

OLD TIMERS' COLYUM

To all Old Timers ( and New Timers too)  
A Happy New Year! and a better year!

The past year has been one of extremes: extremes of heat and cold, extremes of drought and discouragement, extremes of clinging to the old and revolutionary excesses in turning to the new. This has been true of most of the territory inhabited by our Old Timers. May the New Year be better! As encouragement we may add up Minnesota's big snowfall, we may look forward, all of us, to spring, we may look at the small decrease in unemployment here and there, and we may try, if we will, to temper these excesses, smoothe down our individual prejudices, to liberalize our nationalistic proclivities. We can strive for temperance and that physical vigor, mental zest, and spiritual repose that makes for scientific accomplishment. We can hope for this, and work for this, here and there and in Utopia, or wherever we may be.

Cheerio New Year; Prosit Science; Skaal Humankind!

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Dr. A. F. Verrall, who gave Wisner the G.B.Y. on his way to Liberia, delivered himself of the following bit of philosophy in a letter to the Colyum: "General knowledge and experience best fits one to adapt oneself easily to a particular task, no matter what it be." Verrall recently spent 10 days in Washington, where he met Dr. Meinecke, Dr. Hibert, and other notable forest pathologists. After six months of practical, non-scientific work, contacting hard-headed business men, sometimes violently, Verrall concludes that he really enjoyed doing something that he thought he never could do. He sends his best regards to the Department.

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There came recently from Dr. C. R. HURSH a note written on board the White Star Line M. V. Georgic. Charles R. was just returning from what he playfully describes as "a little South American trip," where he saw some tropical agriculture and a lot of erosion in Venezuela. He sends his regards and greetings to every one. Do they have blue-nose pups in Venezuela, Charlie?

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EDWARD K. VAUGHAN sends his regards to Aurora and all of the gang, from Tucson, Arizona, where he is engaged in getting material for shelter belt planting. In the course of his work he has traveled in Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, and Colorado, exploring for plants of value in erosion control, forage plants, and ornamentals. He gathered seeds of many kinds and soon we will be expecting the desert to bloom. Vaughan states that his eye is not yet normal but is so much improved that it does not bother him particularly. He looks forward to his return to the T. T. We do too.

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Dr. Eric G. FRENCHY Sharvelle writes that he was very thrilled to read about the Gophers and that he often caught himself projecting himself 4,000 miles thru space, eating peanuts, pounding Chris on the back, whooping defiance thru a megaphone, sitting with the gang, getting colder and colder and more excited and more nervous, and then postmorteming the game over a cup of coffee. He vows that about a hundred years from now, when he is old and gray and toilworn and discarded, he is going to crawl back to Minnesota to see another Minnesota game and yell himself hoarse. There came also from Frenchy certain oohs from his Ph.D. exam. There is a place in his hall of fame for Dr. Schmitz, Frank Kaufert, or any one else who can tell to what sort of heaven

or hell go the beautiful things that bloom in the spring and then go napoo. This apparently was provoked by one of those concrete questions that sometimes are asked of Ph.D. candidates, usually phrased something like this: "Where, Why, and how did life originate; who embellished it; and with what purpose; and what will it be like 7,000,000 light years from now, and why? Frenchy hopes that life in the New Year will be pleasant, productive, and brimfull of happiness for all members of *Phytobrickhaus tremuloides*. He sends his love to all, regardless of sex, previous or present condition of servitude, and scientific and matrimonial prospects.

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FRANK J. GREANEY, Ph.D., has been transferred from the Dominion Rust Research Laboratory to Rothamsted Station, England, for a year beginning December 1 1934. Isn't it strange, but apparently Frank did not protest at all at the transfer! He is to study the effects of fertilizers on the development of root rots of cereals. He sends his greetings "to the gang" and expresses the opinion that he may actually learn something in the highly intellectual atmosphere at Rothamsted.

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DR. W. L. WATERHOUSE writes from the University of Sydney that the rust problem is as interesting as ever. He has been obtaining some interesting genetical results in crosses designed to produce crown rust resistant varieties of oats, and also has some interesting results from crosses between *vulgare* wheats and Khapli emmer. Form 34 of *P. graminis tritici* seems to have eliminated most of the others from competition in Australia, according to Dr. Waterhouse.

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John G. CHURCHWARD also wrote recently from Sydney. At that time they were anticipating a visit from Miss Tilden of the Minnesota Botany Department. Churchward is getting along well, and hopes to write up a thesis to be submitted some time before another drought year appears. He states that conditions are improving in Australia, and intimates that life in the Antipodes is worth while.

