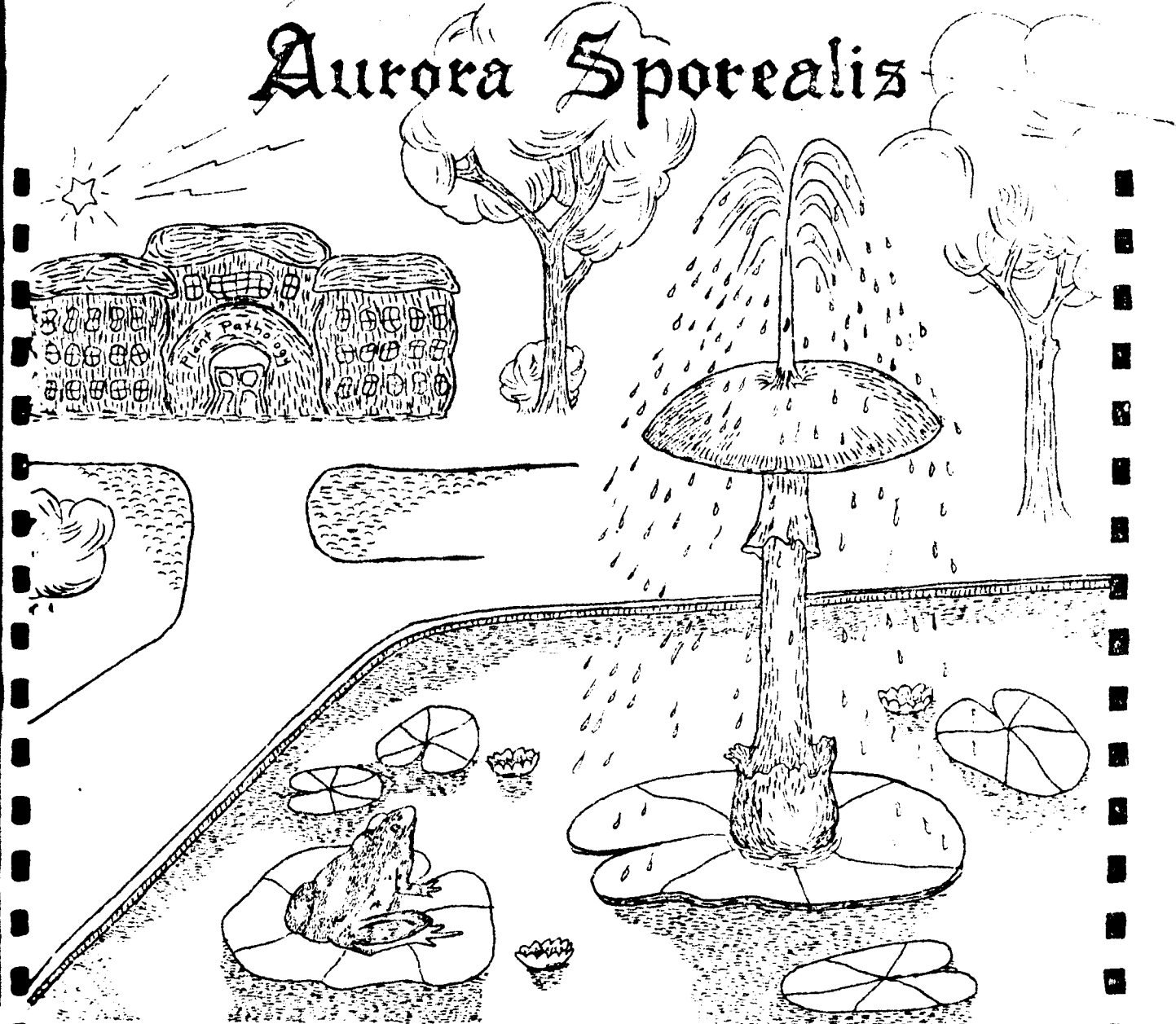


# Aurora Sporealis



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.

et the fount foam and never rundry,  
Let the spout squirt and never lose power.

