



Aurora Sporealis

Wherein are recorded the recollections, the ruminations and the raspitations 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

COMINGS AND GOINGS--by T. Kommedahl

In the past 6 months visitors came from all parts of the world. Old Timers from the United States were ex-Seminar Chairman Mike BOOSALIS of Nebraska; sometime wilderness-canoeist Harry YOUNG Jr. of Oklahoma, whose canoes lie buried in dust and rust; from the western sugar beet country came ex-coal miner Andy DOWNIE and wife Ruth, from Denver; former secretary Floraine (TOOTY) annexstad, effervescent as ever, now of Phoenix, Arizona; Axel ANDERSEN, a Dane originally from Sweden (Askov, Minnesota) currently bean pathologist at Michigan State; Norm BORLAUG, ex-wrestler and flax wilter, now of The Rockefeller Foundation, Mexico; Roger ANDERSON, recently from Norway and wife Ursula (from Germany), at St. Paul; and our frequent visitor Leonard MELANDER of Jolly Balance fame, retired from the USDA Plant Pest Control Division, and again from Amchem Co., currently sole employee of Melander Sales; another frequent visitor is George FAILLES (of Ag Botany) now at Farmers Union Central Exchange in St. Paul; and finally Vivian SCHWAB who comes and goes faster than AURORA can make its appearance, having been in Arizona several times in the past 2 years, currently stenographer in Ag Botany.

Visitors other than Old Timers came from all over the United States: from Maryland (Germantown) came AEC representatives Drs. V. Schultz and A. W. Klement Jr.; Washington, D. C. sent physiologist C. A. Swanson--(NSF); from Beltsville (USDA) came Jack Meiners and former Minnesota agronomist J. O. Culbertson; from Tennessee came ecologists Drs. H. DeSelm, Royal Shanks, and S. Auerbach; Kentucky was represented by Ecologist Margaret Heaslip (Morehead); New York Forester Ray Hirt (Syracuse); from Wooster, Ohio, motored A. F. Schmitt-henner (root rot pathologist); Michigan (Ann Arbor) was represented by A. G. Norman; neighboring Wisconsin sent us David Skilling (Wasau forester) and Bill Bushnell (Madison); from Iowa came

Don Norton; from Missouri there was Marvin Whitehead; Oklahoma sent Byrd Curtis (Agronomy); from the west came California physiologists T. C. Broyer and Perry Stout; there were others that were omitted either because they failed to sign our guest book or our memory fails us in recalling when they came.

They also came from Canada (Gordon Green from Winnipeg), Mexico (Ernesto de las Casas and John Niederhauser, Oficina de Estudios Especiales, D. F.), and Colombia (Manuel Rosero).

From Europe came Dr. and Mrs. Heinrich Weltzein, Stuttgart-Hohenheim, and Dr. Menger, Federal Grain Research Institute, Germany. From Bristol, England, came I. G. Thorpe, Ministry of Agriculture. Plant pathologist Dr. d'Oliveira, Estacao Agronomica Nacional, Portugal. Poland was represented by Dr. Russkovskiutarch.

From Asia came several. Among them were S. Ghose (India), Dr. Ernest Sprague (India), and A. Ganguli, Sugar Cane Research Institute, India.

Across the Pacific came D. Murayama of Hokkaido U., Japan; Wen Tung Lee, Taiwan, China, and Jai Sun Hyun, Seoul National University, Korea. Dr. Faustino Orillo (new old-timer) from University of Philippines stayed 10 months in our department, Sterling Forturad came from Pineapple Research Institute, Honolulu. Dr. Allen Kerr (of cellophane-bag soil technique fame) came from the Waite Institute, Adelaide, Australia.

Some of our own staff have come, gone, and come. Senor Carl Eide served 4 months with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization to assist the Chilean government in investigation of virus and other diseases of vegetable crops. Clyde Christensen served 6 months with The Rockefeller Foundation in Mexico to develop a research project on grain storage.

