



STATION NEWS

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Geneva, N. Y.

THE MOLD COUNT SCHOOL

The eleventh annual mold count school for training technicians for mold counting for the quality control of tomato products convenes today in Daguerre Hall for a ten-day session. The Association of New York State Canners, under the direction of William H. Sherman, Secretary, is sponsoring the school, as usual, and Mr. Howard Smith of the National Canners Association in Washington, D. C., is supervising the instructional staff. Doctor Carl S. Pederson is in charge of local arrangements, such as housing the school, equipment, rooms for the students, etc. Mr. Marion Hoy of the American Can Company and Mr. Virgil Troy of the Continental Can Company, both of Chicago, are assisting Mr. Smith in instructional work. At press time 28 students had registered for the course--25 women and 3 men, demonstrating once again how the ladies are preempting a field once dominated by the sterner sex. Can it be that the ladies have sharper eyes and are more readily adapted to carrying out the precise details of the procedures employed in the operations than mere men? Echo answers that it may well be so. At any rate there are the figures. The examination of tomato products for the presence of molds serves as a check on the sanitation of the processing plant and the efficiency of the processing operation and is widely used by tomato canners as an aid in maintaining high-quality products. While the technicians assembled here this week come chiefly from New York State canning factories, enrollment is not restricted to New York State and there are some workers here from Pennsylvania and one young lady from the State of Maine. Her employer is interested primarily in packing blueberries, in which operation much the same technic of mold counting is employed as is used for tomatoes. The school will continue through August 6th.

SOIL CONSERVATION

Representatives of the operational division of the Soil Conservation Service visited the Station last Thursday and inspected work under way here under the supervision of Mr. E. A. Carleton. The group was participating in what was called a "Zone Office Week" which comprised a tour beginning at Upper Darby, Pa., and including stops at Elmira, Ithaca, and Geneva with visits to SCS projects enroute.

TO START SEPT. 1

The appointment of David R. Rodney as Assistant Professor in Pomology, effective September 1st, has been approved. Mr. Rodney will fill the position vacated by Professor R. W. Bledsoe and will engage in physiological investigations of nursery stocks. Professor Rodney received his B. S. degree from the University of Missouri and the M. S. degree from Ohio State University. He has also completed work for the Ph. D. degree from Ohio State where he has been employed as a graduate assistant in the Department of Horticulture. He served in the Chemical Warfare Service of the U. S. Army from September 1941 to December 1945.

WELCOME BACK, BILL!

Bill Tapley was released from the hospital last week and has made brief visits to his office in Hedrick Hall. He is making good progress toward recovery from his bout with the starting gun of the Geneva Yacht Club, for which we are all truly grateful.

"THE VIGOR AND VITALITY OF VARIOUS VEGETABLES"--Bill Schroeder overheard talking to visitors in the greenhouse.

ALUMNI RETURN

Two famous alumni of the Station "Campus" returned during the past few days to view the scenes of their early triumphs. Harold Tukey accompanied fruit growers from Michigan who took part in the tour through western New York July 19 and 20. Dr. Tukey was accompanied by Ronnie. (Incidentally, instead of the 150 growers who were expected, as noted in last week's NEWS, the numbers swelled to nearer 250, including many New York growers who joined the caravan). The other alumnus was Jim Horsfall, now Director of the Connecticut Experiment Station at New Haven. Jim was accompanied by his immediate predecessor, former Director W. L. Slate, who is well known here at the Station. Jim made himself solid with at least one stenographer when he told her she was the only person on the Staff who had not aged during the years of his absence from Geneva. Jim is evidently quick to learn the technic of his new position!

MET PEA CANNERS

Doctor Carruth was in Rochester Monday for a conference of pea processors called by the Association of New York State Canners to discuss the pea weevil problem. Canners were fairly successful in holding the pest in check this season and are planning a clean-up campaign to reduce infestations next year.

ATTENDED FIELD DAY

Professor Munn, Mr. Patrick, and Doctor Foster were in Ithaca Monday for a field day for seed growers and the seed trade in general when the Departments of Vegetable Crops, Agronomy, Plant Breeding, and Plant Pathology at the College of Agriculture cooperated in showing the research work under way on seed crops and on new varieties of field crops. The New York State Seed Improvement Association also held a meeting during the day.

AMONG THE VISITORS

Mr. R. Newbold of Palmerston North, New Zealand, who is engaged in food research at the Grassland Research Station at that place, spent two days at the Station in conference with members of the Division of Food Science and Technology. Mr. Lawrence Southwick, formerly of the Massachusetts Experiment Station and now with the Dow Chemical Company, Midland, Mich., called on members of the Pomology, Plant Pathology, and Entomology Divisions in connection with work on chemical weed killers, plant nutrients, insecticides, and fungicides.

VETERANS

As an aftermath of the visit here on July 1st of the teachers of vocational agriculture, a number of the teachers are returning to the Station with groups of World War II veterans who are enrolled in VA on-the-farm training programs. Most of these men own and operate their own farms and are keenly interested in the work of the Station. Two groups are visiting the Station this week and several others are scheduled for later dates.