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Dr. T. C. LOH recently sent his regards from the University of Chekiang, Hangchow, China.

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Dr. SYDNEY DICKINSON writes from Cambridge that he recently had a fine day with Dr. Isenbeck of Halle; Dr. Neatby who was here several years ago was also present, and according to all reports, there was much profitable and interesting discussion.

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Dr. K. G. MCINDOE, the great leopard hunter, has been spending his time recently at Cape Palmas, Liberia, in the extreme south of the country. Mac is about due to leave, and we hope to see him in this country by the time the birds come back.

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Dr. R. J. NOBLE, whose election to the presidency of the Royal Society of New South Wales was recorded in the last issue, wrote some time ago, sending regards to all of his old friends at Minnesota. He states that he has a seven-month-old son, with whom he walks and converses at length week-ends, when Noble pere has some surcease from his manifold duties. Aurora wishes the young man, as well as the young man's OLD MAN, a very Happy New Year!

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From DR. DICKSON BAILEY there came some time ago a communication which indicates that he is still very busy teaching and investigating in the University of Toronto.

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Dr. OLAF AAMODT, one of the very early Old Timers, has been elected Professor and Chairman of the Department of Agronomy at the University of Wisconsin. He expects to assume his new duties about May 1. He says that he had a hard time deciding to leave St. Paul in 1928, and again had a hard time deciding to leave Alberta. Aurora congratulates the University of Wisconsin and wishes her new faculty member "Alles Gute". We hope to see Olaf on his way to Madison. A speech on how it is done will be expected.

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Dr. H. D. Barker, Ph.D. 1922, has been decorated by the Haitian Government for distinguished service. Henry always was a great boy for martial decorations, but a decoration by a whole Government is something else again. Barker, with characteristic reticence and modesty, did not send us the news, nor do we know the particulars. But we hope to get them. If Barker won't furnish them, we will write the government. Sincerest congratulations from Aurora, Barker.

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REINER BONDE writes from Orono, Me., that things are progressing as well as can be expected. His baby girl is growing fast and he intends bringing her with him when he comes to complete his graduate work. The following observation seems biologically sound: "The people about here can not understand how she happens to be so good looking. I guess they do not know that one can not tell one's genetic constitution by his appearance. Schultz tells me that one can not tell how far a rabbit can jump by the length of his ears." Bonde sends his greetings to Aurora and the members of the Tottering Tower.

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Dr. L. J. TYLER writes from the Boyce Thompson Institute that finally, after running their legs half off, or half their legs off, they, meaning Mrs. and him, have settled in a very comfortable apartment and that he is working hard on *Graphium ulmi*. Apparently the Scolytus beetles are vicious brutes, and Tyler expects sometime to find himself torn limb from limb, his bones picked clean and strewn about the laboratory, mute evidence of a terrific battle for dear old *Ulmus americana*. The Doctor attended the Pittsburgh meetings and looked as handsome, chipper, and dignified as in the halcyon days of yore.

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Dr. TU writes from the Central Experiment Station, Hupoh, China, that things scientific are progressing and the work is gradually being put on a really sound basis. The political situation seems to be improving also. Aurora hopes so too.

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C. A. CHET Wismer, who is probably by this time in Liberia, wrote from the Hotel New Yorker that Verrall had met him at the Penn Station and entertained him royally, both in the city and at the Dutch Elm Disease Laboratory at Morristown, New Jersey. In the midst of his festivities and preparations for sailing to darkest Africa, Wismer found time to write and wish Aurora and the T. T. a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Good Luck, Chet! G.R.Y.

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Dr. S. A. WELLENSIEK, who is still in charge of tea breeding at Buitenzorg, Java, wrote recently about a proposal to simplify the problem of scientific publication. Dr. and Mrs. Wellensiek ask to be remembered to Aurora and all of their old friends.

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From Liberia came the following message: "Happy New Year and generous appropriations to ease your trials and tribulations. Hello to the whole gang. The Three Old Coasters - H.M.H." It is suspected that the three coasters are McIndoe, Hafstad, and Hines. Appropriately enough, the picture on the reverse side of the card shows a lion sailing a schooner of beer, and the title is Kinchner-bräu. Fortunately there are few obstacles to navigation in the landscape, only a couple of palm trees and a vast expanse of sand, but with enough of the Bräu neither sand nor palm trees ought to keep schooners from sailing.

