



# STATION NEWS

A House Organ for Station Employees  
Not for Publication Without Consent

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New York State Agricultural Experiment Station, Geneva

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Our cover picture is a lark sparrow, a western and midwestern species who should be in Mexico now. This one apparently got confused, flew east instead of south, and is now spending his time at a feeder in Clifton Springs.

## **CHRISTMAS PARTY DECEMBER 19**

Santa Claus is coming to town. That's right, he will be at the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station on December 19 sometime between 3 and 5 p.m. Gail Galbraith and John Martini have made all the arrangements for his visit and all Station employees are cordially invited to attend this annual Christmas Party.

A special feature of this year's party will be a presentation of "Aladdin and the Magic Lamp" by the Auburn Players. It is a fast moving, humorous production designed to please and delight any child. There is plenty of action, and the story line can easily be followed. Eight players create 20 roles with plenty of dancing and old-fashioned slapstick. This is something that everyone will enjoy—from 6 to 60, so plan on attending the Annual Christmas Party in Jordan Hall from 3-5 p.m. on Sunday, December 19.

## **DICKSON APPOINTED FULL PROFESSOR**

Dr. Michael H. Dickson has been promoted to the position of Professor in the Department of Seed and Vegetable Sciences November 1, 1976.

Dr. Dickson joined the Geneva Station faculty in 1964 as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Vegetable Crops. He was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure July 1, 1969.

During his time at the Geneva Station, Dr. Dickson has been responsible for the snap bean breeding program and for a processing brassica breeding program. More than 50 per cent of his research efforts are spent working on snap beans, a major processing vegetable crop in New York State valued at \$17 million at the farm. One objective has been to develop cold tolerance in snap and lima beans during germination and early growth. This research has resulted in development of some lines much superior to available varieties. He has also been working on a broad based effort to improve seed quality in snap beans. For example, he has been able to develop white seeded snap beans with good seed quality which are able to withstand



considerably more mechanical abuse than any named varieties. These lines also have superior seedling vigor.

A long-term aim is to develop root rot resistance in white seeded beans. Some lines with good market type and moderate resistance have been developed, but continuing efforts are being made to identify better sources of resistance and to incorporate this superior resistance into varieties acceptable to the farmer and processor.

In Dr. Dickson's brassica research program, which includes work on cabbage for sauerkraut, broccoli, cauliflower, and brussels sprouts, major efforts were made to develop inbreds with high solids. A processing kraut cabbage developed by Dr. Dickson has a 20-30 per cent higher solids content than traditional varieties. In commercial trials, this cabbage produced over a 20 per cent higher packout at the processing plant and also significantly reduced the amount of effluent produced by the plant. The seed trade is now increasing the high solids hybrids, and seed will be available for commercial use in 1978.

Since 1972, Dr. Dickson has been cooperating with a Station entomologist to identify and breed cabbage looper and cabbage worm resistance in the brassicas. The two scientists are also searching for resistance to seed corn maggot in beans.

In addition to his research duties, Dr. Dickson is chairman of the Bean Improvement Cooperative, an international organization of bean breeders and seedsmen. He is the Station representative on the technical committee which coordinates the regional plant introduction program in the northeastern states, and he serves as chairman of the Plant Breeding Subcommittee of the Vegetable Research Steering Committee for the northeastern states.

Dr. Dickson received his B.S. degree from MacDonald College in Canada and his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from Michigan State University. He spent 6 years in the Department of Horticulture at the University of Guelph before coming to Geneva in 1964. He and his wife, Jean, and three daughters live on White Springs Lane in the Town of Geneva.

#### **GILMER RECEIVES AWARD**

Robert Gilmer, Emeritus Professor of Plant Pathology, recently received the Award of Merit in Plant Pathology. The award was presented at the November meeting of the Northeast Division of the American Phytopathological Society.

#### **MRS. GEORGE SLATE DIES**

It was with considerable sadness that we learned of the death of Mrs. Muriel Wilson Slate. She died at her home on Friday, November 26, at the age of 70.

Mrs. Slate was the widow of Professor Emeritus George Slate, a member of our Department of Pomology and Viticulture for more than 40 years. Memorial services were held Tuesday, November 30, at the Bennett Funeral Home with the Reverend Richard Norris officiating.