## OLD TIMERS' COLYUM

Happy, Prosperous, and Productive New Year!!!New Year's Resolutions

To open the throttle--to work harder and more effectively.

To think more, and more productively.

To push, not be pushed--to take the initiative but be careful how it is taken.

To do research--not merely work at a job.

To develop greediness--for knowledge.

To encourage the functionation of eyes and ears--to develop attentiveness and concentration.

To sharpen the antennae and keep them wiggling, for keener observation.

To put thoughts together in logical sequence, scripturally and orally.

To develop a better sense of responsibility--even if necessary to shoulder most of the world.

To practice introspection--to determine whether interest sustains effort.  
IF SO, O K; IF NOT, K O.

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Dr. LEE LING wrote on November 19 that he is at Szechwan in the Bureau of Phytopathology and Entomology. Much time is devoted to disease survey, as relatively little is known about the situation in the interior. Szechwan Province is surrounded by high mountains and communication is difficult, being mostly by way of the Yangtze River and highway, and the river apparently plunges and roars and rushes thru magnificent gorges which may delight the eye but not furnish good facilities for river traffic. Ling says that he enjoyed the last issue of Aurora and recognized a photograph by a big pipe. He thinks the artist is to be congratulated--for making so good a picture of a pipe, we suppose.

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From LOH also came a letter, written on October 13, under the heading, National Chekiang University. Loh and his family were at Peiping visiting his mother when hostilities broke out. After many vicissitudes, hardships, and narrow escapes, they finally got back to Hangchow. On September 21, a 400 pound bomb struck the ground 30 yards from where Loh was lying, behind two reinforced concrete pillars. He says that he was "popped up" four feet from the ground. Loh wonders whether this might not be almost as exciting as leopard hunting in Liberia. According to Loh, Chekiang University is still open, but all the students had become air minded because of the numerous air raids, and they were contemplating moving toward the interior. We quote as follows: "By golly, another air raid, excuse me," and then later, "Well, well, well, I'll be d-----". This time twelve of them came and fortunately our anti-aircraft machines were working hard; otherwise lots of places would have been turned to ashes."

Peace has its virtues. We used to write grade-school essays on the subject "Night Brings out the Stars" or "Adversity Makes the Man." These essays were gravid with profound juvenile philosophy and settled important questions for all

eternity. One of the theses was that war brought but the finest virtues in individuals and peoples. Maybe so, but it would seem that there might be better instruments for preparing people for heaven. War certainly sends a lot of men there or elsewhere, but whether it improves the condition of those who have departed this earth or those who remain on this earth is doubtful. In any case, maybe those who live in countries now at peace might count their blessings and save a little energy for sympathizing with those who are trying to do scientific work with the likelihood of a bomb blowing their materials and methods, experimental results, conclusions, and summary to perdition or beyond.

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Both LING and LOH sent their regards to AURORA, and Aurora reciprocates and hopes for the best. If sympathy is of any value, there is plenty of that.

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The GIBBSES, on arrival home, write, "The country is far greener and more beautiful than we had remembered it," find that about six bacterial diseases new to New Zealand have slipped in during their absence, threaten to send a map of their part of the Pacific for the Seminar Room, and, upon transmitting American cigars to a coworker, learn that the "only place (the recipient) is allowed to smoke...is on the way to work, since his wife...also dislikes the smell of the American introduction." (Clyde Allison et al. please note!)

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From the Far East, Hyderabad; Poona, Buitenzorg came greetings and welcome news of SYED (Vaheeduddin), KAMAT, and the WELLENSIEKS. A baked ham or eleven American Beauty roses to the first Far Easterner to send us a contribution for the COLYUM!

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Scotland has spoken thru ALAN GEMMELL; there was a Scotch mist on the day the letter came; Scotch and Soda--well, not that we know about.

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BILL BROADFOOT coached some football at the University of Alberta last fall and says he still remembers the two greatest plays he ever saw at Minnesota: When Martineau evaded one blocker and hurdled another to bring down Barr of Wisconsin, who was on his way to a touchdown until Martineau slammed him to earth; also when Shorty Almquist zigzagged almost the length of the field ahead of a fast Notre Dame ball carrier and slowed him up so that another Minnesota man could catch him from behind. Any questions, Canyon quarterbacks?