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Dr. KURT HUBERT sent New Year's greetings to Aurora and the inhabitants of the Tottering Tower. Dr. Hubert has completed his work at the Leipzig Pedagogical Seminary and is now teaching in the Landwirtschaftsschule u. Wirtschaftsberatungsstelle at Jessen (Elster). Dr. Hubert enclosed a picture of part of the school building, showing the Wohnung occupied by him and Frau Doktor Hubert. We counted seven windows on one side of his Wohnung. Prosit Wohnung; Prosit Lehrer; Prosit Neujahr!

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I. L. FORBES writes that he expects to send a draft of his thesis soon. He asks that his regards be given to all "the gang in the Tower". He volunteers the information that a letter from Louisiana would not be complete without some reference to Senator Huey Long. Forbes presented a very logical argument terminating as follows "Even though they say he is running L. S. U., he has only made additions and improvements and why should Louisiana kick?" Huey states that corporations should be taxed to support schools in order that every one in his State may have opportunity to be educated to the limit of his capacity. Ye Ed. agrees.

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CAPTAIN KENNETH W. SIMONS is busy teaching at the Kemper Military School, Foonville, Mo. He has been doing some work in the library of the University of Missouri, where he must have read something about the Minnesota football team, as he expresses regret at not having seen it play. He sends regards and best wishes to Aurora et al.

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From Dr. J. Merrill PEWEEE Wallace comes the following: "I suppose the old Tower is tottering as per usual and that classes meet, seminars are held, knowledge spouted and absorbed (?) just the same as in the olden days. It's hard to believe that ten years ago this winter I was working in Mississippi after one year at Minnesota. Man how that old tempus does fugit!" - Ye verily, tempus certainly is fugacious. As long as it doesn't become fuliginous, however, it may be enduring.

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Lee DUCKIE Hines writes from the Firestone Plantations, Monrovia, Liberia, West Africa, to the effect that he finds work and life in general good enough, far better in many respects than he had expected. In fact he goes so far as to state that he couldn't find a better place to live, and opines that with a few improvements, which he thinks are on their way, the work will be ideal. He says he feels like an old rubber man. Maybe rubber, but hardly old. Lee enjoys the exalted title of Division Superintendent. So far he has killed no leopards or elephants but has kept the Du pretty well supplied with deer and quail. He and Hafstad plan to go out for bigger game. Division Superintendent Hines states that he has learned a great deal during his eight months' sojourn in the Land of the Free and the Home of Malaria and Mosquitoes. The following passage is worth quoting: "There should be a place near school where all the fellows could go out for a few months and try doing something on their own." To which statement ye Ed. gives his benediction and gurgles a heartfelt Amen!

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In Washington on Saturday P. M. just before Christmas a group of old timers broke bread together and tried to reform what needs reforming. Philip Frierley, Howard Johnson, Ebie Lambert, Cal Coolidge Rodenhiser, John Stevenson, Freeman Weiss, and Ye Ed put their idears together, shuffled them around and analyzed and synthesized until Minerva herself smiled like an Ad for your favorite tooth powder.

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### THE CHRISTMAS MAIL SACK

From old friends near and far came MERRY CHRISTMAS to Aurora. Howard Parson said it delightfully with a crate of Alabama tangerines; McIndoe, George Wafstad, and Lee Hines sent a wireless greeting from Liberia; and from Eric Marvelle came a cable with "greetings to the boys." (Aurora and her feminine followers, notably Miss Dossdall, were somewhat hurt.) Cards were received from J. S. "Chuckie" Holton, W. W. Christopher, D. C. Smith at Corvallis, Ore., Harold Zaleski, who sent golden bells and bright skating scene, from the Aamots, from H. G. Ukkelberg of Florida, and from J. G. Churchward and an endearing Koala bear. Our sentiments, in return, are expressed in M. N. Kamat's greeting from India, thus:

"How dear the milestones by the way,  
As friendship's road we tread,  
We call the past ones, memories,  
The hopes are those ahead."

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### BOOKSHELF

- E. M. Johnson. Dissemination of angular leaf spot of tobacco by the southern tobacco worm. *Phytopath.* 24: 1371-1382. December
- I. Johnson and O. Johnson. Studies on the nature of disease resistance in cereals II. The relationship between sugar content and reaction to stem rust of mature and immature tissues of the wheat plant. *Canadian Jour. Res.* 11: 582-588. 1934.
- K. Isenbeck. Züchtung auf Feldresistenz beim Gelbrost des Weizens. *Der Züchter* 6: 221-228. 1934.
- T. C. Loh. An improved method for the control of seed-borne diseases of rice. *Lingnan Sci. Jour.* 13: 603-605. 1934
- Margaret Newton and A. M. Brown. Studies on the nature of disease resistance in cereals I. The reactions to rust of mature and immature tissues. *Canadian Jour. Res.* 11: 564-581. 1934.
- G. B. Sanford. A malady of the potato in Alberta similar to psyllid yellows. *Scien. Agr.* 15: 46-48. 1934.
- L. A. Schaal. Relation of the potato flea beetle to common scab infection of potatoes. *Jour. Agr. Res.* 49: 251-258. August.

