



STATION NEWS

Vol. 58, No. 17

April 23, 1952

Geneva, N. Y.

OFF TO AN EARLY START

The balmy days of the past week sent your inquiring reporter out into the sunshine of early spring to watch the operations of the dirt-moving contraptions that are performing such spectacular tasks in constructing the heating plant connections and to observe preparations for the season's activities on the Station farm. The concensus of opinion seems to be that we are off to an earlier start than usual, probably a week to ten days earlier than "normal", providing we don't get an April blizzard within the next few days. Vegetable Crops reports the earliest planting of peas for the past three years with the start that was made on the Fruit Breeding Farm last Saturday. They hope to have most, if not all, of their pea planting done by the end of this week.

Seed Investigations has removed the winter covering from its field trial plantings of perennial flower seeds, including an array of pansies which are making quite a brave showing. The seed testers have also laid out trial plantings of clovers and of lawn grass and grass seed mixtures which should be quite revealing as to the merits of various type mixtures.

Pomology has about completed pruning and fertilizing operations in the Station fruit plantings and the fruit breeders are now at work cross-pollinating apricots, with peaches next on the list.

Plant Pathology and Entomology completed dormant spraying sometime ago and now are busy getting on the first protective sprays for apple scab, which is ready to break forth with the first rainy spell, and the early insect sprays. Aphids were hatching out last week and many other little pests will soon be out in force.

And Food Science is readying its pilot plant equipment for processing peas from the Vegetable Crops variety trials, and is making plans for initiating studies on cherry "scald", a defect of frozen cherries that is bothering processors.

And of course to the ever-industrious Publications Division, spring means more visitors and, believe it or not, preliminary planning for the State Fair which will also be earlier than "normal" this year, opening as it will on August 30th.

COUNTY DOG WARDENS CONVENE

County dog wardens of western New York held a meeting in Jordan Hall at the call of Rodney W. Pease, Director of Dog Licensing, New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets. Provisions of the recently enacted Metcalf-Hatch law were discussed. Mr. Pease is well known around the Station as former Ontario County Agricultural Agent.

NUTRITION CONFERENCES

Doctor Hand left yesterday for two nutrition conferences. The first is a meeting of The Nutrition Foundation at Skytop, Pa., today and tomorrow, and will be followed by the semi-annual meeting of the Food Nutrition Board in Washington Friday and Saturday.

BLUE RIBBON WINNERS

Scout Troop 4 under the direction of Max Patterson and Andy Rice carried off a blue ribbon award at the Keseca District Boy Scout Exposition in the Armory last Saturday. The boys put on an exhibit and demonstration of Indian lore, including the making of bows, Indian costumes, headdresses, etc.

FARM RESEARCH QUARTERLIES

Hawaii Farm Science is the latest in a new rash of popular farm research quarterlies spring up over the country. Tennessee, Arkansas, New Jersey, Texas, West Virginia, and Wyoming have also announced plans for similar mediums, according to a news letter circulated from the Office of Experiment Stations in the USDA. Last fall a subcommittee on publications of the Experiment Station Committee on Organization and Policy of the Land-Grant College Association suggested more general adoption of this means of supplementing formal reports and bulletins issued by experiment stations. In 1951, nineteen stations were issuing popular periodicals of this type.

WANTS MORE FAILURES

Wheeler McMillen, editor of Farm Journal, puts up an argument in favor of more failures at experiment stations. Writing in his editorial column in the May issue, he says, "More failures should take place at the state experimental stations. Nearly every station is under pressure from farmers and from the legislature to keep turning out successes. Therefore the stations are reluctant to work on important ventures that could yield big results, but might fail. The risk of failure raises the fear of criticism. Some research is bound to fail. That's the only way to find out what will not work, as well as what will work. More failures in research mean more big accomplishments."

IT'S NEW

Bulletin No. 749 by Prof. C. B. Sayre and Dr. M. T. Vittum was delivered by the printer last week and is now available in the Bulletin Room. The title: "Effect of Different Sources of Fertilizer Nutrients and Different Rates of Fertilizer Applications on Yields of Vegetable Canning Crop--Beets, Cabbage, Peas, Sweet Corn, and Tomatoes."

A FIRST FOR DON

Don Barton is convinced now that there are trout in Seneca Lake, or at least that there was one in Kashong Creek, for he caught his first New York State trout--a fine rainbow--at 5:10 the other morning in that stream. He hung his head in shame, however, as he confessed he caught it on a worm. But the fish is what counts, whether caught with worms, salt pork, sawbelly, or Don's favorite fly. For the moment he is Station fish champion and wins the NEWS trophy for the week--a free subscription for 1952-53!

TOP MAN

Leon Jones accompanied the Town Pump bowlers to the State tournament in Kingston over the week-end. High man for the team, his all-events score was 1,782 and his best game score 234. With 1,569 teams competing, it will be along in May sometime before final standings are known.

FROM THE AIR

How we look from the air, tunnels and all, may be seen in two excellent aerial photos now on display on the bulletin board in Jordan Hall. The shots were made by Herb Schaeffer, Democrat & Chronicle news photographer, who was over Geneva last Thursday in a Gannett plane.

SCIENCE REPORTING

Worthy of special note is a brief article in Science for April 18th on "Reporting Science" by Frank Carey, science reporter for the Associated Press in Washington. Mr. Carey's advice to anyone desiring to become a science writer for newspapers is "Go get yourself a job on a small newspaper and go out and cover a fire." Having become proficient as a news writer, one must then train himself in all the fields of science in which he's likely to be called upon to write, says Carey. He then adds apropos of the writing that appears in most scientific journals that, "The technic of the science reporter, who attempts to make his articles understandable to everyone of average intelligence, might well be adopted by the scientists in their own league. In fact, it might step up circulation."

NAMES IN THE NEWS

W. E. Fleming, director of the Moorestown, N. J., laboratory of the U. S. Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, conferred with Doctors Tashiro and Gambrell yesterday on European chafer problems....The Herveys have returned from a ten-day trip through the Southland and tell about a visit with the Pearces in Savannah on Easter Sunday. They also had a brief chat with Doctor Mattson. The Pearces are all in excellent health and are looking forward to moving into their newly built home in the near future....Doctor Berglund and Doctor Kertesz attended the meeting of the Rochester Section of the American Chemical Society Monday night....We are happy to note that Janet Smith is rapidly recovering from a painful shoulder dislocation suffered in a fall Monday....Charles Lockett is receiving congratulations on his promotion to the post of City Editor on the Geneva Daily Times, effective May 1st....A quick round-up of potential bulletin manuscripts to be offered for publication in 1952 reveals a startling 23! Wanta bet on how many materialize by January 1 next?
