

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 18, 1988

STATION NOTES

NEW APPLE VARIETY NAMED THIS WEEK RESEMBLES 'EMPIRE'

A new apple variety that has a pedigree dating back more than two and one-half centuries was named this week during a meeting of the New York State Fruit Testing Cooperative Association Inc. in Jordan Hall.

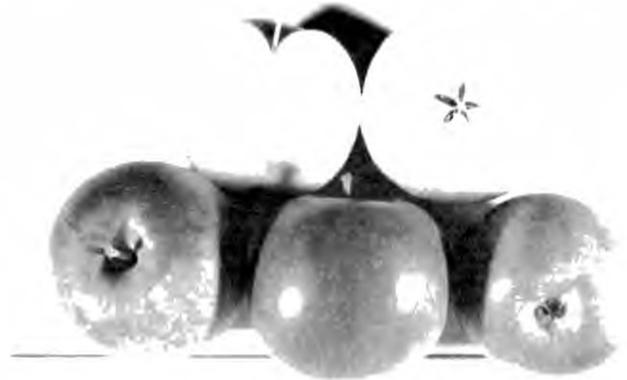
'Empress,' described by emeritus professor of pomology Dr. Roger D. Way as "semi-firm and snappy with good color, texture, size and taste," becomes the first apple named at the Station since "Freedom" in 1983.

It is very similar in appearance and some characteristics to the 'Empire' apple (named in 1966). The big difference is that Empress ripens a month earlier than Empire, an important facet of apple marketing in New York State.

"This earlier availability of fruit is a very real plus," Way says. "It means that quality New York State apples will be available to consumers well before many other varieties, and that represents a variety of benefits, both to the grower and the public."

Way and support specialist Ken Livermore have been working on Empress for two decades. The original cross was made by Dr. Frederic Hough at Rutgers University in New Jersey in 1969. Seedlings were sent to the Station, and some were planted both in Geneva and in New Jersey.

The New Jersey pursuit of an earlier-maturing apple was discontinued, however the effort here produced one lone seedling that survived a first test for numerous qualities important for commercial success. It was designated "NY651" and four buds were combined with a standard dwarfing Malling-Merton 106 rootstock (from England). After a year in the nursery, the four infant trees were planted in an orchard. Four years later, the trees began fruiting and for the past five years, both tree and fruit



INTRODUCING... **EMPRESS** NEW YORK'S NEWEST APPLE

characteristics have been carefully scrutinized. It has been available for testing as NY651 for several seasons.

"Our observations lead us to believe that this variety will gain good acceptance," Way says. "It has an attractive red color and when left on the tree until maturity reaches about 90 percent redness. In some cases, the apple becomes completely red." He adds that its size (about 2 and 7/8 inches) and its shape resemble the Empire.

"It has an excellent eating quality, with a good balance of sugars, acids and tannins that produce a highly flavorful aroma," Way says.

(Continued on Page 2)

STATION PEOPLE HAVE NOW WORKED 192 DAYS WITHOUT A LOST-TIME ACCIDENT

Helpful harvesting equipment can be dangerous. Use it safely!

SEMINARS

ENTOMOLOGY

Date: Tuesday, September 20
 Time: 3:30 p.m.
 Place: Room 310, Barton Lab
 Speaker: Dr. Alan Devonshire
 Rothamsted Experiment Station, U.K.
 Subject: The biochemical and genetic basis of insecticide resistance in peach-potato aphids, *Myzus persicae*

PLANT PATHOLOGY

Date: Wednesday, September 21
 Time: 3:45 p.m.
 Place: Room A-133, Barton Lab
 Speaker: Hans VanEtten
 Subject: Importance of phytoalexin detoxifier for pathogenicity and its practical application

ANNUAL COLLEGE INFORMATION PROGRAM SCHEDULED

Parents and families of prospective college-bound students are invited to Cornell's College Information Program on Sunday, October 2 from 2:30-3:30 p.m. in 120 Ives Hall. During the afternoon, information about the college admissions process, opportunities at Cornell and information about financial aid and financing programs will be presented. All high school students and their families are welcome to attend, with a special invitation to high school juniors and seniors.

'EMPRESS' (Continued from Page One)

The parents of Empress are the 'Jonamac,' introduced at the Station in 1972, and a New Jersey-bred apple, the 'Vista Bella.' Jonamac is the result of a cross of 'McIntosh' and 'Jonathan.' McIntosh was first found in the St. Lawrence River valleys in 1780 as a wild fencerow variety. Jonathan is a variety from the Hudson Valley and is believed to have been named for then-prominent agriculturalist Johnathan Hausbrouck in the early 19th Century.

Way says Empress will capture the attention of apple growers for at least two reasons. "Unlike many varieties that produce well every other year, the Empress is an annual cropper with consistently good yield. And," he adds, "the apple is the product of a relatively small tree, enabling growers to plant more trees per acre, thus increasing profits."

