



# STATION NEWS

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New York State Agricultural Experiment Station, Geneva

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## **PROFESSOR GEORGE L. SLATE DIES**

George L. Slate (77), Professor Emeritus of Pomology at Geneva, died April 16 at Clifton Springs Hospital following an extended illness.

Professor Slate was not only one of the most distinguished scientists in the field of horticulture, but also was extremely active in local community affairs throughout most of his life.

Born in Bernardston, Massachusetts in 1899, Professor Slate was graduated from Massachusetts Agricultural College, now the University of Massachusetts, in 1921 and received his Master's degree from Harvard University (Bussey Institution) in 1926. He joined the staff of the Geneva Experiment Station in April 1922 as an assistant in research, being promoted to an assistant professor of

pomology in 1928, to associate professor of pomology in 1945, and to professor of pomology in 1951.

He retired from the Station June 30, 1969 following 47 years of active service to New York and world agriculture. Throughout his entire career at the Station, Professor Slate was responsible for the small fruit breeding program in the Department of Pomology. As part of his research program, he raised more than 121,000 raspberry and blackberry seedlings, 155,000 strawberry seedlings, 2,000 filbert seedlings, 1,500 currant seedlings, and 179 gooseberry seedlings. He was an extremely prolific and excellent writer, having more than 600 published articles to his credit.

Professor Slate had a unique ability to convert his scientific findings into language that was easily understood by the lay person. As a result, he was in frequent demand as a speaker at not only scientific meetings, but grower groups



and garden clubs.

Dr. Donald W. Barton, Director of the Geneva Station, said, "It is with considerable sadness that we note the passing of this outstanding scientist and individual. His contributions in the field of small fruit breeding earned him the respect and admiration of thousands of persons since coming to the Station. Even after his retirement in 1969, younger members of the faculty in his department would frequently seek his advice on the merits of potentially new varieties of small fruits that were under test. The fact that he named 41 new varieties of small fruits during his active professional career at the Station, many of which are still among the leading varieties grown in New York both commercially and by home gardeners is a significant indication of his value as a scientist."

Included in this list of small fruits named by Professor Slate are 11 red raspberries, 6 black raspberries, 3 purple raspberries, 18 strawberries, and 3 blackberries. Most small fruit growers will rapidly recognize such varieties as the Ulster, Milton, September, and Hilton red raspberries; the Allen and Huron black raspberries; Marion and Clyde purple raspberries; Catskill, Empire, Fletcher, Frontenac, Fortune, Geneva, and Gala strawberries; and the Darrow blackberry. All these varieties were named by Professor Slate as a result of his extensive trials on the Station farms.

As an author, Professor Slate not only contributed to the scientific journals and bulletins and research circulars of the Geneva Station, but frequently was asked to write articles in noted newspapers and farm and garden publications. He authored articles for the Boston Sunday Herald, Country Gentleman, Better Homes and Gardens, the New York Times, Philadelphia Inquirer, Encyclopedia Americana, and the Reader's Digest Book of the Garden. Although many of his articles dealt with growing small fruits, Professor Slate was an avid gardener and spent many years raising nut trees and lilies as a hobby.

It was virtually impossible to separate his scientific work at the Station from that done in his own garden at his Highland Avenue residence in Geneva. Many visitors to the Station would specifically ask to see his home garden as well as his field plots on campus.

His society activities included being a member of the American Society for Horticultural Science since 1922; the Northern Nut Growers Association, where he served as secretary from 1933 to 1945 and president from 1954 to 1955, as well as serving as editor of the association's annual reports for a number of years; and the North American Lily Society, in which organization he edited the Yearbook from 1947 to the present time. He was also an honorary member of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, was an editorial consultant of Horticulture Magazine, and was a corresponding member of the Lily Committee of the Royal Horticultural Society from 1948 to 1967.

During his career, Professor Slate won numerous awards and recognitions among which were the Jackson Dawson Medal from the Massachusetts Horticultural Society in 1949, the Gold Medal from the Men's Garden Club of America in 1959, the American Horticultural Society Citation in 1965, the E. H. Wilson Award from the North American Lily Society in 1960, and the prestigious Wilder Medal presented to him by members of the American Pomological Society in 1968.