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Ye Ed couldn't do his verse; lieutenant thinks nothing could be worse, but in revenge is going to be terse! Here's a sample: STARR of Wyoming wrote in October that he was coming visiting; never got here. Why? (We don't know.) SHARVELLE of Nova Scotia, after trip to meet Ye Ed in Washington, returns home by means of train, plane, boat, and car, sits by log fire, listens to radio and stars apples. BONDE sends snapshot of THE HEIRESS and description of new wilt disease; staggers into Tottering Tower with 4-ft. thesis and talks down committee. HANNA sends regards. HUBERT sends regards and photos of bambinos. MARY GODDARD writes of pinks and purples seen in St. Louis Fusaria. VAUGHAN sets out to collar rot of tomatoes, taking ribbing meanwhile on Nebraska and Notre Dame football games played at Minnesota. VOORHEES admits "enjoying the Aurora as usual." Virgie HARRA writes, but about business. BECKER AND HART address Literature Seminar by postal, reporting on the rust situation in the Harz with "Jeder Tag von unseren Reise ist Picnick Tag with Butterbröten." WALTERS, altho cheerful even in the gloom of Oxford in November, sends regards to "those fortunate enough to remain in T. T." WESTERN acquires short-wave radio and tunes in on Minnesota-Nebraska game (shall we break down and tell you all about Great Britain's stand on war?); McLEOD and KEILMAN, ex office executives, acquire new and better positions in Chicago and Los Angeles respectively; HUSZ of Hungary acquires pneumonia; McINDOE acquires a wife, ex New Hampshire (shall we tell you about their wedding?); RODENHISER acquires a son; and we finally acquire a letter from NOBLE! Other Antipodean communics from Doctors WATERHOUSE, CHURCHWARD, HYNES; HUSZ, Bela, still professoring in Hungary.

Vital Statistics

On May 24, 1937, MARRIED, in Liberia, MACINDOE to ETHEL, Firestone medico. The wedding, according to groom, was "Quite a slap-up affair, in Monrovia, at the house of the Financial Adviser; sixty odd guests, minister, bridal veil, champagne, best man (Lee HINES), and bridesmaid." Then a "never-to-be-forgotten trip down the West Coast of Africa on board the 'Wahehe'...as far...as Duala in French Camerouns.

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BORN, on November 20 or 21 (to our Washington correspondent the midnight hour means nothing), to Dr. and Mrs. H. A. RODENHISER, in Washington, D. C., a son. Please, pa and ma, christen him Herman Alonzo.

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Thank you, Old Timers, for your Christmas Greetings

THANK YOU, Dr. Aamodt, who are our oldest Old Timer in length of association; and you, Mary Goddard, who are the youngest. THANK YOU who are in far places--in the shade of straw hut or the shadow of Westminster Abbey--Dr. Churchward, Dr. Walter, Dr. Syed, Dr. Western, Mr. Hines, Dr. Dickinson, Dr. Ling, Mr. Kamat, and Dr. Hubert. And THANK YOU to those of you who are also far away altho still within our country: "Pa." Davies, "Fla." Voorhees, George Hafstad, Stanley Swensor Harry "You All" Ukkelberg, "La." Kreitlow, Gladys Keilman, D. C. Smith, William White (Edmonton), and the Grahams en silhouette. THANK YOU, Herr Schlegtendal, for your greetings from mid-ocean. Dr. C. W. Edgerton was kind enough to remember us also. HAPPY NEW YEAR and CONTINUED GOOD LUCK TO EACH and EVERY ONE OF YOU!!!

Thank you, Lieut. Miss Ham. (Ed.)!

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THE MINNESOTA BANQUET

On Wednesday, December 28, 1937 in Indianapolis, Indiana, the present and past inhabitants of the Tottering Tower gathered in important conclave. Over Southern Style chicken and gravy, past events were recalled and new friendships made.

