

MOUNTAIN LAKE ECCHOES



volume 22 summer '39

MOUNTAIN LAKE ECHOES 1959

Editors: Elisa and Bill Frye

Cover by Ann Emmons

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Perhaps I am mellowing with age, or perhaps my critical attitude is becoming calloused; nevertheless, I am inclined to attribute the pleasantness of the past summer at the Station to the fine spirit of cooperation and serious attitudes of the personnel toward its work. As I write this note, many fond memories of the summer return; never in my experiences at Mountain Lake were there more enjoyable get-togethers on Saturday evenings, and this fact alone reflects the cooperative spirit that was so evident. The Sunday evening Sings left something to be desired but the few of us who attended them "heisted" many a tune - becoming almost professionals with our spirited renditions of The Battle Hymn Republic and Dixie.

In the way of reporting "What's New", the inmates of the south Cell Block (Laing Singles to the snobbish) will be gratified to learn that next summer they will be able to step from their doors without worrying about falling through the porch, and if it's raining they will not get wet! The Couch cottage has also had a face-lifting. They report that with the new asbestos-shingle siding the interior is much more comfortable. Many of you noticed the sagging floor in the Plant Anatomy - Physiology laboratory; when the carpenters crawled under it to "shore it up", it was discovered that all of the subflooring and joists had rotted, and the entire floor on both the northeast and southwest quarters of the first floor of the Laboratory will have to be replaced. Last, but by no means least, Mr. and Mrs. Jacques Rappaport have donated an automatic washing machine to our Laundry. This should bring on a grateful smile on a good many faces!

I am pleased to report the appointment of Dr. Dietrich Bodenstein as Chairman of the Department of Biology at the University. He and Mrs. Bodenstein will come to Charlottesville in February. It is my hope that both of them will be frequent visitors at the Station in the summers ahead.

Several of the Old Mountain Lakers got together on the spur of the moment for a breakfast at Penn. State, and at that time decided to hold a breakfast at the AAAS Meetings in Chicago. An announcement of it will appear in the Program of the Meetings. All of you, of course, are invited, so don't forget to make your reservations when you arrive. I hope to see many of you there, MORRISON HOTEL, DEC. 28, 8:00 A.M.

With thanks to all of you for your part in making the summer of 1959 such a memorable one, and with best wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours,

Horton H. Hobbs, Jr.

EVENING TALKS

Lectures given on Thursday and Sunday evenings provided an excellent means of becoming acquainted with the interests of some of the distinguished staff members and visitors.

First Term

Dr. David G. Frey	The Ecological Ageing of Lakes
Dr. Robert K. Burns	Natural History of the Opossum
Dr. Gelar Wiraatmadja	Cultivation of Fish in Rice Paddies
Dr. David G. Frey	The Pond Fisheries of Indonesia
Dr. Catherine M. Russell	Observations on Tissue Culture
Dr. Carl L. Wilson	Six Months in Australia
Dr. Nolan E. Rice	Observations on the Biology of <u>Craspedacusta sowerbii</u> Lancaster
Dr. David G. Frey	South Hampton Island, Gateway to the North

Second Term

Dr. Howard L. Hamilton	Causes of Color and Pattern in Birds
Dr. Robert D. Ross	New River Distribution Problems of Fishes
Dr. Eugene C. Bovee	The Diversity of Amoebas
Dr. L. R. Cleveland	Experiments and Observations on Sex in the Protozoa of <u>Cryptocercus</u>
Dr. James L. Larimer	Extrarenal Salt Excretion in Marine Birds
Dr. Paul G. Pearson	Mammal Succession and Mammal Orientation
Dr. Paul G. Pearson	The Rain Forest of Panama

COURSES

First Term

Limnology, a student's eye view by Marvin Scott.

As we encircled Dr. Frey on the first day with our aqua lungs, flippers and harpoons, he asked the first crucial question, "What is limnology?" Everyone leaned forward. There was a pause, then looks of disappointment appeared as we were informed that limnology was the study of inland waters (and their processes) and that there would be no trips to Virginia Beach, Woods Hole, etc. But Dr. Frey was soon to win our interest and enthusiasm as he injected his definition of what limnologists do: "They do for free what tourists pay to do." This sounded enchanting; little did we know that this would include using the water sampler, the thermister, and the Ekman dredge. Our inland water trips, as opposed to field trips, supported this concept of limnological work, since basking in the sun and swimming in the epilimnion were sometimes our pleasant task. It was a good year for limnologists, and Dr. Frey, along with several Cladocera-laden samples he smuggled back to Bloomington will have a difficult time forgetting a term at Mountain Lake.

Bacteriology gets the once-over from Ann Wingart.