Have you read R. U. Agrostis alba Cotter's note on "White pycnia and aecia of Puccinia graminis in *Phytopath.* 24: 1121-1122?

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

We hear that the Big Chief has recovered the two stolen overcoats and now has one for every day in the week almost, - "Anybody wants buy a coat?" Some people don't know when they are lucky - He is still grouchy about the old briar that was not recovered.

Matt Moore and J. G. Leach in a final effort to keep the budget balanced went to Pittsburgh via bus - Matt planned to leave at 7:30 A. M. and Leach at 1:30 P.M. but at the last minute Leach decided to get up early and go with Matt for the sake of good company. But Matt, in the meantime, decided to wait and go with Leach (or perhaps he overslept) so neither was bothered with the others company. That's what we call cooperation.

The thief who stole the Big Chief's \$65.00 overcoat sold it for \$2.00. The B. C. says that's adding insult to injury.

Dr. Buller told us how he trapped and caught two coat thieves up at the Univ. of Winnepeg. He said he fooled them by looking dumb and keeping his eyes open. We kept our eyes open and looked dumb - but maybe the disguise in our case was not enough.

Miss McLeod got all excited about an item of 1 doz. eggs charged to the Plant Path. account. She was sure some one was trying to get away with a free lunch until she learned all about those osmetic demonstrations Shanway and Matt set up for the school botany class. Better luck next time, Rosemary.

Probably this should be under the head of public service, but we're short of material so we are going to take the chance. We are informed that Dr. Melander led the singing at the Premier Seed Grower's Banquet, and topped off the occasion with a solo. He sang that well known classic "The Minnesota Clover Song". We would like to move that Dr. Melander give a rendition at our next Literature Seminar.

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VISITORS TO THE TOTTERRING TOWER

- Nov. 13 - R. J. Haskell, Federal Chief of the seed stocks program for seed treatment of cereals in the northwestern states. Mr. Haskell conferred with R. C. Rose, Extension Pathologist, and C. C. Allison, who is assisting Rose to organize a seed treating program.
- Nov. 23-26 - W. L. Popham, Federal Chief, Barberry Eradication, U.S.D.A., Washington D. C., and G. C. Mayoue, Division Leader, Barberry Eradication, N. S. and Mont.
- Dec. 7 - J. M. Walter, recently departed old timer, now making name for himself "solving" the Dutch elm disease. With us about 10 days, visited friends, talked of old times, collected his material here of former work, departed for Pittsburgh Dec. 21. Same "ole Jim" - no change in this "Kentuckeyan".
- Jan. 3 - G. R. Bisby, one of the real old timers, chatted mostly with "Chris". Known now as outstanding mycologist-located at Agr. College, Winnipeg, Canada.

- Jan. 4 - A. H. Reginald Buller, the well known and greatly respected mycologist, a regular visitor to our tower, Professor of Botany, Univ. of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Canada
- Jan. 7-8 - H. K. Chen, recent Ph.D. from the Plant Pathology Department at Ames. Now returning to his native country to be associated with our well remembered T. C. Loh.
- Jan. 8-9 - Miss E. M. Brown, of Newnham College, Cambridge, becoming acquainted with American customs and scientific work on return to Winnipeg, Canada.
- Jan. 8 - R. O. Bulger, Brookings, S. D. State Barberry Eradication Leader.
- Jan. 23 - W. Littell, Assistant Director of the Commonwealth Fund in America. His chief interest - work of our Scot representative I. W. Tervet.

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SPORTS DEPT.

University Sports

Since the close of a highly successful football season, Minnesota athletes have been concentrating on winter sports. The basketball team with a wealth of new material has been making a determined bid for Big Ten honors but has not been entirely successful. In pre-season games, Minnesota defeated Hamline, St. Thomas, North Dakota, Carleton, and Notre Dame, losing only to Nebraska in a close game. The conference schedule was opened by a win over Michigan, but the strong Iowa team came to the field house to defeat the local team in an over-time game. At Chicago, the team had little difficulty in defeating the U. of Chicago, but two days later received their second defeat at the hands of Wisconsin. Each Big Ten team has been beaten at least once, and Minnesota, with a percentage of 500 with the season less than half over, still has a chance to finish among the leaders.