The present neophytes imbibing at the "Foaming Fount" could actually see and hear--yea, even speak to those famous former denizens conjured up so often by E. C. Stakman to confound with their scientific prowess these same trembling neophytes.

All enjoyed themselves thoroughly and are anticipating pleausrably next year's banquet.

ROLL CALL

<u>Former Inhabitants</u>	<u>Location</u>
*Aamodt, O. S.	Madison, Wisconsin
*Allison, C. C.	Greeneville, Tennessee
Allison, J. L.	T. T.
Anderson, E. J.	T. T.
Anderson, Mrs. E. J.	T. T.
*Atkinson, R. E.	Baton Rouge, Louisiana
*Barker, H. D.	Washington, D. C.
*Beach, W. S.	College Station, Pennsylvania
Blaisdell, D.	Washington, D. C.
Borders, H. I.	T. T.
Chilton, S. J. P.	T. T.
Christensen, J. J.	T. T.
Christensen, C. M.	T. T.
***Coons, G. H.	Washington, D. C.

Former Inhabitants (Cont'd)

Location (Cont'd)

Cotter, R. U.	T. T.
*Decker, P.	Ithaca, N. Y.
Dosdall, L.	T. T.
Downie, A. R.	T. T.
Eide, C. J.	T. T.
*Fletcher, D.	Minneapolis, Minnesota
*Flor, H. H.	Fargo, North Dakota
*Hansing, Earl	Ithaca, N. Y.
Hanson, E. W.	T. T.
*Harrar, J. G.	Blacksburg, Virginia
Henson, L.	T. T.
Iverson, V.	Bozeman, Montana
*Johnson, E. M.	Lexington, Kentucky
*KenKnight, G.	East Lansing, Michigan
Kernkamp, M. F.	T. T.
*Kreitlow, K. W.	Baton Rouge, Louisiana
Laskaris, T.	T. T.
Leach, J. G.	T. T.
*Lefebvre, C.	Washington, D. C.
Melander, L. W.	T. T.
Moore, M. B.	T. T.
Oltman, "Red"	Ottawa, Canada
*Parson, H.	Shreveport, Louisiana
*Person, L. H.	Baton Rouge, Louisiana
Petty, M. A.	T. T.
*Peterson, P. D.	New York, N. Y.
*Seal, J.	Auburn, Alabama
Stakman, E. C.	T. T.
*Thornberry, H. H.	Washington, D. C.
*Tyler, L. J.	Yonkers, N. Y.
*Valleau, W. D.	Lexington, Kentucky
*Weiss, F.	Beltsville, Maryland

\*Former member of Tottering Tower.

\*\*\*This really was the GREAT COONS. Synonym--Asa, because Asa Gray was named after him.

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"WE TOLD YOU SO"

Once upon a time there was a Big Chief who prided himself on his prognostication. However, he had to make a long journey on the Iron Horse to the meeting place of all the wise men. His braves foregathered to see him leave, and during the pow-wow before his departure the chieftain proclaimed in a loud voice and with much emphasis that the battle of the Gopher and the Wildcat could only be a rout. This, of course, incensed his Gopher braves, who were inbred with a very deep sense of loyalty, to the extent of betting their collective wampum on the outcome of the ferocious battle. The Big Chief, realizing the state of the tribal coffers, set the limit of the bet at one box of superlative stogies to be paid promptly to the braves should the Gophers be victorious. Should the Gophers be vanquished (perish the thought) then each brave must lay at the feet of the Big Chief one very superior stogie.

Heap happy message from all the tribe was sent to the traveller by Pony Express via Western Union. How were mere braves to know that he would be roused from his happy slumbers when only milkmen and revelers were awake. The chief pro tem (J. J. C.) received in reply this cryptic message:

"GANGSTER TELEGRAM READ IN MOONSHINE STOP CIGARS GETTING STRONGER"

Nick O Tyne

The battle over (Gophers 7, Wildcats 0), this message was despatched to our worthy chief Nick O Tyne:

"WE TOLD YOU SO! CIGARS!"

