

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

Vol. VIII, No. 3

May-June, 1931

A Journal

Wherein are recorded the recollections, the ruminations,
and the respirations of those who have drunk from the foaming
fount in 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.

Published by the Editorial Committee, aided and abetted
by many others.

The Committee: J. G. Leach
C. C. Allison
Helen Hart, Chairman

RECOLLECTIONS, RUMINATIONS, AND

ASPIRATIONS

Having been present at the inaugural ceremonies attending the inception of Aurora Sporealis some seven years ago, if our statisticians are correct and my memory serves me, and having helped to get the young infant started in life, I may be pardoned for doing some recollecting.

It happened in this manner. The Big Chief on one of his numerous visits to the Blue Room where he was wont to "confer" with the Dean, Jimmy Seal, and other investigators of fire blight of Nicotiana, had a pipe dream. He emerged with a bright idea and a keen desire to find someone on whom he could spring it. He had gone but a few steps when he espied your humble servant discoursing with the then Rose unorganized Extension Specialist. "Ah" said he to himself. "I must give him something better to do while I am away in Washington, or was it Australia?" So he unburdened his secret and then yours truly began to ruminate.

The gist of the idea was, as you have guessed, that we must have an official organ to bind together the ever increasing emanations from the overflowing fount of "Ye Tottering Tower". The recipient of the doubtful honor of developing the idea soon concluded that it would be necessary in the best interests of the cause to distribute the Editorial responsibilities to as many as would accept a portion thereof. So a committee was appointed, the more important members of which have since degenerated into rust and smut specialists. The committee decided that if it could work out a satisfactory title page and a snappy illustrated rear cover, the rest would take care of itself (as a matter of fact it didn't). So the Big Chief was called upon to embellish the front page as he saw fit. He did such an excellent job that no one has either cared to or dared to alter it. Then after much consideration concerning the last page, it was finally decided to "let George do it" and he is still doing it, much to Everybody's satisfaction. So it was in the beginning.

After seven years we can still recognize the cover pages but what of the interior. Behold a transformation. We find it organized into sections and sub-sections with a reporting staff for each, into columns for poetry and prose, literature citations and other complications. The next development we anticipate is an annual index. Your progress has been great, Aurora. Your aspirations are high. We appreciate you more and more as the years go by.

A. W. Henry

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Why do we piddle most of our valuable time away? Why do we spend the greater part of our time puttering around looking for minute, irrelevant details, often forgetting about the main theme? This is indeed a common and conspicuous evil among the hope-to-be scientists. We may be hard, conscientious, untiring, and determinate investigators, burning the midnight oil, laboring diligently on Sundays instead of resting on the pedestal in church. The nervous piddler often cuts himself on the thorns and usually leaves the colored fruit to be picked and eaten by some one that has a better perspective outlook. Nobody in this commercial, small but rather wide world, or even in the next world into which most scientists are not admitted, cares a whoop how hard we have worked, struggled and fought nor how difficult our task may have been. These are our sorrows and grievances! The world is interested in accomplishments and results, especially in new facts and not in the amount of time we piddled away, nor in the time we have puttered around with some unrelated details. Time after time one sees a "stubborn boob" insisting on making a complex apparatus which is not suitable for the test involved, or

see a "would-be scientist" carrying
a simple experiment, yet insisting
adjusting many elements and factors
the nth degree, that in reality add
absolutely nothing to the final results.
All they piddle! These very persons are
usually the ones that become disgusted and
discouraged and go on their periodical
paths. Every so often a gloomy
disposition and cantankerous attitude come
over them, simply because they have
piddled away too many golden hours, each
piddled with 60 diamond minutes. Eventually
time is taken out for weeping and finding
fault with the personnel, the institute,
the fact with the entire world. Then after
a while in which they have received helpful
suggestions, paternal love and advice, they
see once more a new light, and once more
they resume their investigations. But in
a relatively short while they deviate from
the main channel and again are lost in
trifling details. Thus we piddle, piddle,
piddle, and putter. God help us piddlers!

--J.J.C.