Mrs. Slate was born in England, the daughter of Ernest Henry Wilson and Ellen Ganderton. Her father was extremely well known to members of the horticultural world. He traveled through China in the late 1800's to about the time of World War I collecting different species of plants. Many of these plants originally collected by him are now commonly grown in the United States and other parts of the world.

Officials of the Arnold Arboretum wanted to recognize the outstanding talents of the late E. H. Wilson and felt the best occasion would be at the time of his 100th birthday. Mrs. Slate was asked what might be an appropriate recognition. She suggested publishing some of his photographs that he had taken in China. She selected most of the photographs herself and put on tape comments about those that she remembered the history. This tribute to her father was published in the last number of the Journal

of the Arnold Arboretum.

The Pomology and Viticulture Department is currently making a collection of money which will be used to purchase a memorial gift for the Slate Library in her honor. If you wish to make a contribution, please send it to Sue Dwyer in Pomology and Viticulture.

Mrs. Slate is survived by one daughter, Mrs. John (Barbara) Abbott of Hilton, N. Y. and four grandchildren.

#### **CERES CIRCLE NEWS**

Members of Ceres Circle were introduced to solutions to the problem of World Hunger through more efficient production and utilization of plant proteins in an informal talk given by Keith Steinkraus at their November meeting. A variety of foods made from soybeans was available for tasting as well as more traditional fare provided by Mrs. Maxine Steinkraus and her committee.

#### **C U "EMPLOYEE DAY" A SUCCESS**

The Cornell football team's first home game victory of the season over the University of Pennsylvania on November 13 was witnessed by an enthusiastic Employee Day crowd which included 83 Genevans. Personnel obtained the game tickets and 43 pre-game barbeque tickets for Geneva employees and their guests. Despite the weather, those attending reported good food and great fun.

#### **POSTDOCTORAL ASSOCIATE APPOINTED**

Mark Burt has been appointed Postdoctoral Associate in the Department of Entomology effective November 1 to assist Ron Kuhr and Bill Bowers in their research on the mode of action and biotransformation of antiallatoxins in insects. Mark comes here from North Carolina State University. He and his wife, Patricia, and daughter, Jennifer, are living at 37 Argyle Street.

#### **NEW HIRES**

Jane W. DeCann is working in the Food Science and Technology Department as a Temporary Service Technician. Jane began her duties on November 10 under the supervision of George Rickey.

Fred Seigel was appointed Research Technician in Entomology, Hudson Valley Lab, on November 4. He will be working with Dick Straub in vegetable and turf insect research. Fred has a BS degree in agriculture from Cornell.

On November 1, Ann Aldrich started working in Plant Pathology as a part time Lab Assistant under Harvey Hoch in his electron microscope laboratory. Ann has a BS degree from the University of Michigan.

#### **RESIGNATIONS**

Margaret A. Novak resigned her temporary service position in the Department of Food Science and Technology on November 10. She had been assisting Joe Bertino in his grape work this fall.

Paul C. Wilck resigned his position as Technical Aide in Food Science on November 16. He had been working in George Rickey's laboratory.

#### **STORK NEWS**

Congratulations to Chikao and Mayumi Nishino, Entomology, on their new baby boy, Jun, born November 18.

Also congratulations to the following proud grandparents: Phyllis and Harold Hebding, Entomology, on the birth of Erinn Elizabeth November 17 to Hollette and Brian Seward (Brian formerly worked for Ken Trammel and is now in the U. S. Air Force, stationed at Eilson Air Force Base near Fairbanks, Alaska); Wilma and Henry Spangle, Seed



and Vegetable Sciences, on their new granddaughter born Thanksgiving Eve; and Helen and Gib Melious, Entomology, on the arrival of their grandson, Ty Jacob, to Terry and Tom Allen.

## HEALTH

John Minns, Entomology, has been a patient at Clifton Springs Hospital but is now recuperating at home.

George Rickey, Food Science, is currently at home recuperating from surgery.

We wish John and George speedy recoveries.

## SYMPATHY

We extend the sympathies of the Station to Dick Robinson on the death of his father in California November 29.

## LIBRARY CORNER

### Missing

If you discover one of the following on your desk, please return it to the Library. There are others who wish to use these items.