The Minnesota hockey team, big ten champions for several years, has had a rather disastrous season up to the present time. Pre-season two game series with Yale and with Manitoba resulted in four defeats. In the first conference two game series with the U. of Michigan, the best Minnesota could do was to tie one and lose the other game. The games were fast and exciting, but the home team failed to find a scoring combination and had its weak moments defensively. Next week the team travels to Michigan Tech. for a two game series.

The winter track season is just getting under way, but it is thought that Minnesota will have a much stronger team than in previous years. It is doubtful, however, if the team will be particularly dangerous in Big Ten competition.

The new intramural sports building which is situated at the open end of the stadium, is now almost complete, and the new exhibition pool will be dedicated on the occasion of the first swimming meet of the year when Minnesota meets Gustavus Adolphus January 26. In other minor sports the prospects look rather bright with strong teams in wrestling, gymnastics, and marksmanship (rifle).

The new athletic unit, previously mentioned, is expected to fulfill a long felt need at the University. This building will furnish office space for the athletic staff and will provide facilities for swimming, basketball, volleyball, and similar sports. The fate of the Armory, site of previous intramural contests, has not been decided as yet.

#### Departmental Sports

During the winter many of the members of the department turn to handball. At the present time nearly a dozen men are seen in the handball courts more or less frequently. The campus tournament will get under way within a few weeks.

Intramural basketball is being organized, and several departments have already signified their intention of entering teams. Since Plant Path. won the campus title last year, an effort is being made to organize a team to defend that title.

Skating at the Hippodrome has become popular with many members of the Farm Campus. Several members of the Department have been seen there, and it is understood that it is a common sight to see Dr. Hart doing a pas scul with Dr. Eide doing faux pas in the background.

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#### PERSONNEL AND PERSONAL

The Dark Continent called another member of the Plant Path. Dept. Dec. 7, 1934. A white cross with Africa, 1934, goes up before the name of C. A. Wismer on the door of the graduate lab. Chet goes to Cape Palmas, Firestone Rubber Plantation, Liberia. This brings the population of Minnesota Plant Pathologists in the land of the free and the home of the slaves to four, namely: McIndoe, Hines, Hafstad, and Wismer.

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Nobody else but James M. Walter, Ph.D. broke up Lit. Seminar one Thursday evening in December. Because of the snow and bad weather, Mrs. Walter and Jim Jr. stayed in Kentucky, visiting her folks. Jim Sr. made the smut lab. a real labor-atory while he was here Dec. 7 to 20th. The same old Jimmy!

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Another hurdle on their way to degrees was cleared by Hanson, Graham, Davies, and Ling. The French examination. Cormack took two jumps in his stride, both French and German on the same day. Harrar cleared the prelim hurdle on November 30, and is now heading down the stretch. He'll break the tape this spring.

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The staff was considerably depleted during the meetings of the A.A.A.S. in Pittsburgh Dec. 27-29th. Headed by Dr. Stakman, the delegation included Leach, Moore, Allison, and Harrar. Where did Tervet go?

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The Graduate Lab. over-flowed into the Herbarium again this year. Earl M. D. Hansing, barberry hunter and in-and-out plant pathologist is in again. With him in the Herbarium room is Glenn KerKnight, late of Carleton College. Milton Kernkamp a survivor of harrowing experience in the prep. lab. is another



new timer. W. Wadell from the Dominion Rust Lab., Winnipeg, Manitoba, is a new man minoring in plant path. Richard Dick Stafford, of the Forest Path. Lab. is leaving Feb. 1 for work on the range - in the Land Acquisition Department. Paul V. Siggers, Associate Pathologist, Dept. of Forest Path., Bur. of Pl. Indus., is here studying Septoria leafspot of Southern pine. Joe Tobisco, Minnesota graduate (the vintage that included Dr. Stakman) is back from Colorado Agr. College, where he is head of the Chemistry Dept. of the Experiment Station. He returned for his Ph.D. ( in soils) and has been a constant visitor in Pl. Path. Seminar.

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Society

Dr. Louise Dossdall entertained the literary group from the U. of M. Pl. Path. Dept. at her home December 27th. It was rumored that Dr. J. J. Christensen ate too many cookies. What we want to know is, who got the wine that Miss Dossdall was so heartily thanked for serving, by the absent seminar chairman?

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Dr. and Mrs. J. G. Leach were host to the Literature Semimarians Thursday, January 10. Abstracts of papers given at the Pittsburgh meetings were read and commented upon. Driving all day and all night Harrar arrived in time. Such devotion to duty! !

