild, Mexico (Edmundo submitted himself to an

experiment in International Living--stayed during his first month here with a Scandinavian family in Minneapolis--3 daughters and a sail boat--experiment successful); Hiroshi Fujii, Japan; Ahmed Fahmy El Hadidi, Egypt; Kenneth Leath, Rhode Island; Stein Telneset, Norway; Muhammed A. B. Mallik, Pakistan; Wallace Rogers, North Carolina.

OLD TIMERS by L. M. Hamilton

Plant Pathologist M. W. CORMACK has been elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada in recognition of his many contributions toward development of new disease-resistant varieties of alfalfa. Dr. Cormack is Director of the Canada Department of Agriculture Research Station at Saskatoon.

Lost in the shuttle system between Plant Pathology and Agricultural Botany buildings (at the time of our last issue) was an item regarding Dr. Donald E. MUNNECKE (Ph.D. Minn. 1950). He was promoted to Associate Professor at the University of California at Los Angeles as of July 1, where he is working on pathological problems of the rose, the azalea, and Dieffenbachia (the spotted plant which adorns the Seminar Room at Minnesota).

Dr. Jack WESTERN, formerly extension pathologist at the University of Leeds, England, also was promoted. On October 1 he was to be Professor of Agricultural Botany.

In July, Dr. Shosuke Goto was appointed Assistant Director of the Hawaii Agricultural Experiment Station. His title now is "Assistant Dean and Director." In September he wrote that he had "attended the Annual Spring meeting of the Western Directors of Instruction in Agriculture at Moscow, Idaho, and renewed acquaintance with OT John VAUGHN (Wyoming), OT George FISCHER (Washington), and OT Duane LeTOURNEAU...later, John Vaughn visited the University of Hawaii enroute home from Afghanistan...Dick DEDOLPH is complaining that he is not receiving his Aurora Sporealis. Together with wife Lindy and son Michael he arrived a few months ago from the University of Maryland. At present he is assistant horticulturist at the Hawaii Station.

Also to Honolulu went Dr. St. John P. CHILTON, of Louisiana, according to that other famous journal PHYTOPATHOLOGY to attend the congress of the International Society of Sugar Cane Technologists.

And OT mushroom-specialist and stem-rust-epidemiologist E. B. "Ebi" LAMBERT, according to PHYTOPATHOLOGY, "was invited to attend" the IV International Mushroom Congress held in July in Copenhagen. Did he go?

We don't know
But suppose so!

In late September, Dr. S. Z. HASANAIN, left Pakistan "to serve for two years the University of Libya at Tripoli." As he had only one day in Cairo enroute he feared it might not be possible "to meet Abdul Hak and any other old Minnesotans."