Harris and vonLoesecke. *Nutritional Evaluation of Food Processing*

McKee and Wolf. *Water Quality Criteria*, 2d ed., 1963

Robinson. *The Organic Constituents of Higher Plants: Their Chemistry and Interrelationships*

### Wanted:

A volunteer to work a few hours per week to help restore and preserve our pre-1850 and rare horticultural books. Requires slow and careful detail work. If at all interested, please call the Library (787-2214).

## MEETINGS AND SEMINARS

Dr. John M. Kraft from the Irrigated Agriculture Research and Extension Center in Prosser, Washington gave a seminar on Breeding Peas for Disease Resistance in Plant Pathology on November 16.

Dr. Ralph Baker, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, presented a seminar to Plant Pathology November 10 on Modeling of Epidemiology and Biological Control of Plant Pathogens in Soil.

Herb Aldwinckle, Plant Pathology, gave a seminar on Breeding Disease Resistant Fruits in the Ithaca Department of Plant Pathology to Drs. Beer and Arnesons's PP 651 course on "Diseases of Fruit Crops."

Don Splittstoesser, Food Science, attended the Fourth Food Microbiology Research Conference at the University of Chicago November 9-12.

Len Mattick, Food Science, attended the annual meeting of NEC-9 Committee held in Ashtabula, Ohio November 11-12.

Willard Robinson spent Tuesday afternoon, November 23, testifying at the Federal Trade Commission hearings on natural foods. His testimony was to the effect that "natural foods" cannot be satisfactorily defined scientifically, nor should the term "natural," as applied to food, denote any superiority in wholesomeness. He was in Washington for a National Research Council Committee meeting on the GRAS, phase III, survey of food additives.

A CSRS Peer Review of the IR-4 and Regional Pesticide Programs was conducted during the week of November 1. Reviewers were Dr. V. H. Freed, Chairman, Department Agr. Chem., Oregon State University; Dr. D. T. Smith, Director, Texas AES; Dr. C. Jackson, Director, Georgia AES; Dr. G. McNew, Director, Boyce Thompson Institute; and Dr. A. J. Lemin, UpJohn Company.

John Bourke, Food Science, attended the annual meeting of the Western Regional Advisory Committee for the Western Regional Pesticide Laboratory in San Francisco, California on October 25-27.

John attended the technical committee meeting of the IR-4 Project as representative from the N.E. Region on October 28-29 at the University of California, Davis.

He also attended NE-36 and NE-53 committee meetings at Kingston, R. I. with Ron Kuhr, Entomology, on November 8-9.

A meeting of the Stone and Pome Fruit Subproject Committee was held November 3 and 4 in the Entomology-Plant Pathology Laboratory.

Ed Glass, Entomology, was in Washington, D. C. on November 23 attending an AID meeting.

Nelson Shaulis and Robert Pool, Pomology and Viticulture attended the NEC 9 Great Lakes Grape Research Committee meeting in Ohio on November 11-12.

Don Ourecky, Pomology and Viticulture, presented a Horticulture Seminar on November 23 on the topic, What's New in Rubus Breeding and Mechanical Harvesting; Alan Lakso presented one on November 9 on Report on High Density Planting Symposium in England; and Gene Oberly, Pomology Department, Cornell, gave the seminar on November 30 on Fruit and Vegetable Research and Extension in Taiwan.

Dick Robinson, Seed and Vegetable Sciences, participated in the annual meeting of the Pickling Cucumber Improvement Committee at Denver October 27-29.

Mike Dickson and Morrie Vittum, Seed and Vegetable Sciences, along with Director Barton, attended the NE Vegetable Research Steering Committee meeting at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania November 22-23.

J. K. Tao and Morrie Vittum attended the American Society of Agronomy annual meeting in Houston, Texas November 29-December 3.