WOMAN TOPS LADDER FOR THE FIRST TIME

Following victories over three of the top five seeded male players in the Station's tennis league, Denby Misurelli last week became the first female player to top the ladder. She defeated Ed Lavin, Joe Kovach and Wendell Roelofs on her way to the top spot. In other action: Abawi def. Roelofs; Larsson def. Gray.

348	Denby Misurelli	345	Tim Dennehy
209	Joe Kovach	264	[Diane Barrett]
374	George Abawi	375	Bob Parker
361	Wendell Roelofs	781-0544	Susan Dennehy
240	Ed Lavin	233	Jim Cummins
364	Jim Ottea	239	Bruce Reisch
345	Chris Hoffman	312	Tom Burr
338	Pim Larsson	246	Cathy Matteson
362	Walter Wolf	789-9429	Irka Knipple
325	Donna Gray	253	Joseph Gotham
392	Martin Goffinet	361	Charles Linn
206	Curt Petzoldt	364	David Sun
225	Rixana Petzoldt	390	Jim McPherson
362	[Geoffrey Rule]		

INCLUSIONS SOUGHT FOR 'CONNECTING WITH CORNELL'

A Sept. 30 deadline has been set for items to be included in the 1989 edition of "Connecting with Cornell."

This publication, produced at Cornell-Ithaca, lists major conferences, symposia, distinguished lecture series, special-interest meetings and other activities that offer opportunities for interaction and transfer of technological information within the Cornell academic community. Several Geneva activities have been included in recent editions.

Individuals having editorial contributions for "Connecting with Cornell" may contact Station department and unit heads. Editor of the publication is Anna Moratz, 312 Day Hall (8-5-8607), or call Communications Services, ext. 248, for further information.

TABLES TURNED: STATION IS SUBJECT OF RESEARCHERS

A delegation of officials from the University of Georgia Experiment Station, led by Dr. B. P. Verma, spent two days in Geneva last week studying how best to conduct an open house. Theirs is coming up later this fall in Griffin, GA.

OPEN HOUSE '88 YEAR OF THE BUG YEAR OF THE BUS

Buses and bugs figured prominently in the recent Open House, along with thousands of curious and interested visitors.

Friday was the day for youngsters and oldsters. What seemed like a never-ending stream of students (with varying attention spans) and their science teachers wended through laboratories and greenhouses, and some showed a surprising grasp of Station activities. Yellow and black vehicles, from Gorham, Prattsburg, Naples, Trumansburg and dozens of other school districts, dotted the parking lots behind Jordan Hall and the Sawdust Cafe. Hundreds of retirees also chose to attend Friday, many of them former Station employees, their friends or relatives.

Bugs also made news. About two dozen cabbage looper moth pupae disappeared down the throat of Wendell Roelofs as he amused and confounded wide-eyed visitors, describing the snack as tasting like "bland peanut butter." And bees were among the visitors. A large hive was visible on the south veranda of Parrott Hall, and the only first-aid assistance needed was to tend to two bee stings.

The next few pages document some Open House activities and represent the photo offerings of the Communications Services staff, with one or two provided courtesy of photographers from the *Finger Lakes Times*.



FRIDAY RIBBON-CUTTING MAKES FOOD VENTURE CENTER OFFICIAL

New York State and Cornell University officials were on hand for the official ribbon cutting to open the Food Venture Center outside the Food Research Labs during the first day of Open House. Shown as part of the party are, from left, Station Director Bob

Plane, CALS Dean Dave Call, State Assemblyman Frank Talomie, State Senator John R. Kuhl, NYS Ag and Markets Commissioner Donald Butcher, Center Manager Don Downing and several interested onlookers.



Above, clowns Emo and Cricket kept kids and adults amused and well-supplied with gifts. Below, this video-viewing pair found comfort even in the narrow basement halls of Barton Lab.



Top, Wendell Roelofs chats with well-known agricultural journalists/broadcasters Doc and Katy Abraham of Naples. Above, Gary Harman describes an exhibit comparing seeds treated with bioprotectants with others that were not. Below, members of Jordan Hall Administration acted as tour bus starters and loaders during both Open House days.





Clockwise from top left: Jim Tette and Ron Pool brief Cornell Extension Director Lucinda Noble, Ithaca, on a fine point of Integrated Pest Management; Mark McLellan (top of photo) chats with Commissioner Butcher, State Senator Kuhl, Dean Call, Assemblyman Talomie and others in the FST Pilot Plant; Horticultural Sciences' George MacDonald answers a question about snap beans in the Raw Products Building; Spry clowning around with a fascinated youthful visitor and her mother; Alan Lakso talking about the electronic apple tree in the Barton Lab lobby; Nancy (Pettrone) Long, one of many tireless volunteers in charge of the food tent.