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Tea at Dr. Stakman's residence was held Sunday, January 6. The honored guest was Dr. A. H. R. Buller, of the U. of Manitoba. Mrs. Rosenzahn and Mrs. Freeman poured. A practical demonstration of diploidization was given as Buller ambled from group to group injecting in each bits of stimulating thoughts and queries, which spread quickly thru each group, jumped to the next and enlivened the conversation in the whole room.

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Tea in honor of visitors, Miss M. R. Brown of Newham College, Cambridge and H. K. Chen, U. of Chekiang, Hangchow, was held in the graduate lab. Jan. 8.

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Not one but three men are taking over C. C. Allison's work which he left on leave of absence to do the farmers a favor (see Public Service). The Cassel-Shumway-Harrar combination was appointed January 1 and will try to keep things going till Clyde returns late this spring.

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THE TRIPLE A. S. MEETS AT PITTSBURGH

The active chapter was represented by the Big Chief, Allison, Harrar, Leach, and Moore. Among the old timers present we saw the following:

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| L. J. Tyler     | Ralph Lindgren   | G. R. Bisby        |
| H. E. Parson    | H. H. Thornberry | Philip Brierley    |
| J. M. Walter    | A. G. Newhall    | D. L. Bailey       |
| Margaret Newton | W. D. Valteau    | F. J. Schneiderhan |
| P. D. Peterson  | Freeman Weiss    | W. S. Beach        |

Pittsburgh, the city of steel, gives one the impression that it should be called the city of rust and smut. Such being the case, the contributions to science from the foaming spout were very appropriate. The following papers were presented;

- Hybridization between Ustilago hordei and U. medians - C. C. Allison
  - Scab resistance in potato seedlings. - H. M. Darling, J. G. Leach, F.A. Krantz
  - The production of asexual spores by Pleurotus corticatus Fries. - Frank Kaufert
- (see next page)

Uniform rust nurseries indicate gradually decreasing severity of stem rust. - M. N. Levine and E. C. Stakman

An albino strain of barley smut. - M. B. Moore and C. C. Allison

The distribution of intermediate types of barley smuts. M.B.Moore and C. C. Allison

Experiments on physiologic specialization and nature of variation in Ustilago zeae. - E. C. Stakman, L. J. Tyler, G.E.Hafstad, and E. G. Sharvelle

The meetings were, in general, uneventful, and no revolutionary discoveries were reported. The meetings of the A. P. S. were as usual somewhat in the nature of a three ring circus with one trying to see everything and always missing the most interesting things. The meetings of the different societies were so scattered that it was impossible to divide one's time between them effectively.

The two outstanding social events were the Phytopathologists banquet and the Phytopathologists smoker: For this banquet some 240 phytopathologists and mycologists forked over one bone and 6 bits. There was considerable masticating and cogitating over the frugal fare of turkey garnished with cranberry sauce which preceded the feasts for both soul and intellect which followed. The soul food was provided when one of Ohio U's fairest lights entertained with song and accordion numbers and favored some of the notables (including one such from Minnesota) with individual serenades. Food for the intellect was furnished by toastmaster E. C. S., reading from the phone book intimate and artistic bits from the respective pasts of Deans Fromme and Kern, explaining how they came by the monikers of "Dizzy" and "Daffy". Dizzy added his bit by poetically sketching a new set of objectives for phytopathors, more in keeping with A. S. A. policies; and Daffy was right on his heels telling about a gargantuan Venezuelan toadstool he took away from a gargantuan Venezuelan toad with his own hands assisted by five black boys.

Due to some slip in the arrangements there was no exclusive gathering of the Foaming Fount clan for the breaking of bread. However, an impromptu supper which included most of them plus many other celebrities was held on Friday evening. As the crowd went out into one of those traditional Pittsburgh smokes, it got broken up into little groups which, on account of not being able to see each other, all got lost. But, as they say, Phytopath. minds run in the same ditch, so all (almost all anyway) were reunited under one roof (Pittsburgh version of the Minneapolis Gayety) again and participated in what has been unanimously designated the Phytopath. Smoker. There was great concern for the 3 guys who hadn't come in out of the wet, and it was finally decided that they must have hearkened to their homing instincts and returned to the hotel. There they were! And they are the only reason for this story. They oughter have their reflexes reconditioned before next year.

All in all the meetings were very successful. We might have heard more of the papers if they began the recitations at 11:30 A. M. instead of at 9:30., but, as one feller says, "I got the abstracts anyhow".

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Aurora received this announcement from Dr. Hubert:

"Die glücklich Geburt eines Strammen gesunden Mädchens namens Ursule zeigen in dankbare Freude an

Dr. Kurt Hubert und Frau

Jessen (Elster) d. 18. 1. 1935  
Adolph Hitler Strasse 7. "

Congratulations to Ursula's phytopathological parent!

