

The Station News

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May 18, 1932.

Geneva, N.Y.

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TAKING : Checking and double checking Station property has occupied the time of
STOCK : many members of the Staff the past few days following a request from
-----: Albany for a complete inventory of all that the Station owns. Heated
arguments center around the question as to whether the present value of an article
is 10 or 15 cents, but with it all we are gradually arriving at a much truer con-
ception of the actual value of the Station's possessions than most of us have ever
had. For example, by most conservative figuring, the exhibits in the museum, ex-
cluding the museum cases, have been valued at \$12,000; the books in the Library at
\$120,000; the stock of fruit and vegetable books published by the Station at \$95,000;
the supply of bulletins and circulars in the Mailing Room at \$23,000; and so on thru
the list. Also, a search of the contract covering the purchase of seats for the
auditorium in Jordan Hall showed that 670 seats were purchased in 1918. Today 666
seats are accounted for, all in good condition. Then, there is the question of a hair
ball taken from the stomach of a Station cow by George Smith, for many years head of
the Dairy Division. The ball is one of the show pieces of the Division and for years
has been used as a paper weight. What was its first cost? What is it worth now? And
most especially, what is the replacement cost? The fact that the Michigan Experiment
Station is known to have several bushels of very superior hair balls has had a
depressing effect upon the hair ball market. The hair ball was the first article
inventoried by the Dairy Division and at this writing the members of the Division
are still in a huddle evaluating this relic.

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BILL LYDON : Bill Lydon was operated upon yesterday at the Geneva General
IN HOSPITAL : Hospital for a rupture sustained from lifting some heavy milk cans
-----: in the Dairy Building last Saturday. The NEWS joins Bill's many
friends in the hope that his recovery will be rapid and complete.

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A LOSS TO : The retirement of Commissioner Pyrke from his position as head of
AGRICULTURE : the Department of Agriculture and Markets on July 1 will be a
-----: source of disappointment and regret to his many friends at the
Station and to agricultural circles in general thruout the State. Knowing his inter-
est in the Station and particularly in the Fruit Testing Association, it is to be
hoped that he will find many opportunities to keep in touch with his friends in
Geneva. Mr. Chas. H. Baldwin, who will succeed Commissioner Pyrke at Albany, is also
well known here for his connection with the State Dairymen's Association, the
Holstein-Friesian Association, and the State Agricultural Society. He has also admin-
istered for several years the State appropriations for State institution exhibits
at the State Fair out of which the exhibits of this Station are financed.

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NEW MAIL : Owing to pressure of other duties, Mr. Brown has found it necessary
SCHEDULE : to make a slight change in the schedule for mail delivery. Mail now
-----: leaves the Station for the post office at 7:00 a.m., 2:00 p.m., and
4:30 p.m. Mail is brought back and distributed at 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. During
July and August there will be no afternoon delivery on Saturdays. Also, there are no
mail trips either way on Sundays and holidays.

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FARM BUREAU : Mr. Simons, Mr. Foster and other officials of the Farm Bureau Office
CONFERENCE : at Ithaca met with the Farm Bureau agents and committeemen of nearby
-----: counties at Jordan Hall last week for a conference on the season's
activities.

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BACK ON : Mr. Donald Collins has returned from Harvard to continue his studies
THE JOB : on light and insect activities. At a recent conference in New York City
-----: of public utility officials considerable interest was shown in the
progress of this work and suggestions made for further expansion of Mr. Collins'
program. In addition to observations on the trapping of insects in apple orchards
by means of electric lights, Mr. Collins is studying the more fundamental aspects of
the problem of light attraction for insects of economic importance in New York
orchards.

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TALKED TO : Mr. Munn spoke last Thursday before the Newark Garden Club on
GARDENERS : "Gardens in Holland", and last night before a similar group in
-----: Phelps on "Seed Growing in Holland."

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PLEASEING : The other day Mr. Sayre received a letter from a canning company in
EVERYBODY : Spain requesting information about some of the canning crops work
-----: here. An interesting feature of the letter was that the stamps were
divided between those of the imperial regime of former King Alfonso and the present
republican government.

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ACCORDING TO : The Geneva Daily Times last week carried the announcement
THE PAPER : of the engagement of Miss Louise Wiederhold of Geneva to
-----: Mr. Hofer. Miss Wiederhold is a 1931 graduate of William Smith
College and is now teaching in the Henrietta, N.Y. High School.

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RED :
HATS? @ Our attention has been called to the fact that Vic Hopkins should have
-----: been included in the list of fire wardens given in these columns last
week. Mr. Hopkins is responsible for the spray shed. The question has also been raised
as to the desirability of the wardens wearing some distinctive head gear, such as
the "fire chief" hats distributed by a well-known oil company. We pass along the
suggestion to the Chief.

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THAT GOOD : The Dairy Division is featuring apricot and peach ice cream this
ICE CREAM : week at the usual rate of exchange. The new flavors are proving as
-----: popular as the fresh strawberry ice cream that appeared a few weeks
ago.

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PLEASE : The Station Parking Committee makes the earnest plea that all of those
MOVE UP! : who use the parking space along the abandoned car tracks place their
-----: cars as close to the center of the space in front of Jordan Hall as
circumstances will permit. Invariably, someone leaves his or her car right at the
east or west entrance to the space thus blocking traffic for later arrivals.

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WORDS OF : Two of the girls at the Station have scored high marks during the
APPRECIATION : past few days for courtesies and aid extended Station callers.
-----: At least two letters have been received from distinguished visitors
to the Station during the recent dairy meetings expressing appreciation of the
courtesies shown the writers by Miss Lee in the Bacteriology Laboratory. We are also
informed that in a recent conversation with officials of the local telephone company
the opinion was expressed that the young lady who handled the calls for the Seed
Laboratory had one of the most pleasing voices it had been their good fortune to
hear over the 'phone. For the benefit of the unmarried men on the Staff, Miss Sill's
number is extension 43.

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INSPECT : Mr. A.L. Bibbins, Manager of the G.L.F. Seed Service at Syracuse,
SEED WORK : and Mr. C.F. Barnum of the Eastern States Farmers Exchange, were recent
-----: visitors to the Seed Laboratory where they reviewed the Station's
seed program.

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GENEVA : The rotgraveure section of the Democrat and Chronicle for last
PICTURES : Sunday devoted a page to Geneva pictures. Among these was a pleasing
-----: likeness of the Director and a very good picture of the new building,
except that it was made before the decorative plantings were as far along as they
are now. The home of Dr. Fred Smith was also shown as an unusual type of Geneva
residence.

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THE PASSING OF : Newspaper accounts of the retirement of Mr. Peter Gruber,
"RATTLESNAKE PETE" : otherwise known as "Rattlesnake Pete", and the closing of
-----: his museum and "restaurant" in Rochester cannot fail but
bring a feeling of regret to many who have shuddered at the horrors depicted in his
exhibits and his snake collection and to those who have participated in the "initia-
tion" ceremonies at Pete's place for the benefit of new members of the Staff, par-
ticularly at the time of the winter meetings of the State Horticultural Society. In
our own limited experience the most satisfactory initiation was that of Harold Tukey
who pitted his strength against the electrically charged "muscle" machine, while the
least satisfactory experience was the attempt to beguile Olav Einset into penetrat-
ing the mysteries of certain mechanical devices operated by the management from his
place of concealment. Snake oil for rheumatism, the snake treatment for goiter, and
expert tattooing were only a few services Pete stood ready to render to his patrons.
Surely, a visit to Pete's was an experience not to be easily forgotten!