Above left, Veronica Bailey and Julia Stearman were two of several volunteers staffing the souvenir cap, shirt and apron concession booth. Sales for all three items were brisk. Above right, Director Plane

samples the latest food fad at Barton Lab, moth pupae. Below, Cy Lee holds the audience in rapt attention as he describes some facets of his work in Food Science & Technology.



CHAIRMAN PAT KRAUSS REFLECTS ON OPEN HOUSE IMPACT

Another Open House is history. Some 8,000-10,000 individuals from throughout the Northeastern United States and others as far away as Georgia, Michigan, and Nigeria attended the two-day event.

We could not have asked for better weather or for the campus, buildings, and farms to be in better shape. The work that all employees did in preparing for the Open House, and particularly that of Farm Services, Buildings and Properties, and Horticultural Sciences Farm Crews, was outstanding. It is only through a team effort that something like this can be successful.

Although we would have liked more people to attend, the major objectives for having the Open House were realized. Thousands of people were able to see firsthand what an agricultural experiment station is and how the research and extension programs in which we are involved affect their daily food supply. We had excellent response from the media, and, if past history is any indication, stories will continue to appear in

OBJECTIVES OUTLINED DURING VIP LUNCHEON

"We must protect the environment and still provide quality foodstuffs."

So said David L. Call, Dean, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at a special luncheon held on Friday of the Open House for local and state officials and certain representatives of Geneva and New York's food industry. The Dean went on to say that for every dollar invested in agricultural research, teaching, and extension activities, two are returned to the economy.

In his welcoming remarks, Director Robert A. Plane stated that the Station has three very important alliances. The first is with Cornell University, the second with the U. S. Department of Agriculture and its various programs, and the third with the food industry of New York. The Director went on to explain the purposes of the Food Venture Center which was officially opened following lunch and closed by saying, "Agriculture is our Number One industry in New York. We want to keep it that way, and marketing is the name of the game. We have got to find new ways of keeping New York State products competitive with other regions. That is our assignment for the future."

publications and on television for many months to come.

In addition, nearly 2,000 school children saw science in action. A special thank you is extended to Bernadine Aldwinckle who worked so hard and did such a beautiful job on the coloring book. We continue to be inundated with requests for this book since the Open House.

So, all in all, it was a highly successful Open House. Again, on behalf of the Dean, the Director, and the Planning Committee, thanks and our deepest appreciation is extended to all employees of the Station.

SURPLUS EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE

The following items are surplus equipment available from the Plant Pathology department. You may take a look at this equipment by contacting Linda Jensen, X331. Please submit sealed bids for each item that you would like to Linda Jensen, not later than 5 p.m., Thursday, September 22. A cashier's check must be submitted as payment within three working days following bid opening. Bids will be opened in Room A-104, 1 p.m., Friday, September 23. The Plant Pathology department reserves the right to reject any and all bids on a particular item.

1. Thermolyne Muffle Furnace - approximately 15 years old, never used, very good condition, without controller.
2. U.S. Stoneware Bottle Mixers (2) - rotating mixers for heavy loads (bottles, soil samples, etc.). Very good condition, never used.

CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE: Forty-four key, 1986 Casio MT-36 electronic keyboard. Has 4 preset rhythms, 6 preset instruments, comes with Casio AC adapter and beginner's music book. \$70. Also, an arm chair (possibly antique), needs reupholstering. \$25. Call 789-8763 after 4 p.m.

WANTED: Playpen in good condition. Call 789-7286.

FOR SALE: A pair of Goodyear Tracker XG snowtires, G78-15LT, load range C, only used 15,000 miles. Call Jay Freer, X216.



POLICIES, PROCEDURES AND PEOPLE

Who's New

David Sun, a new technician, is working with Doug Knipple in Entomology.

Zhongbo Ren, visiting scientist, is working the Terrence Robinson and Gerry Marx in Horticultural Sciences.



Interested Listeners- This quartet of young Open House visitors seem intent on learning more about a favorite summer food from Jim Ballerstein in the Raw Products Building.

A Special Thanks

I would like to thank all the retirees who helped out at the food booth during Open House. A sincere thank-you goes to the non-retirees, Nancy Long, Liz Capozzi and Millie Pettrone. A special thanks to Dave Lasher and his men at B&P for the great job they did in setting up and helping out when we needed them. Thank you all! The food booth was a great success.

Joe Pettrone

Missing from the Library

663.2 The Cider Makers Handbook
T75 by J. M. Towbridge

Congratulations

Congratulations to Mark and Deanne McLellan (Food Science) on the birth of daughter Amanda Bernadette, Sunday, September 11.

SAFETY-WISE ADVICE

REMINDER: Don't forget to turn off and/or unplug coffee makers at the end of the day. Security has recently found several still on while making their rounds.