A year after retiring, he was named a Fellow of the American Society of Horticultural Science, an organization of some 3,000 horticultural scientists. In 1972, Professor Slate received the James R. Jewett Prize for research on native American plants presented by the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University. Two years ago, he received the Merit Award from the Northern Nut Growers Association. Professor Slate is survived by his wife, Muriel; a daughter, Mrs. Jack (Barbara) Abbott of Hilton, New York; and four grandchildren.

#### **CERES CIRCLE GOURMET DINNER**

Reminder: Don't miss this year's Ceres Circle Gourmet

Dinner, Friday evening, May 14. The Gourmet Dinner is being moved to St. Peter's Episcopal Church Parish Hall at 151 Genesee Street. "Happy Hour" is at 6:30 p.m. and the dinner at 7:30 p.m.

Gourmets and guests: please remember to bring an index card with the name of your dish and country of origin, serving utensils labeled with your name, plates and table service, and records, especially those of folk music from other countries (and America). We suggest that you double up driving, if possible, as parking is extremely limited around St. Peter's.

Join us in making this the best Gourmet Dinner ever!

#### **MEETINGS AND SEMINARS**

Gertrude Catlin, Entomology, spoke to over 100 members of the Ontario County Senior Citizens Group at the Civic Center, Geneva, Thursday, April 1, with an illustrated slide talk on "The History of the Experiment Station" and "Photography in Science Research."

Ed Glass, Entomology, was in Washington on April 6 and 7 to attend meetings of the UC/AID Pest Management Project and the National Academy of Sciences Committee on Pest Control Regulatory Decision Making at the Federal and State Level.

On Friday, April 23, Jim Brann, Phil Arneson, Jim Tette, and Ed Glass met with representatives of the chemical pesticide industry at Sodus to explain the 1976 Tree Fruit Pest Management Program.

Several members of the Entomology staff went to Syracuse on April 27 for a joint meeting of the Departments of Entomology of Syracuse University, Ithaca, and Geneva. In the afternoon, Syracuse graduate students presented results of some of their thesis research. This was followed by refreshments and dinner at a local restaurant.

Ron Kuhr, Entomology, spent several days at Kansas State University in Manhattan where he presented a seminar.

Chuck Eckenrode, Entomology, was the guest of the Research Institute of Vegetable Crops, Skierniewice, Poland from April 6-19. During this period he gave several lectures on the subject of his research on vegetable insect pest biology and control. This visit gave Chuck an opportunity to confer with Dr. Bozena Nawrocka, who spent a year in Geneva doing cooperative research on aphid control on lettuce. Following his visit in Poland, Chuck spent a week conferring with entomologists at Wageningen, The Netherlands, and then another week at Wellesbourne, England.

Sandy Davis, our local expert on pecans, represented the CSRS April 12-14 at a regional pecan insect review at Shreveport, Louisiana.

Bill Bowers, Wendell Roelofs, and Tomihisa Ohta, Entomology, attended the Bicentennial Meeting of the American Chemical Society in New York City on April 6. Bill spoke on "Fourth Generation Insecticides." Wendell spoke at a meeting of the Rockland Chemical Society, Orangeburg, New York on that day. His subject was "Sex Attractants of Lepidoptera."

Haruo Tashiro, Entomology, was in Westchester County on April 13 and 14 where he spoke at the New York Landscape Association meeting.

Keith Steinkraus, Food Science, recently attended the Third International Conference on Culture Collections in Bombay, India where he presented a paper on "Industrial Preservation of Yeasts." While there, he traveled to Poona where he delivered the Wolf Vishniac Memorial Lecture on "Contributions of Microbiology to the World Food Supply" at Abasaheb Garware College. He then went to Calcutta where he lectured on "Modern Soybean Processing" to the Indian Dietetic Association and lectured on "Recent Developments in Microbiology" at the American University Center. He then traveled to Bangkok for planning meetings for the Fifth International Congress Global Aspects of Applied Microbiology and an Indigenous Fermented Food



Symposium which will be held in Bangkok November 1977. He then participated as a Visiting Professor in a UN-EP/UNESCO/ICRO Training Course on Microbial Protein Production Utilizing Natural and Waste Products at Kaset-sart University. This was an intensive short course for microbiology teachers from various countries in Asia. He also presented a lecture on the Microbiological Nature of Man at Chulalongkorn University and lectured at Mahidol University on Milky Diseases of Scarabaeid Beetle Larvae.