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WHO'S WHO AND WHY

C. C. Allison
C. J. Eide
J. J. Christensen

The correspondence "stock quotation" has risen very rapidly since the last issue. May it continue in its rise for some time. Ye editor doesn't really expect it to so why not play a joke on him. Do not forget, however, that Aurora is limited to a certain number of pages, how many I do not know, so please, beloved readers, do not write more than we can print.

The first letter in this issue is from one who has sinned and left the narrow, or is it broad, path of Plant Path. but redeemed himself at least 50 percent when he wrote this letter to Miss Aurora.

May 25, 1931

Dear Friends:

I certainly enjoy reading the issues of your fine paper, and am grateful to have you keep my name on your mailing list.

Especially is this true, since I have left the plant pathology paths. It seems as if I have entered the entomology field specializing in cater-

pillars, earthworms and what have you?

With very best wishes to the entire gang,

Sincerely,

Donald C. Curran

Permanent Address
Box 57
Princeville, Illinois

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Ye Editor received a card from Frank Kaufert postmarked Münster, Germany. A Botanical Congress was in session there at that time but the post card was delightful, inspiring, etc., yet rather parching. It was a photocard of a famous beer Keller in that town. We hope Frank enjoyed the Botanical Congress.

Other news from Frank indicates that he will be back in U. S. A. in July after fully enjoying his 9 months stay in Deutschland.

"Peewee" sends us some news. Sounds like he was one of the "400" that spent the winter in California.

"Am back on the job in Idaho. Had a very delightful winter in California. Regards to the gang - Aurora, et cetera."

AM

Leon Tyler arrived here only a few days after his letter, but we gather from the letter that he also enjoyed his winter in Baton Rouge. He mentioned that southern girls are very attractive.

- PERSONALS -

PROGRESS REPORT: Mr. Clyde C. Allison and Miss Florence Adelaide Robinson were married at Fairmont, Minnesota, on May 31, 1931. We can't tell what the bride or groom wore, but we know that Clyde's desk in Q. C. F. looked like a cross between a Mardi Gras and a meeting of the Mystic Nights of the Sea. The groom was observed at the building, working, on the following Saturday night.

Dr. Ralph M. Nelson and Miss Rachel Pearsall Hunt were married on May 16, at Wilmington, N. C. They will make their home at Asheville, N. C.

More reports of a lawless age. Alice Lozier at the wheel of Matt's Ford "busts" two stop signs. She is overtaken by a policeman on a motorcycle. (Darn good motorcycle he must have had) When warned that she has qualified herself to receive a ticket, the lady sweetly expresses her relief that the kind officer isn't going to do any such a thing. No wonder the morale of the police force is low!

Dr. Isenbeck went horsebackriding last Sunday. That may explain the quilt he has on his seat in the lab.

Rainmaker Eagle predicted 1 inch of rain last week and got 1.06. Pretty good. Since that he's got about 4 he hasn't asked for and doesn't seem to be able to stop it.

VISITORS

Mr. F. C. Meier, Principal Pathologist in charge of the Division of Barberry Eradication, U. S. Department of Agriculture, visited the Tottering Tower recently and conferred with those connected with the barberry project.

Messrs. R. O. Bulger and Geo. C. Mayoux, State Leaders of Barberry Eradication of South and North Dakota respectively, have been recent visitors. (May 17).

Mr. Joyce Roberts, Assistant State Leader of Barberry Eradication in North Dakota, is spending several days working with Mr. George on fair demonstrations.

Dr. Martin, field supervisor of the Division of White Pine Blister Rust, U. S. Department of Agriculture, was here June 11 and 12 conferring with the forest pathologists.

Mr. Ashberg, of Dominion Government Research Laboratory, Winnipeg, Canada, visited us on June 13.

A. O. Mortenson from Brookings, S. Dak., G. Sherman from Fargo, N. Dak., L. R. Tyler from Brookings, S. Dak., but fresh from Louisiana, and Bill Brown from St. Paul, Minnesota, attended a rust meeting at University Farm, June 15. Next day they left for wheat fields of the Northwest where they will make an intensive rust survey.