The 36th Annual Meeting of the Northeastern Division of the American Phytopathological Society was held at the Stevensville Country Club, Swan Lake, New York November 3-5. Appearing as authors or co-authors on one or more papers were George Abawi, Herb Aldwinckle, Mark Blume, Al Braun, Ann Cobb, Don Crosier, John Gilpatrick, Joe Keplinger, Roger Pearson, Dave Pieczarka, Bob Seem, Bud Smith, Mike Szkolnik, and Jerry Uyemoto, Plant Pathology. Harvey Hoch, Jim Hunter, Joe Preczewski, and Rosario Providenti, Plant Pathology, also attended the meeting. Mike Szkolnik chaired the session on Plant Disease Control. Bob Lamb, Pomology and Viticulture, and Gary Harman, Seed and Vegetable Sciences, also co-authored papers at the meeting. Tom Stasz, Seed and Vegetable Sciences, was another attendee. Des Dolan and Sam Braverman, Plant Introduction, also attended, and Sam presented a paper entitled Resistance to *Alternaria brassicicola* in Brussels Sprouts Introductions.

Bob Musselman, Walt Kender, and Peter Rosen, Pomology and Viticulture, attended the Plant Breeding Workshop in Beltsville, Maryland and also toured the DuPont Chemical Company in Wilmington, Delaware.

The New York State Pesticide Conference was held at the Alice Statler Auditorium, Cornell University, November 8-11. The following Geneva entomologists were on the program: Jim Tette, Ed Glass, Harvey Reissig, Rick Weires, Sieg Lienk, Haruo Tashiro, Chuck Eckenrode, Dale Webb, Sandy Davis, Dick Straub, and Bill Bowers. From Plant Pathology, Roger Pearson and Fritz Myer, John Gilpatrick, Mike Szkolnik, Al Braun, and George Abawi made presentations. Herb Aldwinckle chaired the Fruit Disease session.

George Abawi, Herb Aldwinckle, John Gilpatrick, Roger Pearson, Jerry Uyemoto, Roger Way, Jim Cummins, Robert Lamb, Otis Curtis, Walt Kender, Alan Lakso, and C. G. Forshey participated in the Production Agriculture Training School for Cooperative Extension Agents and Specialists on the Ithaca campus November 16-19.

Herb Aldwinckle was recently appointed to the Northeast Fruit Research Steering Committee and attended its annual meeting November 9-10 at Beltsville, Maryland.

Ed Glass also attended the meeting and then went to Washington, D. C. on November 11 and 12 to attend a UC/AID meeting.



Walt Kender participated in the NE-82 Technical Committee meeting and also the Northeast Fruit Research Steering Committee meeting.

VISITORS

Dr. Lee Chang, Associate Professor at Chungnam National University in Daejeon, Korea, spent several days in the Pomology Department at Cornell and in the Pomology and Viticulture Department in Geneva visiting with various staff members.

The Fruit Breeding Class of the North Rose-Wolcott School visited the Station and talked with pomologists on November 1.

R. W. Voss from Veg Crops, University of California, Davis; J. M. Kraft, USDA, Prosser, Washington; and Istvan Boros, Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Budapest, Hungary, were recent visitors to the Department of Seed and Vegetable Sciences.

GENEVA JOB OPPORTUNITIES

- General Mechanic II—NP-12—Buildings and Properties
- Research Support Specialist I—CP-3—Seed and Vegetable Sciences
- Research Associate—Northeast Regional Pesticide Laboratory, Food Science and Technology
- Postdoctoral Associate—Seed and Vegetable Sciences

CLASSIFIED

For sale: 5-room, 2-story house with enclosed porch and 2-story garage on 1 acre of land located on Rt. 14 south of Geneva. Contact Dianne Prentice at 787-2282 or 787-2283.

WEATHER

		Max.	Min.	Rain, Melted Snow, etc.	Snow, Sleet Hail	Snow, Sleet, Hail, Ice on Gnd. (inches)
November	1	44	30	.22		
	2	37	27			
	3	48	32			
	4	55	35	.04		
	5	49	34			
	6	44	33			
	7	44	38			
	8	40	22	.04	1	1
	9	27	19	tr.	tr.	1
	10	34	24	.11	.6	1
	11	42	27	.05	.4	1
	12	32	23	tr.	tr.	
	13	35	26			
	14	40	32			
	15	43	25			
	16	43	27			
	17	44	27			
	18	48	33			
	19	46	32	tr.		
	20	48	31	tr.	tr.	
	21	32	24	tr.	tr.	
	22	30	25	tr.	tr.	
	23	33	27	tr.	tr.	
	24	36	27	tr.	tr.	
	25	32	23			
	26	44	27			
	27	55	42	.01		
	28	65	36			
	29	53	20	.16	1.6	2
	30	24	6	tr.		2