Dr. Paul Manion from the Department of Botany and Forest Pathology, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry at Syracuse, gave a seminar on "Developing Disease Considerations for the Management of Fiber Resources" on April 13.

Herb Aldwinckle, Jim Hunter, Rosario Provvidenti, and Roger Pearson attended a conference on the Genetic Basis of Epidemics in Agriculture arranged by the New York Academy of Sciences in New York City April 5-8.

Members of the Food Science and Technology Department who attended the American Chemical Society meeting in New York City the first part of April included Jerry Van Buren, Terry Acree, Bob Shallenberger, and Reg Walter.

John Bourke, Food Science, attended an IR-4 Technical Committee meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana April 12-15.

Willard Robinson, Food Science, attended a meeting of the Food Protection Committee in Kansas City on April 26 and 27.

Ithaca and Geneva members of the Institute of Food Science met in Geneva on April 22 for a joint field meeting.

Willard Robinson participated in a CSRS committee review of the Food Science Department at the University of Georgia the week of March 29-April 2.

Dr. L. C. Luckwill, Head of the Pomology Department at the Long Ashton Research Institute at Long Ashton, England, met with the Department of Pomology and Viticulture on April 12 and presented a seminar both at Geneva and Cornell on "Pomological Research at Long Ashton."

Keith Kimball, Pomology and Viticulture, presented a seminar at Cornell on grape grafting on April 27.

Nelson Shaulis, Stan Howell, and Bob Pool, Pomology and Viticulture, attended the Grape Processor Fieldmen's Day conducted by Tom Zabadal in Penn Yan on April 1 to discuss winter injury to grapevines. Both Stan and Nelson made presentations on cold injury to grapevines and the management of the injured vines.

Mark Blume and Gary Harman, Seed and Vegetable Sciences, visited SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry at Syracuse on April 29. Mark presented a seminar on the pea root rot complex in New York to the Department of Botany and Plant Pathology.

Gary attended the NCR 100 Technical Committee meeting, Experiment, Georgia April 13-16. While there he also visited the Experiment Station at Griffin, Georgia.

### VISITORS

Dr. George MacCollom, entomologist from the University of Vermont, and six of his students visited the Department of Entomology on April 15. The group was particularly interested in microbes, predators, and parasites for the control of insects, but they reviewed the entire department program.

Professor R. Zabel and 10 graduate students from the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry at Syracuse visited with Mike Szkolnik April 8 for a lecture on fruit diseases and their control and a tour of Mike's facilities.

Kasimierz Palinski, a publisher of agricultural information for farmers from Warsaw, Poland visited with Mike April 14.

Peter Schvany of the Arnold Arboretum in Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts recently visited the Station and conferred with Roger Way, Jim Cummins, and Walt Kender on plans for making a film about grafting. Mr. Schvany filmed the grafting process as done by Steve Valerio.

### RESIGNATION

Jean P. Spafford recently resigned from his position as heating plant worker. He worked at the Station from 4/25/70-4/28/76.

### APPOINTMENT

Edward P. Furano started working in Buildings and Properties as a heating plant worker on April 22. Ed lives in Waterloo.

### HEALTH

Fenton Carruth had surgery April 27. He is recuperating in the V.A. Hospital, 5th Floor, 800 Irving Avenue, Syracuse, N. Y. 13210. We wish you well, Fenton.

Station personnel want to wish Susie Walczak a speedy recovery after her April 19 heart surgery in Rochester. Susie's mother, Marcella, is employed in the Department of Food Science and Technology.

Clara Splittstoesser has been called to Butte, Montana, because of her father's illness.

### STORK NEWS

Katie and Joe Preczewski, Personnel and Plant Pathology respectively, are the proud parents of Luke Benjamin. He was born April 6 and weighed 8 lbs. 11¼ oz.

### THE CHATTER BOX

Bob Ennis, Tom Nelson, and George Helfman, Food Science, participated in a Varian Chromatography School in Canandaigua April 7-9.

Randolph Gardner, a graduate student with Jim Cummins in Pomology and Viticulture, has completed requirements for his Ph.D. degree. He has accepted a position as a plant breeder at North Carolina State University.