Dr. Olef Aamodt came to town for a few hours Saturday, June 13, on his way to an important meeting at Ottawa.

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SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

J. G. Leach
L. W. Melander
L. V. Hamilton
M. B. Moore
J. J. Christensen

Conferences

Dr. R. U. Cotter and D. G. Fletcher went to Washington, D. C., to attend a hearing regarding the proposed revision of Quarantine 38, June 9. The revision called for the inclusion of the 13 barberry eradication states to prohibit interstate shipment of rust-susceptible barberries.

Public Service Activities

Doc. Freeman recently talked to a group at the Como Park greenhouse on mushrooms. Dr. Dosdall was there also assisting in identifying the collections brought in. She also gave a talk on diseases of the flower garden at the same place on June 10!

The program of the University radio station WLB listed the following radio talks:

Wed., May 27, 12:30. The job of finding a suitable job. E. M. Freeman
Mon., June 1, 12:30. Barberry eradication program. L. W. Melander
Mon., June 8, 12:30. Timely topics on plant diseases. Miss Louise Dossall.

Degrees and Honors

On the evening of June 8, Clyde P. Shumway and James M. Walter marched proudly across the platform in Memorial Stadium and received from the hands of President Coffman diplomas granting to them the M. S. degrees and all the rights and privileges appertaining thereto.

Have you heard of the new "Dean E. M. Freeman Medal for Student Leadership"?

The Gopher Peavey, Forestry Club, and other student organizations have established a medal for student leadership to be awarded each year to the student who has made the greatest contribution to student life on the University Farm Campus. It was founded "in recognition of Dean Freeman's untiring interest in developing a wholesome student atmosphere on the University Farm Campus." It is made of bronze and is a little larger than a silver dollar. On one side is a striking likeness in profile of our Dean. The first recipient of the medal was Kenneth (Kenny) Ingwalson, who in addition to his student activities has earned quite a reputation for his excellent work as a member of Dr. Melander's corps of Barberry Scouts. Ingwalson plans to take graduate work in the Tottering Tower next year, specializing in plant physiology.

James M. Walter and Karl Isenbeck were elected to membership in Sigma Xi. Jimmie Walter was also introduced into the mysteries of Gamma Sigma Delta, Honor Society of Agriculture.

Publications

On potatoes and cereal crops we have to offer the following:

Leach, J. G. Further studies on the seed-corn maggot and bacteria with special reference to potato blackleg. *Phytopath.* 21: 378-406. April.

Broadfoot, W. C. Preliminary experiments on the control of cereal rusts by Kolo dust. *Phytopath.* 21: 347-372. April.

Holton, C. S. and R. C. Rose. Reduce smut losses. Minn. Extension Folder No. 28.

Seminars

A rather successful season of "Insects and plant diseases" comes to a close as Hugh Robinson, one of our agronomist friends, presents "Insects and human diseases with special reference to viruses and Rickettsia bodies." Since April 21 Eide has philosophized a little, as is his way, on virus diseases of plants and their insect vectors; Kebreau, our Plant Path. minor from Haiti, has introduced us to the little studied subject of protozoa of plants and told us in his pleasantly musical French-southern accent of the morphology and cytology of protozoa and their effects on plants; Lindgren and Shumway have dissected insect galls; Allison has spent one period on symbiosis of insects and microorganisms, reviewing the German work of Buchner; and Isenbeck has spent another period continuing and concluding the same subject; Tinkham, a "bug catcher", has told us of the protozoan diseases of man transmitted by insects; Lopp, also a "bug catcher"

has given us an account of the villainy of the house fly and others, mosquitoes, ticks, fleas, lice, etc., in the transmission of bacterial, spirochete and fungous diseases of man; and Buchanan, another bug man, has gone into detail on insect penetration of plant tissue and non-parasitic diseases caused by insects.