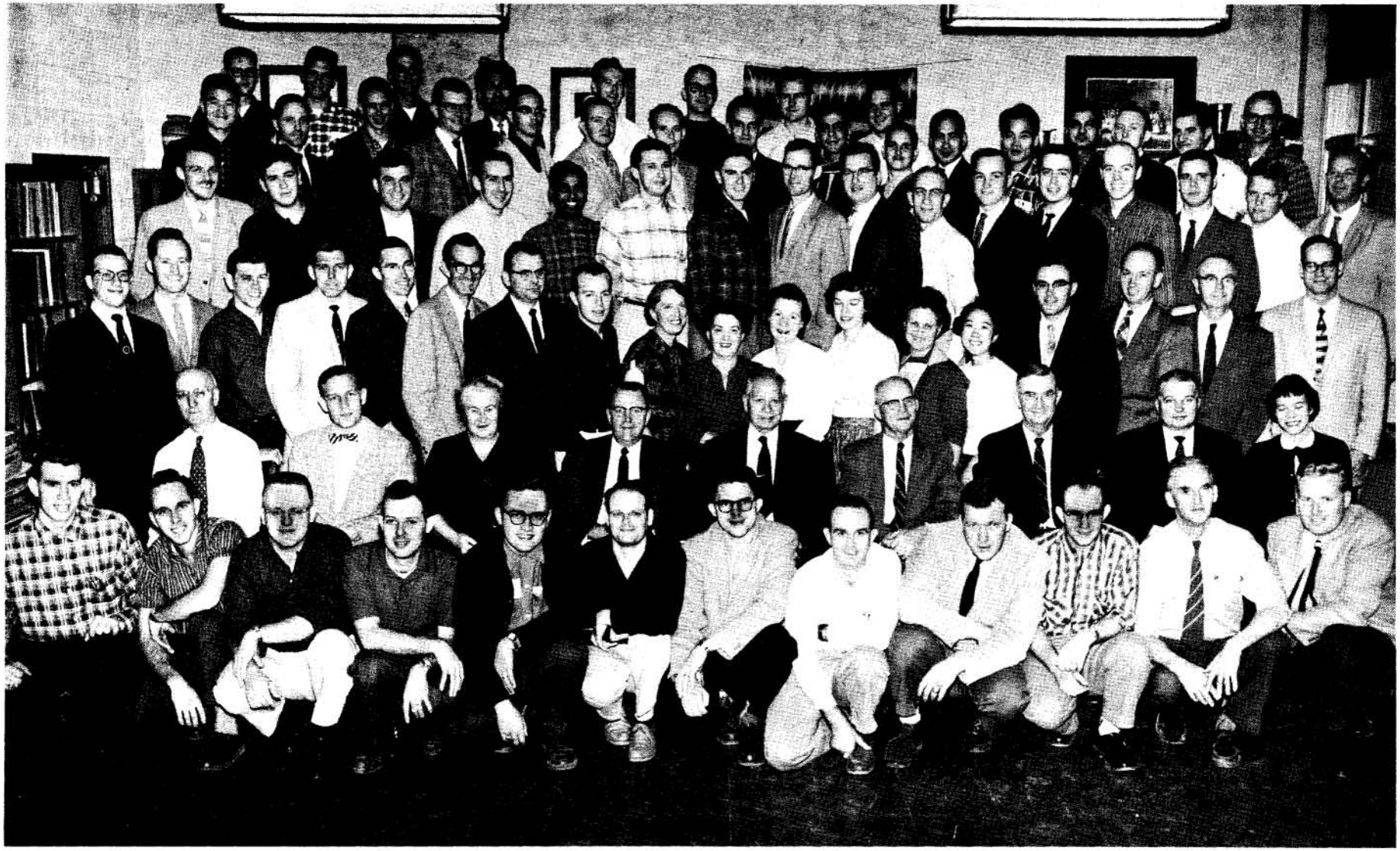
Dr. S. F. HASSAN, also of Karachi, plans to visit this and other countries on a post-doctoral research fellowship from SEATO.

The reader's opinion is solicited. Shall we include in this column the name of Dr. A. P. MISRA, Professor of Mycology at Bihar Agricultural College in India, as he wrote a letter and did not include any news for AURORA?

Former secretary Mrs. J. A. "Tessa" FLOWERS reports that the conservatory in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, reminds her of the one in Como Park, St. Paul. Her home is now Sherman Oaks, California.

Another secretary, from the days of the Tottering Tower, Mrs. Fred (Helen) DAVIES, telephoned her greetings from Minneapolis, her family home. Said husband Fred might be at the APS meetings.

Dr. B. Bernarr VANCE, biology instructor in Dayton, Ohio, has just returned from a round-the-world trip. (Doesn't anybody stay at home nowadays?) States he is working on a college biology textbook now.



