

STATION NEWS

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New York State Agricultural Experiment Station, Geneva

BEGINNING OUR SECOND CENTURY

Thursday, June 26, 1980 marks a most important date in the history of the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station. Exactly 100 years ago on that date, the New York State Legislature passed a bill enabling the establishment of a New York Agricultural Experiment Station. Although the Station did not officially open its doors until March of 1882, we wish to acknowledge the official Act that eventually resulted in our great institution being established.

Dr. Paul Chapman, Professor Emeritus of Entomology, and one of the staunchest supporters of the Experiment Station for half a century, has very kindly written a short treatise detailing briefly events leading to the passage of the original Act and the eventual establishment of the Station at Geneva. We are pleased to present Dr. Chapman's historical account of how the Station came to be, and we are also pleased to announce that he has consented to write a more detailed history of the Station for the official year of celebration that will take place in 1982.

Our Centennial

by P. J. Chapman
Professor Emeritus, Entomology

Those interested in the history of the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station are not agreed on when this institution was founded or established. Was it June 26, 1880 when the Experiment Station bill passed the State Legislature? Or, was it March 1, 1882 when the Station became operational at Geneva?

Proponents of the first position have the wording of the 1880 law (Chapter 592) on their side. It reads, "an institution is hereby established to be called and known as the New York Agricultural Ex-

periment Station." Those favoring the 1882 date can argue that the 1880 legislation was only an enabling act. It did not designate where the Station would be located or what form it would assume. Resolution of these matters was delegated to a Board of Control created by the act.

We are recognizing both dates in celebrating our 100th birthday. The focus in the 1880 part of the celebration will be on events leading up to the passage of the Experiment Station bill that year, and to what transpired during the 2 years following, or until the Station became operative at Geneva. A brief account of this part of the Station's history is presented here.

The first state agricultural experiment station in the United States was established in Connecticut in 1875. It was modeled after the German stations of which the earliest one was founded in 1852 at Moeckern in Saxony.

Following the action taken in Connecticut, agricultural scientists and leaders of farm organizations everywhere actively sought the establishment of similar facilities in their states. In New York, a bill to establish such a Station was introduced in the State Legislature in 1877. It failed of passage as did a similar one in 1878.

Following these setbacks, members of the Department of Agriculture at Cornell University—who constituted about all of the professional agricultural scientists in New York at the time—decided to form the "Cornell University Experiment Station." This was done in February 1879. A year later, the new Station issued an 133-page "annual" report. Initially, the University neither provided operational funds for the Station nor officially recognized its existence. When the Legislature finally passed the Experiment Station bill of 1880 and provided \$20,000 annually for its operation, it was assumed by many that the Station would be located at Ithaca and would replace the 1-year-old Cornell University Station. But this was not to be.

At the first meeting of the new Station's Board of Control, various ideas were considered as to what kind of an institution should be formed. Three proposals received most serious consideration viz. (a) that the Station be an independent institution with a farm attached; (b) that it become a division of the Department of Agriculture of Cornell University; or (c) that it become an Albany-based agency which would supervise farmer-conducted research over the State.

The first plan won majority approval. The Board then described, in a public notice, what kind of an institution it intended to establish and invited localities to bid for its location in their midst. Over 100 such bids were received.

Curiously, the one from Ithaca, or more accurately from Cornell University, was among the last to be received. This delay can be attributed to the views held by Henry W. Sage, Chairman of the University's Board of Trustees. He assumed the role of spokesman for Cornell in the absence of President Andrew D. White who was on leave, serving as Ambassador to Germany. Sage had little interest in the Department of Agriculture and apparently had misgivings about having a unit of the University managed by an outside Board of Control. However, at the urging of the Faculty in Agriculture and by some influential farm leaders he finally submitted a rather halfhearted bid for the Station. In his brief letter, he offered Cornell's facilities provided this could be accomplished "without interfering with the regular duties of our Professors." The reaction of the Site Committee of the Board of Control was predictable. Sage's bid was passed over.

The committee, however, soon narrowed the choice to three sites; namely, Palmyra, Spencerport, and Geneva. Geneva, of course, was the site finally selected.

Meanwhile, the State Comptroller rendered a decision declaring that the Station bill of 1880 was defective. He stated that the Board of Control created by the Act was self-constituted and self-perpetuating. The Attorney General submitted a contrary opinion. However, it was decided that it would be best to amend the 1880 act to meet the Comptroller's objections. This legislation became law on August 15, 1881 (Chapter 702). Its principal provisions were the naming of nine specific individuals to the Board of Control with the Governor serving as an additional *ex officio* member. Board members would serve 3-year terms, on a staggered basis, or so that only three new members would be elected annually.

The foregoing legal problems apparently had little effect on the activity of the Board of Control. Thus Geneva, for all practical purposes, was selected as the site of the new Station by June 1881. Title to this property, however, according to an official statement of the Board's President, "passed to the State in February 1882." [While not challenging the accuracy of this statement it should be noted that funds (\$25,000) were not appropriated for the purchase of this property until May 31, 1882 (Chapter 257).]

