



STATION NEWS

Vol. 60, No. 11

March 18, 1953

Geneva, N. Y.

NOTED "ALUMNUS" DIES

Doctor E. B. Hart, retired University of Wisconsin biochemist, died at his home in Madison last week at the age of 78. Doctor Hart pioneered vitamin research at Wisconsin and is credited with establishing the functions of vitamin A and to have led the way in work on vitamin B. Born in Sandusky, Ohio, Hart studied at the Universities of Marburg and Heidelberg, Germany, and began his professional career as an assistant chemist at this Station in 1897. He advanced to the rank of associate chemist before leaving Geneva in 1906 to accept a position at the University of Wisconsin. While a member of the Station staff, Doctor Hart published extensively on the chemistry of cheese and cheese ripening. In 1941 he received the Borden Award of the American Dairy Science Association for his research on the chemistry of milk.

WHEN WE WERE YOUNG

The celebration of Frank E. Newton's 90th birthday last Monday brings to mind many of the stories of the early days at the Station that he delights to recount. Arriving in Geneva late in the year 1883 to go to work for a Doctor Sturtevant whom he thought was a physician, Mr. Newton found himself installed as the secretary to the Station's first Director and continued to serve here in a secretarial capacity for more than forty years, retiring in 1928. And one of his first tasks was to learn how to spell "agricultural". A graduate of Chaffee's Phonographic Institute in Oswego, Mr. Newton tells about the interest of Station visitors in watching him operate a "caligraph" which he believes to be the first typewriter in Geneva. (N.B. Station visitors still eye Station stenographers but for a different reason!) Listed on the Station staff when Frank Newton arrived in Geneva were men whose names were to stand at the top of their various fields of endeavor, including C. S. Plumb in animal husbandry, E. S. Goff in horticulture, J. C. Arthur in botany, and S. M. Babcock and E. F. Ladd in chemistry, with Doctor Ladd winding up his career in the U. S. Senate.

95 YEARS YOUNG

The older generation takes top-billing in the week's news. On Sunday, Dr. Liberty Hyde Bailey celebrated the 95th anniversary of his birth, and he is being saluted again as he has been on numerous occasions in the past when folks thought he was closing the book on his productive years. A serious leg fracture which he sustained about three years ago only postponed Dr. Bailey's activities for awhile. Though his vision has dimmed, the former Dean of the College of Agriculture remains as acute as ever. The spring issue of Mega, a publication of the Men's Garden Clubs of America, has been dedicated to this horticulturist and includes tributes from many of the scientists who have worked with him. In the words of Dr. Clement G. Bowers, "He has walked with giants, surveyed the world from mountain tops, and stopped to share his vision.....with the man who digs in the soil".

TO SPEAK AT ITHACA SEMINAR

Doctors Vittum and Barton will be members of the audience when two Geneva workers speak at a Vegetable Crops Seminar at the College of Agriculture tomorrow. Mr. Patterson will discuss his current studies under the title of "Spraying Tomatoes with Calcium to Improve Firmness", and Mr. Peck will tell about his irrigation studies on canning crops.

VISITORS

Mr. Stuart E. Hubbard, prominent fruit grower from Poughkeepsie, visited the Station last week to discuss size-controlling rootstocks with Prof. Brase, and to say hello to other Station friends....Yesterday afternoon, members of the Canandaigua Botanical Society spent some time in the greenhouse where some of the work was explained by Messrs Barton, Szkolnik, Klein, and Society-member Hartzell....Also at the Station yesterday was Mr. Clayton Bartley of the Geigy Company at Bayonne, N. J. He met with several of the entomologists in a discussion of new insecticides....Tomorrow afternoon, Leslie Athawes, former Station worker who now directs the activities of young farmers in the Penn Yan area, will bring his group here for a quick look at some of the seasonal work.