Row 6: R.Welty, D.vonRuden, G.Ahlgren, H.Fujii, E.Ryan, G.Schleder, S.Telneset, W.Haglund.
Row 5: Y.La, N.Anderson, R.Milholland, J.Ohman, T.Wyllie, W.Merrill, M.Follstad, D.Taylor, A.Hadidi, R.Rodriguez, F.Orillo, Y.Cho, B.Chakravarti, D.Gerwitz, R.Covey, K.Knutson.
Row 4: A.Anderson, E.Davila, M.Marinos, W.Miller, M.Mallik, J.Ortega, L.Carlson, T.Kommedahl, T.Sudia, H.Sachs, M.Tumbleson, R.Lutey, F.Wood, R.Line, E.Banttari, F.Frosheiser.
Row 3: D.Penner, T.Kavanagh, W.Rogers, B.Renfro, B.Kennedy, B.Roberts, R.Goth, G.Bean, G.Aschenbach, L.Hamilton, L.Abler, M.Anderson, Z.Hershenzon, J.Shen, D.Mumford, H.Johnson, R.Cotter, R.Lambert.
Row 2: A.Eagle, R.Wilcoxson, H.Hart, M.Kernkamp, E.Stakman, J.Christensen, C.Eide, T.King, M.Abrahamsen.
Front Row: W.Garrett, R.Durbin, D.Schroeder, C.Caballero, J.Miller, A.Elliot, R.Frederiksen, K.Leath, H.Bissonnette, M.Harrison, M.Moore, K.Fezer.

Fall 1959

From Israel come brief but very pleasant greetings from Dr. I. WAHL.

In September, at the age of 3 weeks, Michael John came to live with John and OT Rajah (Haik) KOLB, of Minneapolis. Rajah was secretary successor to Tessa mentioned above.

At West Lafayette, Indiana, visiting Minnesotans were greeted cordially by OTs Eric SHARVELLE and John TUITE. The latter complained they did not get enough space in Aurora. The visitors were then escorted to the edge of town: the customary courtesy for undesirables.

At Lexington, Kentucky, these same visitors bypassed the bluegrass country and its famous race horses in favor of seeing OT Lawrence "Man Mountain" HENSON. Although he has not visited Minnesota since he left in about 1939, Henson expressed his delight and that of his two boys (12 and 14) in seeing Dr. J. J. Christensen at the APS meetings in California.

Enroute homeward to Germany aboard S.S. American Traveler, recent Old Timer Wolfgang KOCH wrote that he visited with OT Dr. Richard HERRETT at Boyce Thompson Institute. Koch also attended the International Botanical Congress in Montreal. Herrett attended a symposium on bioenergetics at Brookhaven. (Energetics is what we need, especially in the morning!)

Another recent Old Timer, Dr. P. K. DUTTA, saw many countries and people on his way home to India, including OT J. C. SANTIAGO in Portugal. Dutta recently has been appointed Senior Scientific Officer in the Regional Research Laboratory in Kashmir, where he is in charge of the cultivation and introduction of medicinal plants.

OT Santiago FUENTES F., according to ECS, is doing research at the experiment station near the National School of Agriculture at Chapingo, Mexico.

Miss Maria de Lourdes DE LA ISLA is with the Institute de Investigaciones in the Ministry of Agriculture in Mexico City.

George HAFSTAD, of the Wisconsin Dept. of Agriculture, wrote recently to "the venerables of the twenties and thirties." (Oh those youthful gay days in the Tottering Tower!) George has been appointed to the Committee on Education and Research of the Midwestern Chapter, National Shade Tree Conference, which aims to develop a course of study leading to a degree in Municipal Forestry. "The name may be paradoxical," says Hafstad, "but there is a definite need for 'City Foresters'."

BOT-POT of Louisiana State University has just come to our notice. It is Volume 8, and this is the first time AURORA has seen it! One paragraph we are lifting bodily: "Dr. I. L. FORBES served as chairman and wheelhorse of the Department during Dr. CHILTON's stay in Mexico. It is reported that his zestful enjoyment of these responsibilities was excellent except when his thoughts wandered to colleagues presumably in regions with natural air-conditioning." OTs Forbes and Chilton are, respectively, Professor and Department Chairman.

E. C. Stakman

At the International Botanical Congress in Montreal, Professor Emeritus ECS gave a popular evening speech on "Botany and Human Affairs," saw many Old Timers, and was Chairman of a symposium on "Specialization and host-parasite relations in the rusts." On Sept. 15 he left for Mexico, where he was Visiting Professor in the recently established Post-Graduate College in the National School of Agriculture at Chapingo. Old Timer Alfredo Campos is now Professor of Plant Pathology in this new P-G College. On Oct. 24, ECS left Mexico temporarily to attend a meeting in New York of the Board of Consultants for Agriculture of The Rockefeller Foundation. He returned to St. Paul on the 28th and, as we go to press, is preparing to give four Phi Beta Kappa talks at eastern Universities. ---L.M.H.

LOCAL NEWS--J. H. Ohman and D. P. Taylor

The list of degree recipients includes:
Richard A. Herrett, Ph.D., July 1959
Subhi A. Qasem, Ph.D., August 1959
Ronald P. Covey, M.S., July 1959
Roland F. Line, M.S., July 1959
Siriphong Intrama, M.S., August 1959

The feminine influence is being felt in Room 300 Ag Botany. The arrival of Mary Abrahamson, fresh from a B.S. in medical microbiology at Wisconsin, has necessitated the removal of four calendars and eight words from the vocabularies of the male inhabitants of the room.

The extremes to which some of our staff members will go to propagandize their areas of interest is amazing. The most striking example was the recent case of the nematologist editor of Local News (DPT). Upon passing his oral preliminary examination, he purchased the traditional candy and cigars; however, the latter were heavily infested with worms. Although according to entomology minors the worms were beetle larvae and not nematodes, we believe that this type of imaginative thinking may result in sudden termination of employment.

Departmental morale hit a new low with the announcement that Mrs. Vivian Schwab was leaving the department. Viv was not only and excellent secretary and wonderful person, but she was also a leading candidate for department head--or so we have been told. (Ed. Who told you, Vivian?).

CORN FEED--R. D. Wilcoxson

When people began to make plans to attend the Botanical Congress and AIBS meetings, the more particular gourmets suddenly realized that meeting time coincided with corn-eating time. After a good deal of soul searching, Durbin, Sudia, Fezer, and JJC decided to go to the meetings if the newly introduced departmental corn bust could be delayed until after the first of September. Eide wouldn't go away at all.

On September 10th, all families in the department gathered at the Plant Pathology and Botany plots at Rosemount. The corn bust was on! In just a little over two hours all plot borders (and some plots too) were harvested and preserved. This was no small achievement when you consider the competition corn had from apples which mysteriously came in from the farm just south of the experiment station. (We learned from good authority that JJC owns part of that farm and is working hard to build a business reputation before he reaches 67 years of age.).

There are now testimonials in the files which prove that the way to the heart is through the stomach. Judging from the enjoyment of the corn chewers, the University is going to have to get more land for experimental purposes, particularly for investigations on corn diseases.

PUBLICATIONS--L. Abler

In June PHYTOPATHOLOGY, see BRIDGMON on new races of wheat stem rust by vegetative fusion. In July Edgar CHRISTENSEN & WILCOXSON published on Rhynchosporium on brome grass; THURSTON, WILDE, & SUDIA on growth of Phytophthora infestans on artificial media; and BRIDGMON & WILCOXSON on new races from varietal mixtures in P. graminis. In August--SILVERMAN's paper on uptake of vital dyes by wheat stem rust mycelium.

PLANT DISEASE REPORTER in June published TAYLOR's report of Meloidogyne javanica on Solanum pseudo-capsicum. The July issue included WYLLIE & CLYDE CHRISTENSEN on mold invasion and germination of stored wheat; and HAGLUND & KING on root rot and yield of canning peas. The July Supplement carried the stem rust race survey for 1958 by STEWART et al., and the August issue, WYLLIE & GOTH, soybean seed treatment in Minnesota; and DURBIN on relationship between Aspergillus flavus and albinism in citrus.

In AGRONOMY J. see Caldecott, Stevens, & ROBERTS on stem rust resistant variants in irradiated populations; and RENFRO & Sprague on 8 alfalfa pathogens.

See July ANNALS OF ENTOM. SOC. AM. for Van Wyk, Hodson & CLYDE CHRISTENSEN on the confused flour beetle; June ECON.

ENTOM. for Griffiths, Hodson & CMC on grain storage fungi associated with mites; J. FORESTRY, July, OHMAN, ANDERSON, & FRENCH, dry and chemical girdling vs. sporulation of oak wilt; PLANT PHYSIOL., July, temperature on response of germinating barley to potassium gibberellate, by SUDIA.

The need for international cooperation on cereal rust by E. C. STAKMAN in Savulescu volume of ACAD. REP. POP. ROMINE; and Progress and problems in the development of disease-resistant varieties of crop plants by ECS in PROC. IVTH INTERN. CONGRESS OF CROP PROTECTION, Hamburg, 1957.

Missed in previous round-ups, STAKMAN & RODENHISER in ADVANCES IN AGRONOMY, Vol. X--Race 15B of wheat stem rust--what it is and what it means.

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Middleton, Wis.

Dear Aurora,

"..... I have become interested in Esperanto this past year. The world is full of problems, many based on the fact we can't communicate with one another. We study German and can only talk to a German, we study Russian and can only converse with a Russian. What about French, Spanish, Greek, Chinese, Hindus and Norwegians? If Esperanto was taught as an auxillary language we could all converse with one another.

"Perhaps Aurora with its already wide international following could become even more so, by including some Esperanto. I will offer to translate anything sent me for Aurora, and this after only three months study. Esperanto is easy. I know any one of the real old timers can translate the following, knowing kaj is and, and oni is one. Esperanto estas utila, belsona kaj praktika internacia lingvo. UNESCO rekonis la valoren de Esperanto. Inteligenta persona lernas la lingvon rapide kaj facile. Oni profitas per la uzo de Esperanto.

"Esperanto is a useful, well sounding and practical international language. UNESCO recognizes the value of Esperanto. Intelligent persons learn the language rapidly and easily. One profits by the use of Esperanto." George E. Hafstad

REINER BONDE, 1897-1959

Many Old Timers and others were saddened to hear that Reiner Bonde died July 12, 1959 of a heart attack. Reiner was born in Minneapolis January 27, 1897, attended the School of Agriculture, U of M, the University High School and the College of Agriculture, U of M, graduating in Plant Pathology in 1922. He received the M.S. degree from the University of Maine in 1924, and the Ph.D. from Minnesota in 1938. He worked on potato diseases at the University of Maine from 1924 until his death, holding the position of Plant Pathologist there since 1947.

During his lifetime Reiner achieved unusual distinction in applied and fundamental science. He never forgot who was paying his salary, and his work was always aimed at solving one of the numerous problems of potato growers. He worked with diseases caused by fungi, bacteria and viruses; he was active in potato breeding for disease resistance, spraying, seed treating, and techniques for producing disease-free seed. Each problem he undertook resulted in better control and helped to make Maine famous as a potato State.

Just as he never forgot the taypayer, neither did Reiner forget his obligation to science. Each job was written and published; each paper was a testimony to the fact that a scientific contribution can also be useful. He was regarded as the leading potato pathologist in the world, and his published contributions will be read as long as potatoes are grown.

Old Timers who knew Bonde in his undergraduate days will remember that he was a baseball pitcher of renown (southpaw). He is also remembered as a humble person who never tried (or needed) to advertise himself, but who was ready to praise that which was good and combat that which he felt was wrong or unjust. Minnesota's Department of Plant Pathology has truly lost one of its most distinguished alumni.

--C. J. Eide