

# STATION NEWS



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Geneva, N. Y.  
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## GETS AROUND

Dr. Braun has an extremely busy week ahead of him. He will leave for Washington this weekend where he will present three papers at the Small Fruit Disease Conference which is being held at Beltsville, Maryland February 18th and 19th. On Wednesday he will attend a small fruit meeting in the Hudson Valley to discuss small fruit disease control practices. On Thursday he will attend a meeting in Nassau County and on Friday he will attend a growers meeting in Suffolk County.

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## SPEAK TO GROWERS MEETINGS

John Tomkins is addressing a growers meeting in Brant, New York on Thursday. John is speaking on strawberries and raspberries. He goes on to Long Island next Wednesday for two days of meetings with small fruit growers. George Slate will speak to small fruit meetings in the Hudson Valley on Tuesday and Wednesday and will continue on to Long Island where he will be on the program with John.

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## POMOLOGY DISCUSSION PERIOD

Another of their weekly discussion periods was held Monday morning in the Staff Room by the Pomology Department. Roger Way led a discussion of Fruit Tree Nursery Investigations.

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## TO SPEAK AT VERMONT FARM SHOW

George Slate will speak on Production Problems--Strawberries, Raspberries, High Bush Blueberries, at the Vermont Farm Show in Barre, Vermont on February 14th.

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## S.O.S.

Heed this plea from a fellow Stationite. Don Wilson is heavily involved in the ticket sales for the Kiwanis Minstrel Show. You may or may not know that low man on ticket sales for the week has to take home 5 rabbits for a week and take care of them. Don has plenty of tickets left and can hear the pitter patter of tiny feet (20 of 'em) in his near future if he doesn't sell more tickets. Tickets \$1.10---all seats reserved---February 21st and 22nd at Geneva High School at 8:15 P.M.

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## ABSENT MINDED PROFESSOR

Dr. Clark drove his car to work Thursday. He stayed late Thursday night conferring with Claude Heit and Willard Crosier, then walked home. He didn't realize he had left his car at the Station until he saw the empty garage.

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## LOST

Personal tools. One 16" steel plane--one wooden plane. Left in Entomology Building during construction work. Anyone knowing whereabouts please notify Bob Larson.

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## STATION NOTES

After about four weeks the Chemistry Building shows signs of returning to its normal complement of smells. Joe Petrone with his paint brush is about completed and expects to leave this week.

The Allens moved into their new home across from the North Street Junior High School last week. Janice walked to work Monday morning to test the distance for size.

Mike Szkolnik has the mumps. The rest of the family had it while Mike was out in Michigan in January.

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## MEMO TO VEG CROPS IF THEY DECIDE TO GO COON HUNTING THIS YEAR

Skunk odor can be eradicated by bathing in tomato juice claims Will C. Davis of Whitehaven, Tenn. He is stocking up on tomato juice in case he or his dogs run afoul of skunks during next hunting season.

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## EDUCATION AS A PAIN IN THE STOMACH

This item was taken from the January issue of "Chemical and Engineering NEWS". Don't overestimate the educational impact of a stomach-ache. So thinks the Department of the Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service. The service is now conducting extensive field tests of a coating for fir, spruce, and pine seeds by which it hopes to make aerial reseedling and reforestation a practical reality. The coating is intended to "teach" field mice and chipmunks not to eat newly planted tree seeds by giving them a gentle jolt in the digestive tract with a nonlethal amount of poison.

Fish and Wildlife undertook its educational campaign when found that conventional methods of controlling mice in areas being reseeded were not successful. If the mice were completely eliminated from the area, others from adjoining areas quickly moved in and continued to eat seeds. What was needed was a method which would discourage the rodents from eating the seeds, but would also keep them alive and able to protect their home territory against interlopers from over the hill. Repellents were tried, but the mice ignored them.

Then D. A. Spencer of the service's Denver Research Lab hit on the idea of using nonlethal dosages of toxic chemicals to coat the seeds. The hungry mouse did not die after eating a few seeds--he merely got a severe stomach-ache, which taught him to look elsewhere for a more agreeable diet. But he stayed around to repel uneducated invaders of his feeding grounds.

Now being tested is a new four-purpose seed coating which is hoped to cut seed destruction by two thirds. As its toxic ingredient, it contains small amounts of endrin to make the mice sick. Coupled with this is a fungicide and aluminum powder, the latter to put a silvery sheen on the seeds that is repellent to birds. A latex adhesive makes the formulation adhere to the seeds.

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## EXHORTATIONS I WISH I HADN'T EXHORTED

1. Hit the stake one more time and, for goodness' sake, stop worrying about my thumb!
2. When I give the word, you let go of your end of the refrigerator and I'll set her down!
3. O.K., junior, jump clear over the big puddle and daddy will catch you!
4. Go ahead, you won't hurt me. See if you can push my arm back when I have it braced like this!
5. Feel free to borrow my snow shovel at any time, old man!