PLANT PATHOLOGY AND THE PUBLIC

Drs. Leach and Eide attended the State Horticultural Society meetings last fall as guest speakers. Carl spoke on raspberry and strawberry diseases. Dr. Leach, Mr. Tolaas, and Mr. Rose spoke before the newly organized section on vegetable crops. They report the total attendance as seven. Five of these were speakers on the program, and two had accidentally attended the wrong section.

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Clyde Allison is now telling the farmers and elevator men how important it is that seed grain be treated. They say he has been knocking 'em cold (-32°F.).

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Farmers and Homemakers Week this year had a record registration of 2953 in spite of the cold weather and drifting snow. Some of the special features were the conferences on rural rehabilitation, agricultural adjustment, and community leadership. As usual, the Plant Path. gang did their bit to make the week successful. Members of the Department represented on the various programs were Clyde Allison, R. C. Rose, A. G. Tolaas, M. B. Moore, J. J. Christensen, C. J. Eide, and E. C. Stakman. Many favorable comments were heard on the exhibit of plants and seed treatments which had been arranged under the direction of Matt Moore.

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One day last fall the telephone man accidentally became entangled with a live wire leading to the Mycology Office on the fourth floor. He decided that the conversation he overheard was too good to keep, so he told it to an Aurora reporter. Here it is:

"Hello, this is Jack Perkins. Last Sunday I was out to Monticello to see my Auntie. On my way home, as I was driving along the river road, I looked down the bank toward the river and what do you suppose I saw? About half down the bank under an elm tree there was something big and white. It was about 10 inches, or perhaps 10½ inches across, and it looked just like a button. Now my name is Jack Perkins. I've lived in Minnesota for 74 years, and I've never seen the like in all my life. What do you think it was?"

"Well, I don't know. From your description it might have been a large puff ball."

"I have never seen the like in my life. My name is Jack Perkins. I am 74 years old. I was returning from Monticello. Along the river bank and under an elm tree I saw this big white thing that looked just like a button. Do you suppose it could have been a puff ball?"

"Yes, it probably was a giant puff ball."

"I thought perhaps it was a puff ball but just wanted to make sure."

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The telephone man became much interested and continued to listen in.

Ding-a-ling!! "Hello!" - "This is Dr. Fankard. Are you a mycologist?"  
"Yes." - "Do you understand mushrooms?" - "Yes." - "Can you give me some accurate information about mushrooms?" - "Well, maybe." - "You know that everyone is picking mushrooms. Now where do they get all the mushrooms? Can you tell me where I can go to pick some mushrooms?"

This conversation had scarcely been completed when the bell in the Mycology Office was heard to ring again, and the voice of Miss Dodsall answered, "Hello."

"Hello, this is Mrs. Green. My neighbor, Mrs. Brown has all kinds of mushrooms growing in her back yard. How can I get mushrooms to grow in my backyard?"

The telephone man reported that the wire was still hot when he looked at his watch and found that he had already listened 10 minutes overtime according to the new code.

SEMINARS

Literature seminar met November 8 and 22, 1934, and dragged along pretty slowly, everybody being rather modest about revealing what he had found out by reading. At the next meeting, December 6, Harrar was called upon to explain how he passed his prelim. All he could remember was that "Chris asked me to name three Danes, and I gave Camerarius and Cesalpino, but couldn't remember Matsumoto". He was sure there was another, but couldn't remember his name either.

Stak's appetite for extemporaneous speeches was whetted, and he went around the room asking each person but without results, until he came to Torrey who gave a good one about Edmonton, agriculture, and chinooks.

Lit. seminar seems to draw Minnesota pathologists like a home hearth a wanderer. We recall the Thursday evening so long ago when Rody and Pewee took wives unto themselves and then came up to seminar so they wouldn't miss anything interesting. The seminar was drowsing comfortably on December 6, and when Bamberg slunk in at 9 pm., looking innocent, and Kaufert slunk in at 9:10, looking guilty, no one took any notice of them. Just a couple of busy lads who couldn't stay any longer. Then at 9:55 Jim Walter walked calmly thru the doorway and took a seat in the corner. Finally, someone realized that Jim had just arrived in town after an absence of a year and a half. Stak stopped his review of the pedigrees of the Kellermans and the Swingles, refreshments were served, and we had a preliminary report on the Dutch elm disease situation.

