

STATION NEWS

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Geneva, N. Y.

ANNUAL FRUIT TOUR

Those swarms of cars and people who descended upon the Station yesterday morning were county agents, commercial men, and research and extension specialists on the first leg of their annual fruit tour. Places which they visited yesterday and the speakers were: Orchard 12 where Dr. Glass discussed codling moth experiments; the Wellington Orchard where Dr. Hamilton and Dr. Szkolnik are conducting scab control tests on a number of apple varieties as well as some cherry disease control tests; the Rootstock Farm and Prof. Brase's cherry leaf-spot work. After lunch, the group heard Dr. Glass explain leaf roller work at the Salisbury Farm and some more apple scab spray experiments by Dr. Hamilton and Dr. Szkolnik at the Wheeler Farm. At Sodus, this morning, Doctors Glass, Hamilton, Szkolnik, and Curtis will explain a long-term test relating various fungicides and insecticides to apple tree growth and production. For the rest of today, Doctors Hoffman and Fisher of the College will do the narrating. Tomorrow, the fruit men will spend the day in the Hudson Valley where Dr. Dean and Dr. Palmiter will further discuss insect and disease control work.

PLANT INTRODUCTION MEETING

Dr. A. F. Yeager of New Hampshire, Chairman of the Northeast Regional Plant Introduction Technical Committee, opened a two-day conference yesterday in Jordan Hall. Dr. Dolan made a report on the plant evaluation and propagation work. Also on the agenda were a regular business meeting and tours of the Plant Introduction facilities and plantings at the Station and at the Schroeder Farm.

CONCERNING CATASTROPHIC INSURANCE

Diedrich K. Willers, Cornell's Personnel Director, has sent us the following information concerning catastrophic insurance, which was discussed at recent meetings of the staff: "This spring, in conjunction with the New York Life Insurance Company, we conducted a solicitation for a major medical expense plan. In order for this plan to be effective, the State Insurance Law requires that 75% of the eligible employees enroll for coverage. We have achieved the necessary enrollment in many units. To accomplish this it has been necessary to revise the original eligibility and exclude for the present time departments whose enrollment has been less than 75%, as well as instructors, research associates, and some administrative employees. Eligible employees must be in residence.

"Up to the present time, members of the Geneva Station staff have not qualified for this coverage because of failure to achieve a 75% enrollment of those eligible. However, the enrollment period will remain open until November 1st, during which time applications will be received by the personnel office without evidence of insurability. Members will be eligible for coverage on the date the required 75% participation is obtained. Because of the revisions in eligibility, it has been necessary to make a slight adjustment in the monthly rates. A comparison of rates is as follows:

	<u>Orig. estimated rate</u>	<u>Final effective rate</u>
Employee	\$ 1.56	\$ 1.66
Employee and one dependent	3.56	3.80
Employee and more than one dependent	4.57	4.89

"There have been no revisions in the benefits of the plan as originally presented".

GENEVA REVISITED

There were many happy handshakes last week as Prof. and Mrs. M. T. Munn made their long-looked-for Geneva visit a reality. The former head of the Station's Seed Investigations Department retired two years ago on August 1st. The Munn's then left for California where they have found much happiness in their new home near their children and grandchildren. Their return trip to Geneva began several weeks ago with stopoffs at the seed meeting in Iowa and at the University of Michigan where they visited son Irving. They plan to be in Geneva for at least the rest of this week.

AG TEACHERS VISIT

Nine high school agricultural teachers came up from Susquehanna County, Pa., on Monday afternoon to become acquainted with the Station work. They saw and heard about irrigation, fruit-breeding, rootstocks, seed-testing, the Pilot Plant work, and white grape juice.

MORE TEACHERS TOMORROW

A visit to the Geneva Experiment Station has become a regular feature of the summer class in Conservation at the Cortland State Teachers College. Tomorrow, the group will spend the day here and will hear about work in seed investigations, plant introduction, fruit-breeding, rootstocks, irrigation, the Pilot Plant, taste-testing, and the development of white grape juice. Professor William B. Clemens is the class instructor. An interesting twist will be given to the tour when they visit the Seed Laboratory. It was just two years ago when the same class visited the Station and heard the seed work discussed by Prof. M. T. Munn, on his last day of duty at the Experiment Station before retirement. Tomorrow, the good professor will be put back in harness for the day to give an encore of his swan song.

WORD FROM HONOLULU

The Boyle's are still reveling in their new tropical environment in the Hawaiian Islands. The latest letter announces the acquisition of a Hillman Minx which serves admirably for the daily 15 mile trip to work and the weekend jaunts to the beaches. The Boyle children have foresaken their footwear from the moment of arrival and barefoot attendance at Sunday School seems to be the vogue on Oahu. At the University eight specialists are working along with Dr. Boyle on the food processing project which now focuses on processing possibilities for the guava and passion fruit. The entire family professes complete contentment....except for a single lament--they're understandably lost without the STATION NEWS. The Editorial Department is now taking steps to make their paradise complete!

GARNERING LAURELS

Mr. and Mrs. Klein were in Binghamton, yesterday, where they took part in a gladiolus show. There was no report of Leo's achievements at press time but he took his usual large share of awards at the Genesee Valley Show held in Rochester last Saturday. Two top spikes, three commendation awards for seedlings, and the Champion Seedling award were added to his trophy collection. Ironically, the Grand Champion of the show was one of his own creations, "Heirloom", grown and exhibited by another gladiolus fan.

CHIT CHAT

Our sympathy to Mrs. Reitmann whose sister, Mrs. Helen Kiley of Canandaigua, passed away a week ago today....Last week we reported the retirement of Alfred Povero from the Pomology Department. To explain his continued presence in our midst, the Fruit Testing Association announces that he has joined its crew on a temporary status....Dr. Ellsworth Wheeler, former Station entomologist and now extension entomologist in Massachusetts, spent a few days in this area last week....Mrs. Glen VanEseltine has returned from a Hawaiian sojourn and is spending a couple of weeks in Geneva....Pete Gigliotti and family are taking a vacation motoring trip this week....The Ed Smiths spent a long weekend at Mrs. Smith's hometown in Canada....The box lacrosse game to be held in Geneva this Saturday will find Ray DeMuth of Entomology in the lineup....The Ben Clarks initiated their new home with a housewarming party on Sunday....Doctors Palmiter and Dean of the Hudson Valley Lab were in Geneva for the start of the fruit tour, yesterday....Dr. Davis is spending a few days on projects in the Poughkeepsie area.

NORTHEASTERN SEED CONFERENCE

Dr. Clark is spending the rest of the week at Belgrade Lakes, Maine, at the Northeastern State Seed Control Officials Conference. He left yesterday.

PEACH TIME

The pomologists report that freestone peaches are ripening and that orders will be taken by the Pomology Office. The supply is rather light.

A HARROWING ORDEAL

Quick action by onlookers saved a Station scientist from tragedy on Saturday morning. Dr. Carl Pederson, fishing from his kayak in Seneca Lake, found himself unexplainably in the water clinging to his overturned craft. After an immersion of about twenty minutes, he was pulled from the drink by nearby boaters and taken to the Geneva hospital where he was treated for shock and exposure. Dr. Pederson is now resting at his home and, except for a sore back, seems to be none-the-worse for the close call.

Whenever you look at a piece of work and you think the fellow was crazy, then you want to pay some attention to that. One of you is likely to be, and you had better find out which one it is. It makes an awful lot of difference.

--Charles F. Kettering.