TALKS SLATED

Max Patterson has a close schedule for tomorrow P.M. As soon as he gives his seminar at Ithaca, he'll hit the road for Holcomb where he is to address a meeting of growers for the W. N. Clark Co. His topic will be "Weed Control for Canning Crops".....Mr. Klein will give a repeat of his Elmira Hort Society talk on Thursday evening when he speaks to the Genesee Valley Gladiolus Society at the Rochester Museum of Arts & Sciences. He'll talk about plant-hybridization, with emphasis on gladiolus and small fruits.

SIGMA XI ELECTION RESULTS

Dr. Holley has been voted chairman of the Geneva Branch of the Cornell Chapter of the Society of Sigma Xi for the coming year. In that capacity, he'll also serve as a vice-president of the Ithaca group. Election Chairman W. T. Schreeder also announces that Doctors Avens and Barton have been elected new members of the executive committee.

EASTWARD HO!

Dr. Crosier will board a ship in New York next week for his trip to several countries in Europe. In addition to serving as an official U. S. delegate to the 10th congress of the International Seed Testing Association in Dublin the latter part of May, Dr. Crosier will meet with seed workers in Norway, Sweden, Denmark, The Netherlands, and England, to attempt the organization of a proposal for controlling the international movement of seeds, and for standardizing rules for the determination of seed-borne diseases. He expects to return to Geneva in June.

ATTEND CSEA MEET

The New York State Civil Service Employees Association held its annual meeting and dinner at Rochester on March 7th and the response from chapter representatives was very encouraging. Heretofore, the annual get-together has been held at Albany but the new policy will be to move the site from year to year. The Messers Munding, Bergstresser and Bruni represented the Geneva Chapter.

OTHER MEETINGS

Dr. Einset spent last Friday at the Brookhaven National Laboratory at Upton, L. I., where he met with members of the Biology Department to discuss proposed experiments on induced somatic mutations in economic plants.....Dr. Vittum took part in an irrigation conference at Ithaca on Monday.

COMING EVENTS

This Friday evening will find several affairs vying for the interest of Station people. At Olin Hall on the Ithaca campus, the Cornell Chapter of Sigma Xi will sponsor a talk by Vincent Schaefer, research chemist for the General Electric Research Laboratory. A pioneer in rain-making by seeding clouds, Mr. Schaefer has chosen "Experiments with Cloudy Skies" as his topic.....On the lighter side, Station Club bridge enthusiasts will meet in Jordan Hall for their monthly set-to..... And the chess clubbers will meet in a mental battle at the home of the LaBelles at 7:30 on the same evening.

SON OF ERIN

Our congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Jack Shannon on the arrival of Thomas Leo, weighing a husky 9 lbs. 7 oz., last week Tuesday. Their third child and third son was born at the Auburn Hospital.

MRS. STEINKRAUS' FATHER DIES

Our condolence go to Mrs. Keith Steinkraus who received word of the death of her father in Minnesota last week. He is survived by his widow and several children, all of whom, with the exception of Mrs. Steinkraus, live in Minnesota.

SMALL TALK

Mr. Slate will leave for Massachusetts, today, and will visit his mother at Bernardston. He also plans to take in the flower show at Boston....Kenny Braun had the cast removed from his mending arm just in time for two birthday parties which marked his attaining the ten-year mark on Monday....And we're happy to see that John Natti has improved to the point where he's able to be back at his job again.....That item about the subversive elements in the Station bowling team has achieved its purpose. The boys snapped out of their lethargy and made great strides toward the top of the ladder. They've helped to pinpoint the weak spot with the following statements of fact: The five regulars bowled in a match on Friday night and the team then stood in 11th place. On Saturday, they again kegled, but without the service of one of the regulars (we won't mention the name of this gladiolus-hybridizer), and the team wound up in 4th place....The Walter Clarks are going to move this week whether they want to or not. What has been their home at 346 Hamilton Street is being towed away to another foundation. Apparently they're taking the hint because they've found new quarters in Ithaca.....The first official day of spring hasn't yet arrived but workers at the greenhouse are speeding things along. New fruit seedlings have commenced their new season's growth and the flats of tomato seeds are showing bits of green.
