

STATION NEWS



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Geneva, N. Y.

PROGRESS REPORT

Official word of the activities of Doctor Otto Reinking, former head of the Station's Plant Pathology Division, comes to us in the May issue of Foreign Agriculture. The inside cover of the magazine carries a report on findings of Doctor Reinking and his colleagues to the effect that corn, garden vegetables, and weeds are serving as hosts to the aphids which spread the mosaic currently threatening abaca (manila hemp) plantings in the Philippines. A copy of the magazine can be found in the reading room of the library.

LAZY CLUB

About a dozen Station scientists attended last evening's dinner meeting of the Lazy Club at Ithaca. The topic discussed at the get-together was "Growth Substances and Herbicides".

ADVANCE PLANNING

Officers of the Station Club met last week to make preliminary arrangements for the annual Station Picnic. The date has been tentatively set for July 14th, provided there is no serious conflict with other events. Should anyone know of such a conflict, he is asked to notify one of the officers, Vic Hopkins, Willard Robinson, David Rodney, and Anne McCullough. Mr. and Mrs. John Einset have been designated chairmen of the picnic which will be held at Cayuga Lake State Park. As usual, coffee, milk, and ice cream will be furnished by the Club, the rest of the food being provided by members. A guest fee of \$.35 will be charged to those in attendance who are neither members nor the offspring of members. Any Station employee who has not as yet joined the organization may do so by paying the annual dues of \$2 per adult family member, there being no additional levy on the children. And if you're economy-minded, we call attention to the fact that the \$2 fee includes not only the picnic but the annual banquet in the fall, and the Christmas party. The actual cost of the fall banquet dinner very closely approximates the \$2 and, what with rising prices, it's very likely that late-comers may be charged the full fee for just that one affair. So our advice is to join up now and let the Club officers worry about the high cost-of-living for you.

ADVANCE PLANNING

Professor Luckett and Bob Wesselman will go to Ithaca on Friday to formulate plans for Station exhibits at this year's New York State Fair. The exposition will again be an eight-day affair, running from September 1 thru 8.

TO ADDRESS ROTARIANS

Doctor Willard Crosier will be the featured speaker at tomorrow night's meeting of the Rotary Club of Clyde. Doctor Crosier will describe some of the work of the Experiment Station, with special emphasis on seed investigations.

NO STAFF MEETING MONDAY

Because of the pressure of field work at this time, the Staff Meeting which was to be held next Monday has been canceled.

VISITORS

Mrs. C. Dixon Chanderlin, representing the Chanderlin Seed Company of New York City, spent Monday in the Station's Seed Laboratory where tests were made on carlot deliveries of Kentucky bluegrass to be used in filling State contracts....Yesterday afternoon, members of Cub Pack 3 of Geneva descended upon the Station for a first-hand inspection of Station work....Today, about 30 members of a class in genetics at Oswego State Teachers College are spending the day with us. Their tour will include stops at the Greenhouse, Museum, Pilot Plant, Entomology, Feed & Fertilizer Labs, and the orchards.

HOSPITAL NOTES

Mrs. James Hefferon returned to her home yesterday to complete recuperation from a recent operation....Doctor Carpenter is reported in good spirits and recovering from an operation performed last week at Clifton Springs....It was good to see Charlie Sayre out testing his land legs the other day. He has made a rapid recovery from his tussle at the hospital and expects to make it to the second floor of Hgdrick before the week is out.

OPEN HOUSES

A Trinity Church group will sponsor a tour of six Geneva homes on May 16th. The Emily Nicholas Chapter of the Women's Auxilliary has made arrangements for the homes, representing different eras in Geneva's development, to be opened to the public on that day from 2 to 6 P.M. The homes to be visited include those of H.H. Schieffloin on South Main, the Burrall home and the Bartlett home on Jay Street, the Garden Apartment of Mr. and Mrs. T.C. Carson, the new house of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred G. Lewis, Jr., on the White Springs Road, and the Trinity Rectory. Tea will be served at the Rectory. Tickets at \$1 apiece may be procured at Harriet Robertson's Shop on Exchange Street.

TOMATO PROCESSING RESEARCH

The Tomato Products Committee of the New York State Cannery Association is meeting here today. The all-day session will include talks by several Station specialists involved in the tomato-grading project.

REPORT ON AFRICA

Andre Myburgh, visiting scientist from the Union of South Africa, addressed last Sunday night's meeting of the Thompson Club at the North Presbyterian Church. His talk focused on home life and wild life in South Africa.

MURMURINGS

Doctor George Oberle, former Station pomologist, is renewing friendships here. Now stationed in Virginia, he and his family are visiting relatives in Rochester.... A weekend guest of the Wellingtons was his sister, Miss Catherine Wellington of New Haven, Conn.Harry King has chosen a poor time to get sick. He's been up and down for the past couple of weeks trying to get his spring shipping out of the way before surrendering to a persistent case of lumbago....Doctors Pederson and Robinson spent yesterday at a tomato-processing plant in North Collins....They tell us that wildlife is a good judge of human nature. If that's the case, the entomologists deserve a couple of gold stars. They barely got their annual brood of robins underway when a mother raccoon chose the Insectory (that screened in shed back of the garage) for her encouchement. Everyone is doing fine, thank you.

ORIGINAL PUBLICATION

Our New York Times correspondent tells us that American archaeologists have unearthed a farm bulletin in Iraq, dated around 1750 B. C. It's the oldest farm bulletin ever found and told the growers of that day how to sow their crops, how to irrigate, how to handle field mice, and how to harvest. Says the bulletin, "keep an eye on the man who puts in the seed, have him put the seed in two fingers deep uniformly". Sowing was to be done with a seeder, a plow with an attachment that carried the seed from a container through a narrow funnel and into the furrow. On the day when the seed breaks through the ground, the farmer is advised to say a prayer to the goddess of the field mice and other vermin that might harm the grain. (Still a good idea, even today). The farmer was advised to take care lest the grain, when ready for harvesting, bend under its own weight. It's final advice parallels that in today's counterpart, "Cut it at the right moment". The bulletin carried no number but is assumed to be one of the Technical Series since only a dozen scholars have been able to translate the cuneiform script. It seems doubtful whether the publication enjoyed the franking privilege because it was printed on clay tablets.

FROM U S. D A BULLETIN

"At last December's prices: if the farmer had given away the wheat in a 16¢ loaf of bread, it would still have cost the consumer 13.4¢. If he had given away his stake in milk at 22¢ a quart, it would still have cost the housewife 11.5¢. Similarly, a 16¢ can of pork and beans would have cost 14¢." And a membership in the Station Club would still have cost \$2.00.
