

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

i

AS THE HEAD SEES IT

Dear Ole Timers:

It is a pleasure to greet you again through the pages of Aurora and to bring you up to date on happenings in the Department and the College. The graduate education, research, and extension programs of the Department are in the process of being reviewed; the review will culminate in an evaluation by an outside team of plant pathologists who will visit the campus during the latter part of May. In preparation for this review, we have been collecting and evaluating various kinds of information on current and past educational programs of the Department. One aspect of this preparation involved a survey of Department "Ole Timers" that had graduated within the last 20 years. The response to a questionnaire mailed to these alumni was good, and we plan to present the results in summary form in the next issue of Aurora. I want to personally thank each of you who responded; the information obtained will be useful in evaluating and planning departmental programs.

Dr. Elwin Stewart, Mycologist, checked into the Department on April 1 and is busy settling in. Dr. Stewart is a graduate of the Department of Botany and Plant Pathology, Oregon State University. He studied mycorrhizae under the direction of Dr. James Trappe, USDA Forest Pathologist, on the staff of the Department of Botany and Plant Pathology at Corvallis, Oregon. Dr. Stewart has assumed responsibilities for teaching and research in Mycology.

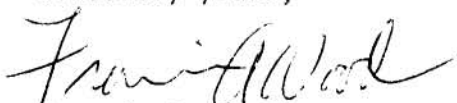
Dr. Stakman will celebrate his 90th birthday on May 17, 1975. He is enjoying good health and actively participates in Departmental affairs. He travels occasionally, and, with a bit of "arm-twisting", it's still possible to engage him in conversation! We are planning an appropriate celebration for the occasion, and I am sure he would enjoy hearing from you.

Dr. T. H. King has announced that he will retire effective June 30, 1975. Dr. King has been a loyal and dedicated member of the Department for many years and has served in various capacities. His most recent accomplishments have been in the arena of international programs, and he has done an outstanding job of representing the University in Thailand and Indonesia and in advancing agricultural technology in those countries.

In addition to preparation for the review mentioned above, many of the faculty are engaged in seeking support for research. Approximately 35 students have enrolled in our undergraduate major in Plant Health Technology which was initiated during the fall of 1973, and we have 44 students enrolled in graduate programs. The spring planting season has been delayed by several late winter blizzards, and we are anxiously looking forward to a successful growing season.

Best regards, and I look forward to seeing many of you in Houston.

Sincerely yours,


Francis A. Wood
Department Head

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Dear Old Timer:

On March 20 T. H. King announced that he will retire on June 30, 1975 from his position as Professor in the Department of Plant Pathology.

Sometime in June the Department will hold a suitable event to recognize Tom's past accomplishments and wish him well for the future.

At that time we will present him with a collection of letters from friends like you that will bear testimony of our respect and affection. We hope that you will write a letter to include with the others. When you write, please observe the following:

1. The letter should be addressed to Tom King.
2. Send the letter to: Dr. F. A. Wood
Department of Plant Pathology
Stakman Hall
University of Minnesota
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108 U.S.A.
3. Use paper 8½ x 11 inches (21.6 x 27.9 cm).
4. Leave a margin for binding on the left side, 2 inches (5 cm).
5. Send the letter so we will have it here in St. Paul by May 15, 1975.

If you wish to contribute toward a gift for Tom, you may send the money with your letter. Checks may be made payable to F. A. Wood.

Remember. Be sure to mail your letter soon.

Sincerely,


Francis A. Wood
Department Head

P.S. When the date of the retirement party is established, we will notify people in the vicinity of St. Paul so they may plan to attend. If you live outside of Minnesota and wish to attend, let us know and we will keep you informed.

P.P.S. Please inform other friends of Dr. King of his retirement. Not all may be receiving the Aurora.

OLD TIMERS COLUMN

Roy Sturgeon, PhD 1968, is one of the leaders in a peanut disease control project at Oklahoma State U. which uses a mobile diagnostic facility. According to *Phytopath News*, Nov. 1974, it is the "First of its kind in Extension". The impressive 4-wheel trailer may be the first of that kind, but Minnesota has used a self-propelled (Winnebago) unit for similar purposes since July, 1973. (See elsewhere in this *Aurora*)

Pat J. Borich, MS 1963, is President-elect of the Minnesota Adult Education Ass'n and was recently elected to the Executive Committee of the National Adult Education Research Council. Pat is Professor and State Leader of Extension Research and Education, U. of M.

Ray Rose, MS 1915, and Mrs. Rose are enjoying retirement in West Palm Beach Fla., harvesting citrus and mangoes from their own trees. Before WWII Ray was Extension Pathologist and raised potatoes on his own peat bog near Forest Lake, MN. When prices dropped in the '30's Ray put the farm in hay (which was scarce). To stay in the potato business he had made a number of sets of plaster casts of the tubers of 8 leading varieties which, appropriately painted, he sold to vo-ag teachers, thus pioneering in Visual Aids and realizing a modest profit. Bob Kroll is proud owner of a pink-eyed white Warba from that project, now a priceless antique. The variety is no longer grown.

H. H. Thornberry (as of Xmas, 1973, dispatch mislaid) was enjoying retirement and "fiddling around". He sent xerox copies of 2 prize checks he received as 1st and 3rd prizes in the "Over 70" Illinois State Fiddling Contest. Thorny was awarded the PhD in 1934 and retired in 1971 from the U. of Illinois.

Cornell Professor H. D. Thurston, MS 1953, PhD 1958, attended the Caribbean Crop Protection Symposium, St. Augustine, Trinidad, in April, 1974, where he gave the opening address on "The Role of Crop Protection in Agricultural Development."

Bill Merrill, MS 1961, PhD 1963, one of the leaders in educating plant pathologists, believes that students in agriculture need crop disease courses. (Contrary to the present trend toward double-distilled doses of pathological physiology, genetics and epidemiology, etc.) To meet the diverse interests of students of different kinds of crops and the high cost of teaching, Bill has pioneered in the use of A-T (auto-tutorial) laboratory units and small discussion groups. Response has been excellent and has resulted in increased registration by crops-department students in other plant path courses at Pennsylvania State University, where Bill is Professor.

Old Timer G. H. Bridgmon, Professor of Plant Pathology at the University of Wyoming, spent 2 weeks in Turkey during November on an irrigation rehabilitation mission for the World Bank. George was research Associate at Minnesota during 1956-57 working on genetic variation in *Puccinia graminis*.

Pamela Gans, Secretary in Pl Pa Oct. 72 to May 31, 1974, now lives in Spirit Lake, Iowa and misses the Minnesota Forests.

Earl Hansing, Professor of Plant Pathology at Kansas State University, Manhattan, is cooperating with CIMMYT on a corn project. This involved the establishment of plots in 3 places in Mexico in 1974. Earl got his BS in plant path at Minnesota in 1933, his PhD at Cornell in 1941.