How were the braves to know that wampum had to be paid for word messages, and how were they to know that the Big Chief on leaving the wigwam of many sleepers would be surprised to have to pay not only for his couch, but for his message too.

After a time Chief Nick O Tyne returned to be greeted by his tribe in suitable manner. A full moon after or thereabouts, and after much intensive persuasion, a box of cigars eventually was presented to the tribe. Tribal wampum must have been very low (See Fig. 1).

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PERSONAL AND PERSONNEL

January 7. REINER BONDE successfully passed his final examination. Congratulations Dr. Bondel

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The beginning of a new term finds the personnel of the department increased by three over that of last term. Miss DOROTHY BLAISDELL, Junior Pathologist in the Division of Forest Pathology, Bureau of Plant Industry, has arrived to take advanced work in pathology. Miss Blaisdell has been principally interested in the cultural aspects of wood-rotting fungi while in Washington, D. C.

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Mr. AXEL ANDERSON of Askov, Minnesota has enrolled to take advanced work in Forest Pathology. Mr. Anderson obtained his B. S. degree from the University of Minnesota in 1937, majoring in Forestry.

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Mr. NORMAN BORLAUG of Iowa is also taking advanced work in Forest Pathology. He also has a B. S. degree in forestry from the University of Minnesota.

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We regret to report that no longer does MARTIN SCHLEGTENDAL of Germany occupy a chair in our department. Martin returned to Germany about the first of December. We were all sorry to see him go and wish him success and a Merry New Year.

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Mr. LITTELL, Director of the Commonwealth Fund Fellowships, paid us a visit a short time ago.

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Last November Dr. J. G. LEACH made a hurried trip to his home in Tennessee. We extend to Dr. LEACH our deepest sympathies on the death of his mother.

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Nick PONOMAREFF spent the holidays visiting his brother-in-law at the University of Wisconsin.

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Hugh F. FITZPATRICK spent the holidays at his home in Ithaca, New York.

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Tommy KING made his annual Xmas trip home to North Dakota.

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St. John CHILTON and Lawrence HENSON spent a few days at home in Louisiana and Kentucky, respectively, before attending the meetings at Indianapolis.

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Paraphrasing an old saying: "The pen can cut the throat more quickly than the sword."

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In discussing the possibility of natural afforestation of North Dakota a certain former member of that state remarked: "God tried it and it didn't work but maybe the Foresters could handle the job."

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#### PUBLIC SERVICE

November 10. E. C. S. went to Washington, on National Research Council Business, missed two football games, and lost a box of cigars.

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November 19. J. J. Christensen attended the conference of the U. S. Flax Institute. Among the other flax experts present were H. H. Flor, Olof Aamodt, and Luke Bolley.

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December 4 and 5. Stakman, Christensen, and Rose attended Crop Improvement Conference. This conference was called for the purpose of considering recent developments in crop improvement and crop protection in Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Montana. The meeting was called by Dr. R. J. Haskell, Extension Plant Pathologist, and O. S. Fisher, Extension Agronomist, of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

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January 6. A group of progressive farmers from South Dakota visited our Lab and greenhouses. E. C. S., assisted by M. B. Moore, Cotter, and Cassell talked about and demonstrated rusts, smuts, and seed treatment.

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#### BOOKSHELF

Seasonal gifts to the Bookshelf of the Tottering Tower include the following:

Bonde, Reiner (with F. J. Stevenson et al.). Breeding for resistance to late blight in the potato. Phytopath. 27: 1059-1079. November.

Cormack, M. W. Fusarium spp. as Root Parasites of Alfalfa and Sweet Clover in Alberta. Canadian Jour. Res. 15: 493-510. November.

Cylindrocarpon ehrenbergi Wr., and other species, as root parasites of alfalfa and sweet clover in Alberta. Canad. Jour. Res. 15: 403-424. September.

Rodenhiser, H. A., and C. S. Holton. Physiologic races of Tilletia tritici and T. levis. Jour. Agr. Res. 55: 483-496. October.