The long, low room high in the tower has weathered another stormy winter, has watched the chaotic course of man thru tense, as well as peaceful moments, has seen man sweat and seen him sleep. It has retired for a week and a half to reappear with a fresh, new coat of paint and now its patient door rests, save for an occasional gentle swing, on worn though uncomplaining hinges. The weekly gathering is no more. Those two long walls, the low ceiling, the black table, and the small windows will rest thru the summer, gathering more of that complacency that comes with age to all things and accepts and welcomes whatever events the fates may bring.

Literature Seminar

Just exactly how it got started no one knows, but a tiny current of sentiment swelled to a torrent, and it finally was openly suggested - with the usual tact and diplomacy of course - that if one M. N. Levine could not come to lit. seminar the seminar might go to him. Consequently on the evening of the last day of April, a goodly number of P. P.'s. gathered in the parlor of the M. N. Levine home. Literature reviews, as usual, was the chief occupation of the evening. However, it did not seriously interfere with the consumption of quantities of cake and coffee (nobody knows who and how much was eaten and drunk) and the enjoyment of half a dozen piano selections by Mrs. Levine.

5/14 This seminar, in the words of the chairman himself, was held to decide how and why the kittenball team did so well in losing "the one big game". Also to "interpret" a certain typewritten sheet bearing a record of some 33 prizes and awards to be made to the team, individuals of the team, or other deserving persons. Since all or most of said awards were more or less dependent upon some degree of excellence on the part of said team or individuals, considerable responsibility devolved upon the seminar to interpret the wording of each statement accurately and fairly. A Hershey bar per hit offered no difficulty. But a nice big cake from Miss Dossdall and strawberries and accessories from Eide and Bonde if the team is "shut out" - that requires "interpretation". Also a wiener roast by Helen Hart if the score is three times that of Astronomy. But all was settled in good order and debtors and creditors determined in every case. Each award found a winner.. Smokes, root beer, consolation tea, cough drops, trained mouse, candy bars, cakes, fig-filled cookies, 2 bitses, bananas, pretzels, etc. all were gratefully received. Even the wiener roast was "bulled" thru. Oh! don't let rain disappoint you, Miss Hart, we will have it in your parlor. - Such is the success of the seminars.

Special notice. A new record book with 300 blank pages was started tonite. With care and economy, it may still be receiving names 11 years hence.

5/28. Just a plain ordinary seminar. Eide furnished the feature with a review of Dr. Beall's "Seed vitality experiment" which review Chris turned into a taxonomy quiz. C. Christensen more cynical than usual - almost suffered a gastronomic upheaval when Moore started "A new strain of Tilletia tritici in Palestine." Christy got the razz so effectively that he left early. Yes, the gang was sarcastic.

6/11. Holy cats! Is this a Lit. seminar or a social seminar? Here we are at Miss Dossdall's. Not only that but there is a feel in the wind that something has gotten started. Of course, this is a hangover from that kittenball victory, but all the same it looks like this won't be the last of these parlor pageants. Well, who is opposed to strawberry shortcake with cream, coffee and nuts? Mmmmmmm! Oh boy!

Was it a success? Bet old Buster (that is the prize pure white Seallyham terrier) feels like going on his 6-weeks vacation.

* * * *

Field Trips

Many field trips were made by the section of moldy collectors. In each instance, some went, others stayed home for inconspicuous reasons. The most successful ones, with certain obvious exceptions, were the hikes sponsored by the mycological class with Dean E. M. Freeman as the field general. The other day (about two weeks ago) we almost had the section out in full force. The date and hour were chosen, the place was selected, the dogs and olives bought, and the fords were ready; and then it turned cold and it tried to rain, but it didn't and besides it couldn't. However, since Pl. Path. has a number of tender feet in its fold, Dr. Hart invited us to roast the dogs at the Hart's Schloss.