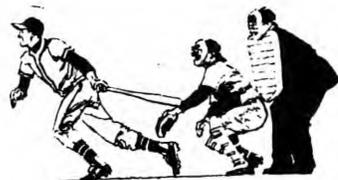
Dr. E. Lewis Sturtevant of South Framingham, Massachusetts, a widely known and highly respected editor and agricultural scientist, was selected as the Station's first Director. He took possession of the Station property for the State and assumed his duties March 1, 1882.

The New York State Agricultural Experiment Station has the distinction of being the fourth such institution to be established and funded by a State Legislature (1880) and the sixth to have become operational (1882).

As indicated earlier, the present account is intended to be no more than an introduction to the history of our institution. It is planned to have a report covering the 100-year life of the Station for distribution at the 1982 part of the Centennial celebration.

Station Calendar

FOR WEEK OF MAY 4, 1980



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 9—9:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.—Staff Room, Jordan Hall—
Wayne-Ontario County Public Library
Meeting
9—10:00 a.m.—Tour—Monroe Community College

Station Calendar

FOR WEEK OF MAY 11, 1980



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- May 12—1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.—Tour—Alfred Tech.
12—3:00 p.m.—Tour—Southern Tier Cooperative
Extension Agents
13—9:00 a.m.—Auditorium, Jordan Hall—Food In-
dustry Nutrition Workshop
14—7:00 p.m.—Staff Room, Jordan Hall—Finger
Lakes Stamp Club
15—3:15 p.m.—Tour—Boy Scouts
16—1:00 p.m.—Tour—Keuka College
16—Pomology Club from State University, Rutgers,
N. J. to meet with Pomology and Viticulture
Department

NOTE

Bruce Moore will be attending an update workshop Tuesday through Friday this coming week. We will be running the press on Tuesday and Thursday should you have any jobs that need to be printed.

Station Calendar

FOR WEEK OF MAY 18, 1980



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- May 19—10:30 a.m.—348 Morrison Hall, Ithaca—
College Department Heads Meeting
20—3:00 p.m.—Auditorium, Jordan Hall—Non-
academic Employees Meeting
21—1:30-3:30 p.m.—Conference Room, Food
Science and Technology Laboratory—
Training Session for European Corn Borer
Scouts
22—9:30 a.m.—Staff Room, Jordan Hall—Census
Bureau Testing Program

CERES CIRCLE

Elizabeth Bourne will be hosting a Spring newcomers meeting for all Station women (employees or spouses of employees) on Wednesday, May 21, 1980, at 8:00 p.m., at her home—R.D. 2, Box 83, Castle Road, Geneva (last house on the right before Johnson Road). All departments are urged to send their new members and longstanding Ceres enthusiasts are also cordially invited. In addition to getting acquainted (or reacquainted), we hope to plan for a fall, Christmas, and spring meeting for 1980-81. If you plan to drive, call some others and bring a carload. Door prizes will be offered. For further information or directions, call 789-9804.

NOTE

Anyone attending the 25th Annual Service Recognition Banquet who would like transportation, please notify the Personnel Office at x203.

USE OF STATION POOL VEHICLES

Please return rented Station Pool Vehicles to the Garage Parking Lot promptly. If you have signed a vehicle out which is to be back by 4:30 p.m., please return it by 4:30 p.m. so that it will be serviced by 5:00 p.m. as it may be signed out to someone else before 8:00 a.m. the next day. If rented for return after 5:00 p.m., please return to parking lot when you return. Then the vehicle can be serviced first thing in the morning before that day's use.

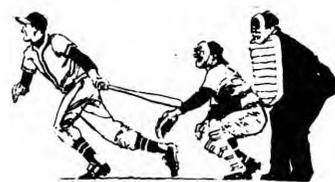
Cars often are scheduled for pick-up before 8:00 a.m., so if you return after 5:00 p.m., please make sure there is enough gasoline left in vehicle to make it to a gas station.

By following these few rules, you will be extending the courtesy which you would hope would be extended to you.

Associate Director's Office

Station Calendar

FOR WEEK OF MAY 25, 1980



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- May 26—Holiday—Memorial Day Observance
28—Visit by French apple growers to the Department
of Pomology and Viticulture
28—7:00 p.m.—Staff Room, Jordan Hall—Finger
Lakes Stamp Club
29—11:00 a.m.—Tour—Yates County CSF Program
29—4:00 p.m.—Conference Room, Food Science
and Technology Laboratory—Seminar

SEMINAR-FOOD SCIENCE

- Date: May 29, 1980
Time: 4:00 p.m.
Place: Conference Room, Food Science and
Technology Laboratory
Speaker: Alan Moskowitz
Graduate Student
Subject: Subcellular status of anthocyanins in grapes

NOTE

Don't forget the retirement party for Dr. Clark at the Lionstone Restaurant, Friday, June 13, 1980. The deadline for reservations is June 6. Tickets may be obtained from Betty Porterfield in Hedrick Hall or Tom Kenny in the seed lab. Sturtevant Hall.

Wanted: Room or apartment needed for male IPM Program employee for the summer months. If you know of any possibilities, please contact Linda or Tammy at 206.

For Rent: Cottage in Rockport, Mass. available by the week for the month of June. Two bedrooms, a sleeping porch, and 7 beds available. For further information contact Ed Glass at 789-3797.