Double  
Feature

Fervet, Ian W. (with K. W. Braid). Certain botanical aspects of the dying-out of heather. The Scottish Jour. Agr. 20: 365-372. 1937.

Waheeduddin, Syed. Intergeneric hybridization and evidence of heterosis in loose and head smuts of Sorghum (Abs.). 24th Ind. Sci. Congr., Hyderabad, 1937: 4.

Wei, C. T. Rust resistance in the garden bean. Phytopath. 27: 1090-1105. November.

Wellensiek, S. J. Onderzoekingen over quantitative theeselectie III: Kweekrijselectie. Thee-Archief 1936: 137-176. 1936.

Wellensiek, S. J. Indrukken van de theecultuur in Britisch-Indië.  
"de Bergcultures" No. 42: 1486-1492. 11th Jrg. . .

\_\_\_\_\_. Grondslagen der theeselectie. Landboukundig Tijdschrift 49:  
337-347.

Locally, winter production has been low:

Eide, Carl J. Plant viruses. Minn. Hort. 65: 191-193. November.

Christensen, C. M. (with R. Lorenz) A survey of forest tree disease and their  
relation to stand improvement in the Lake and Central States.  
Mimeographed publication, U. S. Dept. Agr., Bur. Pl. Indus.,  
November.

Stakman, E. C. Value of research in agriculture. Minn. Alumni Weekly 37:  
No. 11. November 20.

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#### SPORTS (Cont'd from last issue)

The Gophers did not go to the Rose Bowl, the Sugar Bowl, the Cotton Bowl, the Orange Bowl, the Sun Bowl, the Ice Bowl, nor the Dust Bowl, but Minnesota did win over Northwestern 7-0, and over Wisconsin 13-6. Record for season. The Gophers have not done so bad for themselves in that sport where a quintet of short tempered athletes get out on a hardwood floor and attempt to put a spherical, leather covered object through an iron loop at one end of the floor. They have whipped Carlton, Nebraska, Manhattan, North Dakota, New York U., and Notre Dame, but lost to George Washington, Wisconsin, and Indiana. In that sport where these untiring athletes skim across hardened water, and chase a little hard rubber disk around, Minnesota split two games with Toronto.

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#### SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

Neophyte Huey (S. G. Borders is a bright chap. He learns rapidly. He recently put in a request for supplies to Matt (Guardian of the stores) Moore who promptly suggested that he cut his estimate by 2/3. Just as promptly the neophyte replied: "O K, I allowed that much for shrinkage anyway."

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Overheard at Indianapolis--Bell hop paging Dr. Louise Dossdall in Hotel Severin Bar room!!! Can you imagine?

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It is reported that the American Phytopathological Society was well pleased with the accommodations at Indianapolis; and why not? A large hotel all to themselves with a Burlesque show just across the street!

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Judging by the speeches made at the Minnesota Dinner some of the gang took full advantage of the accommodations.

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Dick the dishwasher says: "Well I guess we did 'slop over' a bit but we are sorry and won't let it happen again."

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#### REGULAR SEMINAR

November 2. Tommy King elucidated "Recent advances in the nature of viruses" and stimulated a discussion of the nature and origin of life, without any question as to whether the nature of viruses had advanced recently.



November 9. Matt Moore contributed to the discussion of the previous date by proving that we are still in the age of spontaneous generation. As proof he cited the stork story--and with an air of conviction too. The subject of the paper was "Spontaneous generation and related phenomena". Matt abhors "book-larnin'", and since he had had a year to think the subject over, the seminar anticipated considerable in the way of original research on the subject. But outside of two test-tube experiments which produced neither life nor the related phenomena, the paper consisted of a review of the literature.

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November 16. Andrew Downie acquainted us with the "Mildews of the grape."

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November 23. Bob Cassell made a real contribution to the education of the group by passing around a picture of a coffee plant so they could see what one looked like. We also learned that Brazil had a production control program, and that Italy uses the least coffee (per capita), Sweden the most.

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November 30. L. W. Lenz (Montana) presented a paper on "White pine blister rust." There was an argument on who said what about why a sugar-pine is so-called. It was finally decided that everyone was right.