The meeting of December 20 was devoted to rehearsals, by several expectant scientists, of papers to be presented at the Pittsburg meetings. The high light was Matt Moore's announcement of his discovery of a "dirty flesh-colored" smut. Now we have seen Matt's flesh when a smut that color wouldn't be any discovery at all. It is plain that he wasn't thinking of his own hairy chest when he named his new smut.

On December 27 the seminar group were the guests of Miss Dossdall. The official newshawk was absent, it being an important anniversary in his life, and, by custom, his Annual Evening at Home. But we understand that everyone, including the dog, had a good time and plenty to eat.

Dr. Leach was host at a similar gathering on January 10. Everybody who attended the meetings reviewed the papers he heard. This included about a dozen by Dr. Leach and one by Harrar. Accounts of the night life in Pittsburgh were numerous and well presented.

Regular seminar has met seven times since the last Aurora went to press. Papers have been presented on Dutch elm disease, white pine blister rust, wood stains, forest diseases, crown gall, diseases of rubber, and strawberry degeneratio:

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Barberry Office Proposes Team Work in Tottering Tower

The Tottering Tower Skippers would like to accept the Huey Long challenge extended to Minnesota's All-American team. We suppose that the challenge now is withdrawn, since Tulasne took Louisiana for a ride. However, the skippers could present a formidable line-up. In the line they would have a powerhouse. At ends would be Earl Hanson and Allison, who are artists at smearing plays and grabbing passes, no matter what kind. At tackles we would have Tolaas and Cotter. Tolaas has practiced yelling "fore" so much that he now can open up a hole in any line. Cotter is a powerhouse with his legs and feet. If he charged head first,

he could melt a hole thru any line. At guards, LeClerg and Melander have plenty of weight. LeClerg, the calculating specialist, can dope out any opposition play, while Tubby Melander can swear them if he doesn't get caught using his fists. In the center, the mighty Dane whose warwhoops would scare any offense or defense. At quarter, Harrar is a good strategist and blocker. At left half, Leach, the marksman, is an accurate shot in passing. He recently has been training in blocking by pushing logs and dead trees out of his way when hunting. At right half, we have galloping Elvin, who can out-gallop the galloping Red Grange. His specialty is sidelines. He loves rough-going especially on off tackle plays. At full, we have Levine, the phantom, who can go thru any hole in the line whether it is there or not. He prefers to read while he is doing this, because he then can see the holes better.

This is our line-up, gentlemen. How about it?

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Summary of Christmas and New Years activities by the  
mouldy gang and other vital statistics<sup>1</sup>

Subject	Number and probable error <sup>2</sup>
Total number engaged in work (part and full time)	54 ± 1
Graduate students (major)	21 ± 0
Foreign	6 ± 0
Clerks, secretaries, and typists (part and full time)	7 ± .5
E. R. A. workers	4 ± 2.0
Student assistants (undergraduate fellowship, state, or federal)	8 ± 1.0
Eagles	1 ± 0.0
Deans	1 ± 0.0
At A.A.A.S. at Pitt.	5 ± 1.0
Presented papers at Pitt.	4 ± 0.0
Took holidays <sup>3</sup>	11 ± 3.0
Time out on account of sickness	5 ± 4.0
Visitors during holidays	6 ± 1.0
On program for Farmers and Homemakers Week	7 ± 0.0
Students taking German from E.C.S.	13 ± 4.0
" passed German or French exams	5 ± 1.0
Numbers that have received advanced degrees.	M.S. 59 ± 1.0
	Ph.D. 42 ± 0.0
Number of foreign students that have studied in Tottering Tower	33 ± 1.0
" attending Pl. Path. Seminar	30 ± 2.0

<sup>1</sup> For details consult text.

<sup>2</sup> Statistician not consulted

<sup>3</sup> This includes those who went to Pitt.

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A good many years ago everybody wuz graspin test tubes and hangin on fer dear life; then for a while the popularity of test tubes waned and there wuz a run on flasks with much crumplin and crunchin of their necks. Now we're all gripin (as Herman Alonzo Rodenhiser would say) about petri plates. You'd think some fellas ate 'em, the way they howl when they can't get 'em! Maybe that Liberian Fomes lignosus doesn't relisa American rubber bands and rots all the petri plates that go down to Harrar. Or perhaps LeClerg's Rhizoctonias get to fighting about which is to grow in which petri dish and before we know it there

is a crackup. Jonas J. is always hankering after petri plates, and he made the Lab Committee do a little sleuthing around the Tower. Report was that 1,753 plates were concealed in various nooks and crannies of the labs. Not a superfluity, but a right goodly number. Trouble diagnosed as poor circulation. Control measures are suggested in figure one, but as contrast we have the hallucination, a pure figment of the imagination, of figure two:

