

CORNELL UNIVERSITY STATION NEWS GENEVA NEW YORK

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BRIEFS

PLANNING FOR LIFE STAGES SEMINAR OFFERED

A one-day seminar entitled "Planning for Life Stages" is being offered Saturday, October 5, on the Ithaca campus by Work and Family Service, Office of Human Resources. This one-day seminar is designed to help you and your partner, spouse or other family members decide where you want to go in life and what path you plan to take—before you get there. Topics to be covered include interpersonal relationships, leisure and work, financial planning, and health and wellness. It will focus on the special situations of the class participants.

This seminar is similar to the program Charlie Hibbard has tried to arrange for Geneva, but due to insufficient registration numbers to support the seminars, they were not held. The feedback Charlie has received from participants who have attended past seminars is that "this seminar is worth the time spent on a Saturday."

There is a fee of \$25 for course materials that you will be able to take home (you may share your materials with your guest if you wish). If you are interested in registering or would like more information, please contact Sonja Baylor at ssb2@cornell.edu or call her at 8-5-3649.

STATION LIBRARY RECLASSIFICATION PROJECT COMPLETED

After one hundred years of stasis, the Geneva Library has at last reclassified its entire collection to meet the accepted cataloging standards of university libraries in the United States. The Dewey system which had been

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SPECIAL VISITORS TO CAMPUS



Helene Dillard explains the vegetable extension program to legislative staff members.

Hosting special groups of visitors is something that the director, department chairmen, and most faculty are asked to do during the course of their normal activities. These special groups may not only belong to the scientific community, but frequently are members of the state legislature, their staff, or national or international administrators of agricultural agencies.

Such was the case this past Wednesday, September 11, when Charles Kruzansky and Ellie McEvoy, Cornell's liaison people in Albany, brought a small group of legislative staff members and others with agricultural interests, to visit the Station. Those who came were Kyle Stewart from the Farm Bureau, which is a most important supporter of the Station and its activities; Wally John from the State Assembly Program and Counsel Staff; Debbie Peck, Assembly Minority Program Office; and Mike Northrup from Assemblyman Craig Doran's office.

Arriving about 10:30, Wednesday morning, the visitors immediately went to the Food Research Laboratory where Director James Hunter welcomed them and gave them a short briefing on the Station and its activities.

Then, Mark McLellan, along with Andy Rao, Cy Lee, and Karl Siebert, discussed different aspects of research in food science and technology. This included work being done to help a business register a new processed food product, research on extending the storage life of fresh snap beans, a mathematical model that food processors can use to determine more easily the microbiological safety of processed foods, a review of work being done in the food processing pilot plant, and a review of what the Food Venture Center is accomplishing for the New York food processing industry.

Following lunch, Jim Tette, Director, Cornell's Statewide Integrated Pest Management

(Continued on page 2)

(VISITORS, Cont.)

Program, explained to the group the importance of the IPM effort in New York. He especially emphasized how the success of IPM depends to a large extent on members of the faculty developing new information that can be incorporated into recommendations for growers.

Moving on to plant pathology, the group met with Herb Aldwinckle, who discussed genetic engineering of apple, and Helene Dillard, who talked about the vegetable extension program. Rosie Provvidenti also told the group about his research on virus diseases of vegetable and the contributions that have been made to the industry through the discovery of genes for resistance.

Wendell Roelofs, chairman of entomology, spoke about the practical applications of his lab's research that has been done on pheromones. Then, Harvey Reissig and Art Agnello explained how pheromones are being used in controlling insects that attack apples. Mike Villani explained research his group is doing on the ecology and control of insects that

attack turf grasses. Many visitors are unaware that the Station has one of the most outstanding programs on turf insects in the country, but as home owners or golfers, they really appreciate the importance of this work.

Closing out the tour was a trip to some of the Station's farms to learn how field research is conducted. Curt Petzoldt, IPM Vegetable Coordinator, spoke to the visitors about an integrated pest management systems trial under way on sweet corn. Then, Gary Harman, horticultural sciences, discussed biological control of certain diseases using *Trichoderma*, a beneficial fungus, to see how this research dovetails so well with IPM programs. Steve Reiners, horticultural sciences, explained the work he is doing on side-dressed nitrogen testing, which means that he can actually test to determine if additional nitrogen needs to be applied to sweet corn. The group toured the Loomis Farm and saw research being done on apple trees that were planted at high populations, different training systems, and advantages of trickle irrigation and use of fertigation.

The group was also shown the planting of transgenetically developed root stocks that Herb Aldwinckle, plant pathology, had discussed in the laboratory earlier in the day.

Bringing the visit to a close was a wrap-up session held in the Food Research Laboratory lunch room in which the group discussed ways by which the Station might improve its budget situation beyond that amount obtained through the SUNY budget. There appeared to be strong support for the "Geneva Initiative" that is under way to gain additional funding from the state for Geneva.

"Every contact we have that can tell our story helps us get a little closer to getting additional funding for our programs," said Jim Hunter. "Explaining our work to visitors is a never-ending task, but the department chairs and faculty realize the important of this and do a wonderful job of demonstrating to visitors the relevance and high-quality research and extension work under way at the Station." 

(BRIEFS, Cont.)

used to catalog the library material for over seventy-five years had become a burdensome relic of the past, and is now only used by public libraries which do not have strong holdings in the sciences. The standard system for academic libraries today is the classification code created by the Library of Congress (LC) in the 1940's. The NYSAES library's collection is now in conformity with the rest of the Cornell, and peer institutions nationwide.

"Conversion of the library from the Dewey System to the LC System is a major accomplishment, and it is one more indication of the commitment of Peter McDonald and the library staff to ensure that our library is up-to-date and first rate. We are fortunate to have such a good library to support the research programs at Geneva," said Director Hunter.

Timely as this important change is, it was *partly our isolation*, and partly a matter of cost, which delayed this important restructuring at Geneva for so long. When the New York State Experiment Station library opened its door on April 1, 1882, there was as yet no national standard in the United States for the classification of library collections. Libraries like the NYSAES, simply cataloged their material according to internally consistent standards.

It was only with the advent of the first national cataloging standard named after Melvil Dewey, librarian at Columbia University, that the station library recataloged its collection using Dewey's decimal system. This was during World War I. While Dewey's numerical system was a great improvement over the myriad of unique subject-based classification systems then in use, it nevertheless was based primarily on 19th century sensibilities, with an emphasis on a gentleman's collection in the humanities. The sciences, both physical and applied, were still in their infancy and Dewey's system reflected this bias, giving about 75% of his "decimal numbers" to the established curriculum of the humanities and a mere 25% to the fledgling sciences.

Who would have guessed that 50 years later, it would be the sciences which would account for the exponential growth in library collections we see today. And as new sciences, like nuclear or astro-physics, appeared or forked out of the findings of older disciplines, the Dewey system fell woefully short in providing a usable classification scheme. At Geneva, for instance, in the area of biotechnology, we had Dewey decimal numbers running to 8 and 9 digits and growing.

That has now changed! The reclassification project took eleven months to complete, succeeded with the efforts of a dedicated team of temporary employees led by library consultant, Barbara DiSalvo, and cost roughly \$0.57 per volume. We are now a fully compliant academic library with our entire holdings reclassified to the LC system.

"As Library director, I would like to thank Jim Hunter and Bob Seem for their unflinching support, the department chairs who were willing to see station funds allocated for this important project, and most importantly to my inestimable staff for having the wherewithal and perseverance to complete a most complex and difficult task over many months all with good grace and hard work" said Peter McDonald.

Anyone either confused or daunted by the change, of course, is welcome to sit down with Peter or any library staff member and get a guided tour of the new shelving scheme. And remember, the entire serial collection is now housed on the first floor of Jordan Hall, and all books, theses and monographs are housed on the second floor.

"To all, thanks for your patience and goodwill during the library's right of passage into the 21st century" added Peter. 



...from the ARCHIVES,

Very few persons are alive today who worked at the Station when there were active dairying projects, i.e. before 1942. Rachel Henning is one person who readily comes to mind. In other words, we are fast losing memory of a once very important segment of our Station's history, an area in which the Station made great contributions. In the very brief space available, I shall call your attention to some of the "actors" and their contributions. To recognize the significance and importance of these contributions, one must remember that in 1882 and for a number of decades, the biological and physical sciences were still in relatively primitive stages of development.

Dr. L. Sturtevant, the Station's first director, was not a chemist as were all the directors of other experiment stations established in this period. Sturtevant was an M.D. but his major interests and work were in agriculture. One of his earliest appointments, however, was chemist S. Moulton Babcock, A.M., Ph.D. Babcock's major task was the analyses of feeds that Sturtevant was using in feeding studies on dairy cattle. He also made considerable progress on the development of a method to determine the butterfat content of milk before moving to Wisconsin in 1887. He completed the work there in 1890 and the method soon became famous and widely used.

In my own research at the Station and in writing the Station history, I have been impressed with the valuable contributions made by "non-professionals." G. A. Smith was one of these. Smith trained for the ministry but worked on a dairy farm due to ill health. He came to the Station in 1898 as Dairy Expert and later was Chief in Research until his retirement in 1921. We are indebted to his successor, A. C. Dahlberg, for recognizing and recording Smith's accomplishments. Smith was not adequately trained to originate and plan research programs, but he was a keen observer and identified problem areas which he called to the attention of others. He was an excellent collaborator. This attribute contributed to the fine cooperation with Station bacteriologists and chemists. Under Smith's supervision, the Station dairy herd was one of the first herds in the United

Glass Looks Back.....PART III

The Station Dairying Programs



Construction of the dairy barn.



Interior of the dairy barn.

States to be made free of bovine tuberculosis while it was maintained as a diseased herd. It may be difficult today to realize the importance of this accomplishment.

My grandfather, Edward Wellington (Richard and Joseph Wellington's father), was a dairy farmer in Waltham, MA. I recall hearing of the fear farmers had of this dreaded disease which often resulted in the destruction of the entire herd, an economic disaster for the farmer.

The Station had purchased 17 carefully selected mature Jersey cows from several New York farms during 1898 and 1899. One showed TB symptoms in 1900 and was destroyed. Eight of the remaining tested positive. The future of the herd was in question along with a very considerable investment. Smith, H. A. Harding and V. A. Moore (N.Y.S. Veterinary College) initiated the use of the then new and untested "Bang method" of eliminating the disease from a herd. It was accomplished by isolating all diseased cows including those testing positive. The calves of these animals are born disease free and were immediately separated from the mothers. Milk from infected cows was made safe by pasteurization. By 1905, the Station had a herd of 30 healthy cows. (Station Bul. 277)

This was one of the first successful uses of the Bang method in the United States. The method was developed by a Danish veterinarian, Dr. Bang, and used when bovine tuberculosis was endemic in that country.

Dahlberg was further impressed with Smith's skill as a herdsman when he learned that the average per cow milk production of the Station herd was twice the New York State average for Jersey cows.

Director Thatcher replaced Smith with

Dr. A. C. Dahlberg, a former Thatcher graduate student majoring in biochemistry, who was reared on a dairy farm, had experience as a creamery extension agent and two years superintendent of a co-operative creamery. He gave him a mandate to develop a dairy product research program and provided him with two assistants. He also asked him to document the elimination of TB from the Station dairy herd.

Dahlberg compiled a very impressive record of personal achievements and developed a highly respected dairying program.

He encouraged continued collaboration with Station bacteriologists and chemists and personally solved several industry problems including a patented process for producing cream cheese without free water. Production of this product in New York doubled within three years of this discovery. I do not have space here to even mention a number of other Dahlberg contributions made prior to the transfer of Dairying, including Dr. Dahlberg and his position to Ithaca in 1943.

Dr. Dahlberg continued the encouragement of the bacteriologists' efforts toward safer dairy products and improved sanitation on dairy farms and in dairy processing plants. Drs. Breed, Hucker, and Conn were widely respected in these fields. As a result of the recognition of all these activities in herd management, dairy sanitation, product safety, and the food industry, many visitors came to Geneva and a number of organizations held meetings here.

It was during Director Hedrick's administration that an annual "Dairy Day" was established in early August. It continued into Parrott's administration when World War II prevented such affairs. *(continued on page 4)*

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 20-27, 1996

EVENTS/MEETINGS

Saturday, September 21, 6:00 pm
Geneva Country Club, Lochland Road
Retirement Party for Bernadine Aldwinckle

Wednesday, September 25, 3:00 pm
Director's Office, Jordan Hall
Research Department Chairs' Meeting

SEMINARS

FOOD SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Date: Tuesday, September 24
Time: 10:30 am
Place: FST Conference Room, Second Floor
Speaker: Tina Carrasco, Ph.D.
Department of Food Science and Technology
Topic: Human visual perception of haze and relationships with instrumental measurements of turbidity

PLANT PATHOLOGY

Date: Tuesday, September 24
Time: 3:30 pm
Place: Room A133, Barton Lab
Speaker: Barb Hall
Primary Industries, South Australia
Adelaide, Australia
Topic: Finance, fungi and the future or "how we do things down under"

PLANT PATHOLOGY

Date: Wednesday, September 25
Time: 3:30 pm
Place: Room A133, Barton Lab
Speaker: Tim Paulitz
McGill University
Montreal, Quebec
Senior Editor—*Phytopathology*
Topic: Biocontrol of apple scab with leaf decomposing fungi