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December 7. L. Hwang talked on "Citrus canker" and Huey Borders gave an enlightening and learned discussion of citrus taxonomy.

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#### LITERATURE SEMINAR

November 4. Dr. Stakman gave an inspirational lecture on research and publication. Excerpts: "He who tooteth not his own horn, his horn shall not be tooted." "The best scientist is a person who is 'simple-minded'". Stak, to make the importance of publication easier for us to grasp, related how the bull-dogger throws up his hand as a signal that he has accomplished something, namely, throwing and tying a steer.

Forbes sent us a box of sugar cane for this occasion, but Mama Allison put it away until "after". Some of the southern boys practically drooled.

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November 18. Mr. N. R. Smith, Senior Bacteriologist in the Division of Microbiology, U. S. D. A., was guest and had to talk. Mr. Smith is evidently not one of those persons who defies science or scientists, but enjoys it and them tremendously. A young scientists cannot live on inspiration alone, but certainly an occasional lecture by a man like Mr. Smith is worth any one of a number of three credit courses we could name (but won't) in stirring up in the young a healthy interest in biology and a healthy skepticism of its idolators. As a reward for his fine talk Mr. Smith received a highly resistant all-day sucker.

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December 9. Stak made a plea to stop throwing butts on the floor and passed around the cigars. After permission by vote, Dr. Stakman, with help from the floor discussed law and social questions. Melander started running down Henry Ford, and the meeting nearly broke up in a riot. Literature review began at 9:15, and there is no record of when we ate or adjourned.

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December 16. In anticipation of the coming meetings at Indianapolis, this evening was set aside for speakers to practice. No one was prepared except Petty, who gave his paper and sat down. Finally Kernkamp was induced to try his. (Paper, 6 minutes, comments, 65). Dr. Stakman spent 12½ minutes telling about race 56.

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#### CHANGING THE GUARD

A new high in something or other was set at the January 6 Literature (?) Seminar when an entirely new and different seminar committee was "inducted into

office." (The theory that there is nothing new under the sun does not apply in this case because the group meets only after sundown). Equipped with badges, eggbeaters, feather-dusters, togas, scepters, and other paraphernalia appropriate for their respective offices, Messrs. Downie, "Man Mountain" Henson and Chilton were introduced amid thunderous applause practically devoid of catcalls. Chilton and Downie were clothed with green sack-cloth and Henson in a kitchen apron appropriate to the chief, as the members of the 1938 seminar committee. Since the first shall be last, etc., Mr. Chilton, with an orange onion sack as a cap proclaiming him the Big Chief, became chairman and Mr. Henson the treasurer which inevitably leaves Mr. Downie elected to do whatever chores befall the committee. Our new chair in his acceptance speech promised a new deal and proceeded to appeal for inflation of coffers, thereby lending considerable strength to his promise. The seminar is to be congratulated upon obtaining so fine a committee and the past committee members are likewise to be congratulated upon their escape with only minor verbal abrasions and philosophical contusions.

Following the induction of the new committee, its major portion proceeded to read laboriously but unflinchingly the platform which, by its own admission, had been "terminologically, vulgarly, and incomprehensibly derived from a game of chance" and concluded that "further explanation, extenuation, and verbal panegyrics were deemed "superfluous, deleterious, and contributory to etymological and innocuous desuetude." After reducing three Websters to shreds the seminar accepted the concluding statement.

Tsiang was added to the committee to give it dignity, help, and international status.



With the intimacy of peoples and problems existing on either side of the International Boundary, the only delimitation of which is the inexplicable dimensions attained by a carton of cigarettes in the pocket, it seems only natural that we Canadians can come down here and feel that this is also Home. For old friends the latch is always out here, and if you will but retrace your steps southward along the beaten path we can assure you a welcome and a reward in hearing again a "Better Sermon".

L. E. Tyner



The ball boy  
L.W.M.



E.C.S still in the net. (I'd = 875 ± 88)

Notes: - a Not a noelkelos but an ordinary orange  
b Notice no sewing on ball.  
It is a Mexican orange