The Department of Pomology and Viticulture held a farewell dinner for Dr. and Mrs. G. S. Howell at the York Inn on April 10. Stan will be returning to the Department of Horticulture at Michigan State University on May 1 after completing a 6-month sabbatical leave in viticultural research at Geneva.

Wendell Roelofs had open house on April 2 in honor of Jan and Mary Kochansky. Jan and Mary's many friends enjoyed a very pleasant evening.

### CLASSIFIEDS

For rent—a 2-bedroom cottage in Rockport, Massachusetts. Ed Glass 787-2321.

Wanted—apartment to sublet or room with kitchen privileges for June, July, and August. 781-1120 after 5 p.m.

Wanted to rent—Land for vegetable garden. Mark Banner 787-2277.

### GENEVA JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Field Assistant—Department of Seed and Vegetable Sciences

Field Assistant II, NP-7—Department of Plant Introduction

Administrative Manager, CP-5—Office of the Director

Research Associate—Department of Entomology



WEATHER

|       |    | Max. | Min. | Rain, Melted<br>Snow, etc. | Snow<br>Ice Pellets<br>Hall | Snow, Ice<br>Pellets, Hall,<br>Ice on gnd.<br>(Inches) |
|-------|----|------|------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| April | 1  | 51   | 36   | .70                        |                             |  |
|       | 2  | 52   | 32   | .14                        |                             |  |
|       | 3  | 45   | 34   | .10                        |                             |  |
|       | 4  | 50   | 32   |                            |                             |  |
|       | 5  | 42   | 30   |                            |                             |  |
|       | 6  | 50   | 38   |                            |                             |  |
|       | 7  | 55   | 30   |                            |                             |  |
|       | 8  | 47   | 27   |                            |                             |  |
|       | 9  | 40   | 25   |                            |                             |  |
|       | 10 | 43   | 28   |                            |                             |  |
|       | 11 | 62   | 25   | .09                        | .3                          |  |
|       | 12 | 28   | 19   | .01                        | tr.                         |  |
|       | 13 | 43   | 25   |                            |                             |  |
|       | 14 | 57   | 38   |                            |                             |  |
|       | 15 | 68   | 49   |                            |                             |  |
|       | 16 | 74   | 54   | 1.29                       |                             |  |
|       | 17 | 77   | 57   |                            |                             |  |
|       | 18 | 82   | 54   |                            |                             |  |
|       | 19 | 85   | 59   |                            |                             |  |
|       | 20 | 81   | 53   |                            |                             |  |
|       | 21 | 64   | 43   |                            |                             |  |
|       | 22 | 82   | 50   | .36                        |                             |  |
|       | 23 | 67   | 42   | .15                        |                             |  |
|       | 24 | 53   | 37   |                            |                             |  |
|       | 25 | 47   | 39   | .76                        |                             |  |
|       | 26 | 41   | 31   | 1.16                       | .3                          |  |
|       | 27 | 35   | 31   | .20                        |                             |  |
|       | 28 | 42   | 34   | .02                        |                             |  |
|       | 29 | 55   | 39   | .03                        |                             |  |
|       | 30 | 58   | 38   |                            |                             |  |



NEW IN THE LIBRARY

April 1976

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Analytis, S. METHODIK DER ANALYSE VON EPIDEMIEN DARGESTELLT AM APFELSCHORF (VENTURIA INAEQUALIS (COOKE) ADERH.). Paul Parey, 1973. (Acta Phytomedica, v. 1). Call number 580.5 P49a (Entomology-Plant Pathology Library).

British Weed Control Conference. PROCEEDINGS. 11th, 1972; 12th, 1974. Call number 632.95 B76.

Davies, R.G. COMPUTER PROGRAMMING IN QUANTITATIVE BIOLOGY. Academic Press, 1971. Call number 001.6 D28.

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Harborne, J.B. and C.F. VanSumere, eds. THE CHEMISTRY AND BIOCHEMISTRY OF PLANT PROTEINS. Proceedings of the Phytochemical Society symposium, University of Ghent, Belgium, September 1973. Academic Press, 1975. Call number 581.19245 C42.

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Mudd, J.B. and T.T. Koslowski. RESPONSES OF PLANTS TO AIR POLLUTION. Academic Press, 1975. Call number 581.24 R31.

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Robinson, J.W. CRC HANDBOOK OF SPECTROSCOPY. CRC Press, 1974. Call number 535.84 C86.

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