FOOD SCIENCE STOCK ROOM

Going-Out of Business Sale

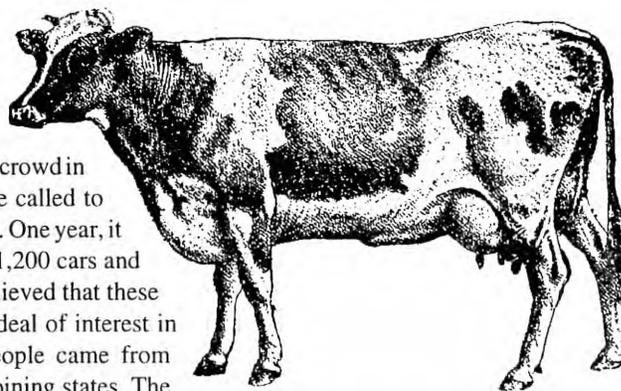
Department/Units can take advantage of
60% savings during the week of September 23

Sale Hours:

Monday-Thursday 8:00-Noon and 1:00-5:00;
Friday 8:00-Noon and 1:00-4:00

(DAIRY, continued)

The first Dairy Day was a great success according to all accounts. There was inadequate space to park the cars and it was difficult to handle the crowd in attendance. State troopers were called to assist in succeeding Dairy Days. One year, it was estimated that there were 1,200 cars and 5,000 people. Dr. Dahlberg believed that these Dairy Days promoted a great deal of interest in dairy research technology. People came from throughout New York and adjoining states. The success of the Dairy Days was testimony to the strength of the Station's dairying programs. It is unlikely that this success did not go unnoticed in Ithaca and Albany.



We are indebted to Professor Dahlberg for recording information about the very valuable and colorful Station herdsman, William Casey. His career began during Jordan's administration and must have continued into the late 1930s. Dahlberg described him as "... a character all of his own. He was enthusiastic about everything that he did and he inherited a natural wit and ability to entertain and it was appreciated by everyone." He was a well known old-time fiddler for square dances who was broadcast during Farm and Home Week several times, and at sales of the New York State Jersey Cattle Club. Most Jersey breeders in New York State and vicinity who knew Casey would stop to chat. One of these visitors looking at a less than perfect cow, said to Casey, "If Dr. Dahlberg knows so much about breeding, why does he have a cow looking like that in the dairy barn?" Casey replied without hesitation, "He breeds dairy cows. He does not whittle them out."

Behind all this wit, there was a tragic story. Few people who visited the Casey home knew that his wife was a complete invalid from arthritis and was fixed in a sitting position. Casey had brought a hospital bed into the home and personally cared for her throughout a period of more than fifteen years before she died. He bought her a very small lap dog which was her constant companion as she sat in the chair perfectly helpless. "On many occasions I would see this little dog mind her as if she were able to force him to do what she wanted and he was her constant companion while Casey was at work. There was more to Casey than his wit and his friendly spirit," wrote Dahlberg.

Ed Glass
September 13, 1996

CLASSIFIEDS

BEACH HOUSE FOR RENT: Lovely "Fall Foliage" weekend rentals on Canandaigua Lake. Call Elaine at x253.

GARAGE SALE: Friday, September 20, beginning at 4:00 pm. 652 West North Street. Items include: Sharp 14" color TV with remote control, heater, fan, kitchen stuff, some clothes and shoes, humidifier, lamps and more.

FOR RENT: Ten-minute drive from Station. Unfurnished modern country four-bedroom house with two-car garage. Includes washer, dryer, range, refrigerator, dishwasher, and microwave. Available October 1. Call 789-0770.

FOR SALE: Electric stove in good working condition. Asking \$35. Call 716-526-5840 after 6pm.

FREE: Kitten in good health. Call x254 or 585-2259.

FOR RENT: Two-bedroom apartment on Castle Street within walking distance to Station. Off-street parking. No pets. \$425/month, heat included. Call Dave at 789-4428.

REMINDERS

Don Lipker - Charlie D'Amico - Tom Bryan Retirement Party

Thursday, October 17, 1996 • Club 86
Call B&P at x301 to sign up.

Bonnie Carney Retirement Dinner

Friday, October 25 • Holiday Inn in Waterloo
6:00 pm—Social Hour • 7:00 pm—Dinner
See last week's Station News for a sign-up or call Nancy Staton at x323

Finger Lakes Quilt Guild Presents Piece Work Possibilities Quilt Show
Saturday, September 21

10:00 am-5:00 pm • Auditorium, Jordan Hall
Admission—\$2.00 • Raffle—Door Prizes