Comings and Goings (continued)

All of us at Minnesota regret the retirement of Alfred Eagle. On December 21, some 60 friends gathered for a farewell party for Mr. Eagle. His retirement came on relatively short notice; so it was not possible to contact all Old Timers to solicit expressions of friendship for Mr. Eagle. What letters were gathered were bound in a book that was presented at a dinner party. An initialed wallet (filled) was also presented to Alfred. Master of Ceremonies was Matt Moore. Conflicting claims in connection with an early fiasco with corn smut were made by JJC and ECS. Midway through the proceedings was an unrehearsed tune sung by the famous quartet of Don Fletcher, Eagle, Stakman, and Melander (the last represented by a stand-in). After Eagle made his speech it was followed by one from Mrs. E. The Committee of Laura Hamilton, M. B. Moore, and Carl Eide made the event a memorable one for all.

OLD TIMERS

"He regresado hace pocos dias de Europa y Africa en donde pasé 6 meses muy contento."--Daniel MESA Bernal, Ministerio de Agricultura, Bogotá, Colombia, December 1959.

A cold cold wind in November blew Dr. H. David THURSTON our way from Colombia. From St. Paul he went to Iowa, but it took him 14 hours to get to his home in Sioux Falls, about 280 miles, by train and bus: "Pretty primitive country," says he..."Please give my regards to anyone that appears deserving."

"One of the myths of the moment is that a retired person has plenty of time," wrote our Australian OT Dr. Robert J. NOBLE in December. From other sources we learned that "more than 150 leaders of agricultural science and industry attended a dinner in Sydney (May 11) in honour of Dr. R. J. Noble, retiring Under-Secretary and Director of the N.S.W. Department of Agriculture," and that it was "one of the most momentous valedictories ever experienced by a member of the Public Service of New South Wales." It is difficult to believe that our "Bob" served the

Department for 46 years, 19 of them as Under-Secretary. Twice he has been at Minnesota, first for his M.Sc. and Ph.D. which he earned in record time, and briefly in 1946, when he stopped enroute from the UN meeting in Quebec, where he was leader of the Australian delegation. The University of Minnesota recognized Noble's scientific and administrative work with the Minnesota Outstanding Achievement Award in 1951. Following his retirement there have been board meetings, trustee meetings, committee meetings, speeches, etc., including the formal address known as the Farrer Oration.

In Subang, Java, John CHURCHWARD (Minn. Ph.D. 1936) stated that "it is 10 years since I last visited Minnesota and over 25 years since I studied there...At present we have in Java Old Timers HINES and AAMODT, who are with the ICA in Bogor, which is about 100 miles from Subang...I see them about once a month." Johnny began his work 20 years ago with P. & T. Lands Inc., "in experiments with diseases and breeding of rubber, tea, cacao, sisal, and tapioca," on which some of the Company's current advisory work is based.

Words in a style assumed for the occasion came from Dr. Robert "Bob" C. CASSELL (Minn. Ph.D. 1937), LaHarpe, Illinois: "Everything goes very well down on the farm. We're putting on \$85 worth of fertilizer, getting 78 bu. of corn per acre and sellin' it for \$1.10. That's good, \$1 per acre profit almost. Only trouble is we ain't got 10,000 acres. Then cows, we buy em for 32¢ and sell em for 24¢. But the hogs are all right. We raise em and don't cost us nothin. Sell em for 15¢. OK?"

Now in private business is José RODRIGUEZ (Minn. M.S. 1945) of Mexico City, who has general management of Coker de Mexico S. de R. L., which produces "seeds of the registered class of species which for technical and economical reasons had not been produced in Mexico but which have great demand..." Pepe has been "in touch with Benjamin ORTEGA, Carlos BARBOSA, and Leonel ROBLES, who are also well and with whom I often talk about our old times" at Minnesota.

