

THE STATION NEWS

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Geneva, N. Y.

The Horticultural Society meetings held last week at Rochester were unusually well attended and called forth much interest on the part of the growers. The high regard in which work of the Station is held by the fruit growers of the State was manifested in many ways and was most gratifying to those interested in the welfare of the institution. There can be no doubt but that the Station has the unqualified support of the Horticultural Society which is perhaps the strongest agricultural organization in New York at this time.

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The Station exhibit was most effectively arranged and received many favorable comments.

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The Station purchased a "Friend" spray rig at Rochester during the course of the week, turning in the old rig on the new machine. The new outfit is said to be the last word in spray machinery.

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Members of the Staff attending the Rochester meetings who are biologically inclined found much to interest them at "Rattle Snake Petes". The attractions ranged from the "Dying Indian" to mechanical devices to test ones strength. Several high scores were "hung up" by some of the boys.

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The News wishes to call attention to a recent change in the policy of the Geneva Daily Times with regard to handling agricultural news. The original plan of printing an agricultural page once a week did not prove feasible for several reasons, so it was finally decided to handle the agricultural material as straight news matter. With this in view, the Times is now employing a reporter who devotes his entire time to gathering rural news and to handling local matter of agricultural interest. This agricultural "news" is then run in with the general news of the day, thus giving greater prominence and insuring more prompt appearance. The excellent manner in which the Rochester meetings were covered was due to the presence of the Times man thruout the four days of the meetings. The new arrangement is highly commendable in every respect.

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Those of The Staff interested in dairying have arranged for bi-monthly meetings at which original contributions and the literature on dairy science will be discussed. One meeting a month will be devoted to the discussion of recent dairy literature and one meeting to the presentation of a paper by some member of the bacteriology, dairy or chemistry division. The first meeting was held last Friday when Dr. Carpenter discussed the Chemistry of Casein.

The following circulars are now available for distribution: "Spraying and Dusting Experiments with Apples in 1923" by P. J. Parrot Hugh Glasgow and F. C. Stewart; "Self-sterility and self-fertility of fruit varieties grown in New York" by Richard Wellington; and "Spraying and Dusting for the Control of Pear Psylla" by F. Z. Hartzell.

The News learned rather tardily that Mr. Munn was elected president of the Association of Official Seed Analysts for the ensuing year at the recent meeting of the Association in Cincinnati.

The First of the series of "biographies" to appear in the News is offered in this number. Perhaps a word of explanation is desirable. First of all, the News is not concerned with purely personal matters, but is interested in giving to its readers brief accounts of the activities of the different members of the Station group as they touch on Station affairs, particularly those things that have some historical interest. It is expected that many items of general interest will be uncovered. It should be said, also, that there is no rime or reason for the order in which these brief accounts will appear, except that in view of the fact that Mr. Newton enjoys the distinction of having been longest in the employ of the Station, he would seem to be the logical choice as first victim.

FRANK E. NEWTON

Stenographer, Mail Clerk, Property Custodian, Chief Mimeograph Operator, and All around Utility Man.

Accepting an offer of a clerical position in what he thought was a doctor's office, Mr. Newton arrived in Geneva from Oswego, N. Y. where he was studying in Chaffee's Phonographic Institute on December 29, 1883, just 40 years ago last month. Dr. Sturtevant, it will be remembered was an M.D. and since the New York Agricultural Experiment Station was then an unknown quality it is not surprising that Mr. Newton was rather nonplused to find that he was to be associated with agricultural work.

Mr. Newton was the first stenographer to be allowed to the Station, as the Board of Control previous to that time regarded stenographers as an unnecessary luxury. Robert Watson, later a patent attorney in Washington, D. C., preceded Mr. Newton as Clerk to the Director but Mr. Watson was employed as a laborer at \$35. per month in order to circumvent the ban on stenographic help. Dodging financial regulations is evidently an ancient art.

Mr. Newton's first machine was known as a Caligraph and Mr. Newton was instructed to entertain visitors with the rapid manipulation of this machine. Typewriters were still a novelty and this proved almost as diverting as do the milking machines today.

The salary scale has practically doubled during Mr. Newton's time and the Station budget has grown from \$20,000 in 1883 to more than \$250,000 for the present fiscal year. In those days the budget was unclassified too. Mr. Newton enjoys the remarkable record of five salary increases, all of which were entirely unsolicited.

When the present newspaper service was inaugurated, the mechanical end of the job was turned over to Mr. Newton. This reminded him of old days, he said, when the Station bulletins consisted of weekly "stories" to the newspapers and farm papers. Dr. Sturtevant dictated these accounts to Mr. Newton who sent a copy to an Elmira printing plant from which point some 150 printed copies were distributed to the papers on the mailing list.

Drop in and ask Mr. Newton about early days at the Station. He is always willing to stop between post cards and tell interesting events and of men who have gone to seek fortunes elsewhere. It is a pleasant pastime. The Editor knows for he has talked it