The Field Again

Yes, field work has begun with a vengeance. LeClerg travels around to see that his sugar beets are well situated thruout the state, Leach goes to Crookston to be sure that his potatoes get the best possible treatments, and Dossall scans University Farm and wonders if her "mistrated Glads" will be able to flourish. Chris, Moore, and Walters have planted millions of corn seed are hoping and praying for warm weather. Allison is encouraging the flax and the forage crops, and Ausemas and his coworkers are getting ready to wallop the wheats in the rust nursery. Bamberg hopes for the worst in the Disease Garden, while Eide is speculating and meditating on a number of things; on raspberry mosaic, scab and root rot of barley in particular. Miss Johnson impatiently waits for the cabbages to rot, Starr tenderly watches the feet of his pea plants and has one eye cocked for the sparrows that are bound to appear sooner or later on U. Farm. Chris is wondering if the summer sun will spoil the complexions of his barley s and give a boost to all Fungi Imperfecti and a thousand one deleterious non-parasitic disease factors. Isenbeck and Shumway are helping Sphacelotheca sorghi and Sorosporium reilianum get started in the field, and Hafstad is doing all he can for bunt in this climate. Moore would like to enable crown rust to obtain a foothold; but, on the other hand, Holton is getting quite cocky about the smuts of the small grains, and actually considers them as important as the U. zeae that Chris is working on. Rose is in and out, but mostly out, giving advice to his extension patrons. Tolaas has caught the spirit of the field and is already laying plans for the 1931 potato tour. Melander spends his days and nites tracking barberries, but we don't believe he has lost weight with his intensive sleuthing. The Forest Pathologists are here, there, and everywhere; sometimes Itasca or Cloquet, sometimes Rush City or any ole' place where they can find a few trees and shrubs succumbing to the fungus foes. We are going to set Stak. to work as soon as he comes back.

* * * *

"Chucky" Holton passed candy around the other day. Nothing was said as to the why or wherefore. You can make your own guess. Are we right, Chucky?

NEWS AND EVERYTHING ELSE.

- H. Hart
- A. E. Eagle
- L. M. Hamilton
- J. M. Walter
- A. G. Tolaas
- G. D. George

* * * *

Sports

Results of Kittenball games

Plant Path. 17	Animal Industry	5
21	Entomology	5
10	Ag. Economics	4
0	Agronomy	7
11	Bio-chemistry	0

The results of the fourth game is not a misprint: it means we have been dethroned for one Season. Our "off" day had to come and that was the day. For us, nothing went right - ragged in the field and woefully weak at bat when hits meant runs. Marshall and Clyde Christensen's pitching was good, but it was left to Jonas J. to demonstrate just how to cut or block off runs at the plate and the Agronomy fields boys really thought they were in a football game.

As can be seen from the last game, the gang came back strong to score a shutout victory (11-0) over Biochemistry with Bamberg's masterly pitching, and finished the season in championship form but minus the Cup.

Agronomy 7
Plant Path 0



It never happened before.

RECORD



ALL the Ojects batters
And ALL the Ojects MEN.

FIRE BREAKS OUT IN PLANT PATHOLOGY GREENHOUSE

Miss Dosedall Rushes into Smoke-Filled Building!

Bonde Saves Saccardo!

Flames and smoke burst forth from the headhouse of the Plant Pathology greenhouses late in the afternoon of May 8, endangering the Tottering Tower and causing losses of about \$700.00. Wheat and oats differentials, record cards, glass covers for incubators, a scales, a desk and chair, much woodwork, Earl Hansing's shoes, trousers, tennis paraphernalia, books, etc., were ruined. The house still stands, but it is charred, and the glass in the upper windows is gone.

The fire originated in the old office of Mose Levine and Olaf Aamodt. Across the hall in the Entomology Office stood several kegs of potassium cyanide, and only 30 feet from the flames were 100 lbs. of highly explosive ethylene oxide, sufficient to bring on the last sad totter of the Tower.

As dense smoke poured from the headhouse, simultaneous warnings were being telephoned to Dr. Freeman by Irene Hansen and to Dr. Leach by Reiner Bonde, while Miss Dosedall's frantic efforts to telephone from the Administration Building were frustrated only by the lack of a telephone directory! With great fortitude she returned to the now smoke-surrounded Plant Path., and on the stairway ran into Bonde carrying to safety a box into which he had tossed Saccardo. About then the Fire Department arrived, summoned by an unknown (benefactor?) and the danger was soon over.

Eagle says if you do have to have another fire, please don't burn the Field House as there's no other place to go when it rains.

* * * *

SAFE BETS IN PLANT PATHOLOGY

1. That we will again see diagrams of atypical germination of Ustilago spores when Dr. Stakman returns.
2. That the sluggers of the kittenball team were swinging low the day of the Agronomy game.
3. That Christy will continue to blow smoke and insist that where there is smoke there is fire.
4. That Miss Dosedall believes that fungi will hold the limelight regardless of increased interest in bacteria and viruses.
5. That Carl Eide (and others) will continue to search for a practical philosophy.
6. That J. J. C. is (to the depth of his stomach) interested in collecting all offers made to the kittenball team.

2. That J. G. L., like many others, would very much like to have glasses available whenever he has a need for it.
3. That LeClerg chuckles everytime he thinks of his German exam.

* * * *

Just as Jonas J. catches up with Leonard W. sufficiently to sport and frisk about in a new Chev., the said Melander turns about and acquires a Graham Paige in order to catch up with his secretary Billy Barrett Thompson. If Chris. keeps up his courage and has good luck in the next hundred years, he'll get there too! And the evolution of his cars will be as interesting as Doc Freeman's progress from T-model Ford to Dodge to Buick.

* * *

Would-be mycologists are lamenting the facts of a dry spring, short working hours, and a paucity of conspicuous and flashy fungi. We think they've done pretty well with their class collections: seven or eight species of Gymnosporangium on red cedar, Hypoxylon, a beautiful rust on blueberry, and another on Solomon's seal, and then all the "common ordinary" fungi of this Minnesota country.

* * * *

Just as we were going to press, the Big Chief returned home again. We were all glad to see him back and hope that he will stay with us so that we can get acquainted again.

* * * *

A Mycological Brain Storm

Mycology, we understand, from listening to the Dean
Considers all the fungus groups and why some are so mean,
Each little fungus seems to have peculiar traits its own,
Some good, some bad, and some so-so the Dean's already shown.

Now let us take the parasites, those little harmful creatures
Who thrive on plants with chlorophyll, and sometimes change their features.
Nay, changing features is not all, because! just hold your breath.
They'll strangle, scorch or suffocate, or spot their host to death.

And then we have the saprophytes, who sometimes start a rot,
Though some are mighty good to eat, and some, migosh, are not.
You ought to take Mycology to get your bearings straight,
Because if you should slip but once, ye gods! what cruel fate!

It seems that we have heard a lot about ontogeny.
Somehow we feel it must reveal, ah ha! phylogeny.
For one repeats the other, at least so says the Dean,
But which is which, we failed to get, 'twas then we slept serene.

Pyrenomycetinae, Basidiomycetes

The Fungi Imperfecti and then Ascomycetes,
Sporangiophores, conidiophores, and good old Glomerella,
A host of scientific names, we need some help old fella.

For how can one small feeble mind hold everything we've heard?
Remember this, remember that, now everything is blurred.
A nightmare boys, that's what it is, it's been just that for days.
On pain of death, now tell me this, what is dikaryophase?

And now to cap the climax, the Prof. has ordered rain,
He's told the boys to brush the dust from every woozy brain,
Just get out that old vasculum and fill it to the brim
With every kind of fungus and an A you'll get from him.

Now what the Helvellinae, is every Polypore
A necessary specimen to make the proper score?
Oh "Doc" our mental anguish is more than we can tell
A fatal Amanite is better than Morell.

* * *

June 20 -

P.S.

Bonde, aka Ford, starts for Maine today, so farewell iced teas and "Bon Voyage's" are in order.

G. B. Sanford of the Dominion Laboratory at Edmonton, Alberta, climbed the stairs to the Tower this morning and it was all like the return of the prodigal son.

On June 15 Mr. Wallis V. Ludbrook, research student for the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, Canberra, F. C. T., Australia, spent a couple of days at the Tottering Tower. Mr. Ludbrook is at the present studying at Wisconsin.