

STATION NEWS



Vol. 67, No. 8 August 22, 1956 Geneva, N. Y.

MEETING IN STORRS

Quite a delegation of Station scientists will be leaving Sunday to attend the annual meeting of the American Society for Horticultural Science, which is being held in Storrs, Connecticut. Most of them expect to be back Wednesday.

STATION TOUR

The Station was host last Thursday to the "Field Studies in Conservation" class of Cortland State Teachers College. This class which consisted of about 20 members spent most of the day touring the Station farms and field tests. These classes are held every summer and the Station is one of their regular stops.

MAIL BAG

Dr. Chapman received a letter from Dr. Dean, which has been gleaned for news. It looks as if Entomology will acquire a collection of Philippine insects. Apparently if you move entomologists out of their habitat they will revert to type. Dr. Dean says that he has gone back to chasing butterflies and beetles again. (He insists that chasing is the right word as tropical Lepidoptera seem to be jet-propelled.) If you would like a collection of lizards, Dr. Dean could provide that with ease---anything from butiki, which are little house lizards, to gekos, to the three-footers that raid the garbage pits. According to Dr. Dean, the heat and humidity make the whole country a moist chamber, and how the molds do grow. Even in his so-called 'dry closet' his shoes developed green or white patches over night.

TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR SEED SCHOOL

Miss Albina Musil from the Federal Seed Act Division will visit the Station this week to make arrangements for a Federal Seed Testing School which she will conduct here from Sept. 4th to 14th.

ATTEND VEGETABLE OPEN HOUSE

Professor Sayre and Dr. Donald Barton went to Ithaca Saturday to attend the New York State Vegetable Growers Association Open House. This meeting will be held at the Station next year.

VISITOR FROM BELTSVILLE

Dr. Sidwell from Beltsville visited the Station for 3 days last week. He discussed research work on sour cherries and snap beans with members of the Food Science Department.

A DATE TO REMEMBER

The Executive Committee of the Station Club has set Wednesday, October 17th, as the date for the fall dinner and annual meeting, with Morretti's at Penn Yan as the place. More details later, but be sure to mark the date on your calendar now.

RIBBON WINNERS

Station folks made out very well at the Palmyra Fair. Dr. Robinson, exhibiting in the Amateur Division, won Grand Champion for a spike of gladiolus. This was a spike of "Heirloom", incidentally, a variety developed and named by Leo Klein. Robbie also won First Prize for the third year in a row for his Niagara grapes, and a rose he entered won the Best of Show award....Mrs. Henry Bennett, out of a total of 76 entries in the professional and open classes of flower arrangements and flowers, won 52 first and 16 second prizes....Bob LaBelle won three first prizes and one second for his entry of Buff Orpingtons and Lakenvelders. For those among us who are uninformed, these are breeds of chickens.

HEADED FOR ROSE BOWL AGAIN?

According to news dispatches in Sunday's papers, Harold Tukey, head of horticulture at Michigan State University, has been named chairman of the athletic council which automatically makes him MSU's representative on the Big Ten Council. Earlier in the year, Michigan State was instrumental in persuading the Big Ten to extend its Rose Bowl pact with the Pacific Coast Conference. So it looks as though Harold would go to the Rose Bowl whether the team does or not!

STATION SOCIAL NOTES

The Einsets gave a tea Sunday at their home to introduce Mrs. Powell to members of the Pomology Department and their wives....George Hucker and family left Monday morning for the North Pole (N. Y.) I understand the grandchildren wanted to deliver a letter personally to Santa Claus....Dr. George Hervey is a new grandfather to a young miss born on Aug. 15 to his son-in-law and daughter, Prof. and Mrs. Charles Smith of Gainesville, Florida.

CELEBRATE BIRTHDAY

The Haight triplets, David, Donald, and Daniel, were five years old last week. They celebrated their birthday in the home of relatives in Clyde. According to their mother, "the boys just can't wait" to start school this fall.

HERE & THERE

Drs. Chapman and Smith are spending this week at the 10th International Congress of Entomology which is being held in Montreal....Bob Lamb and Ken Hanson went up to Vineland, Canada, last week to collect peach and apricot scions....Bob Gilmer is spending the week down in the Hudson Valley.

AROUND THE FARM

The Station irrigation system is not being used much this year, as the rainfall has been very nicely distributed. Station ponds are full now, which is quite a contrast to the situation this same time last year when they were almost empty.... This wet, cool summer (?) does bring its problems. Weeds are more plentiful and harder to kill by cultivation and weeding. Chemical weed killers, however, are really working. Seems they require a moderately high soil moisture content to be most effective....Noticed that Wilson Hey had a crew down behind the carpenter shop fitting a plot for alfalfa. Seems the cutting will be used for compost; should look a lot better, too....Speaking of appearances, Wilson Hey has the old machine shed all cleaned out, says the soil shed is next....In spite of the plentiful supply of weeds this year the plots below the greenhouses look clean as a whistle.

VERY LIVELY TIME!

Ken Hanson had a lively time last weekend. He went out to burn some trash and while he was watching the fire decided to mow some weeds with a hand sickle. He apparently mowed right over a yellow jacket's nest because he suddenly jerked back an arm covered with the little striped devils, every one stinging. He brushed them off and beat a hasty retreat, but estimates he was stung at least a hundred times. In spite of home treatments of vinegar and baking soda, he didn't get much sleep Sunday night, and the arm was still stiff on Monday. Ken is planning revenge. He figures to locate the nest and then go out after dark and destroy it.

SHHH!

Watch what you say around plants! Some people say that plants listen--and what's more they apparently like music and prefer women's voices. There is some data already collected which indicates that sugar cane, tapioca, and sweet potatoes grow faster when entertained with music. Research is continuing at the International University, Pondicherry, India, where music is being broadcast to "listening" plants.