Under the firm hand of Dr. Russell the bacteriologists cast a wistful glance at the outdoors and squirted another drop of safranin on their gram-stains. The autoclave labored constantly to keep arrangements and laboratory research projects going. We were baffled as to why animals on Wind Rock found exposed petri dishes so delectable; not to be defeated, we took a half hour break to think the problem over and emerged with the conviction that despite wild animals and constantly positive gram-stained Neisseria, Bacteriology as a rewarding and fascinating course.

Plant Anatomy

This was a most "dedicated" group, and, to judge from some of the comments overheard by "Corky" Hyde, a philosophical one. For example: "More slides!? Where does he get them? That office just isn't that big!" Or, "You know, I could teach a pretty good course in plant anatomy if I had a few more slides." Corky's own comment about the class is as follows: "The class was treated to a worldwide botanical field trip and came from the course with a deeper understanding of the endless variations in the Plant Kingdom, and a sincere respect for Dr. Wilson."

Coelomates: A Key to the Coelomate Invertebrate Student, 1959

by Margaret Sue Anderson

With large blue book (Pennak) under arm.....	a
No books.....	species unknown
Tense on Saturday mornings.....	b
Relaxed on Saturdays.....	Dr. Rice
Always found perched on pillows in lab.....	Marnie
Not as above.....	c
Over-exuberant when dissecting.....	Jim Powell
Usual amount of interest in dissection.....	d
With the "best dissecting 'scope'.....	Dean
Average "scopes".....	e
Always waiting for mail breaks.....	Margaret Sue
Taking cake and cookie breaks instead.....	f
Noted for "blackmail" polaroid photos.....	Jim Ward
Not as above.....	g
Habitat, any dangerous place.....	Dave
Habitat, always in hot water with ostracods.....	Ed

Second Term

General Physiology, laboratory report by Don Simmons

Purpose: 5 weeks exposure to Physiology

Reagents: Coffee, bile salts, rose bengal, cokes

Materials: $\frac{1}{2}$ Station glassware, 950 copepods, 2 lbs. fish,
4 frogs, 5 liters blood, 20 gallons saline, $\frac{1}{2}$
yeast cake, 1 quaking substrate

Methods: (1) Try another beast, (2) Try a different dilution,
(3) Get some more blood, (4) Put the coffee one, (5)
Should I add more NaCl?, (6) Mash the daylights (sic)
out of it, (7) etc.

Observations: James, you made the solutions up wrong. (2)
This lab. needs cleaning up. (3) Don't
these experiments ever work? (4) On no!, not
another paper! (5) Crayfish in the office??
Conclusions: If an ion meet an ion comin' thru the brei,
if an ion meet an ion, is the pH high?

Protozoology (Our spy was Howard DeMott).

The class identified 151 species (including some new ones) and found in the identifying process that the protozoans could read German, French, Dutch and English! The class exhibited remarkable scientific insight and logic, as illustrated by a few classical remarks: "This ought to have a good population, it smells bad enough." "How long must I look at it before I know it's an amoeba?" "But Dr. Bovee, it was in the field a minute ago."

Experimental Embryology, inside information from Joan Thompson.

Several extensive field trips (to Hunter's Branch) in quest of water for experiments with amphibian embryos were rendered futile by the tragic and untimely freezing of our 82 female frogs. Unsuccessful in attempts to obtain eggs from these icy females, we turned to chick embryos. Egg by egg we worked our way through the course, learning by our mistakes, and eventually attaining a semblance of good technique. Opening over a gross of chemically injected eggs was like opening birthday presents, as we wondered if we would find rumplessness, pinheads, spinabifida, or omphalocephaly. Our various projects brought us both success and failure, the expected and the unexpected, and a feeling of satisfaction for the five weeks spent in experimental embryology.

Animal Ecology

The enthusiastic student ecologists soon had a unique laboratory with assorted jars, tanks, and cages harboring all sorts of creatures from salamanders to shrews. One of the high points of the course was an overnight field trip to Mount Rogers. Marnie Reed, in the interests of science offers us

Revised Instructions for Reaching the Peak of Mt. Rogers

1. Don't let Dr. Pearson ask the natives for directions; he scares them, and they don't know anyway.
2. Commission "Random" Emmons to select the finest roads; "honestly the road is just beyond that gate and there's only one tiny puddle".
3. Consult Dan and Eleanor for the latest details on the Random Pairs Method (real random.)
4. Refer to Anne and Gene's paper, Controversy on Positive Field Identification of the Double-Breasted Cormorant or Anhinga Using the Call-note Method Instead of the Usual Twig-Twittering Characteristics (actually, the bird in question was George doing his frog imitations in the bushes.)
5. Be sure to pack the hula hoops. Angie learned to do this while dodging "Dead-eye Pearson" and his core-sampler squirtgun with Marve clapping the background, "nice, nice."
6. Lower the tail gate for Marnie and Beep. Add an estimated five minutes at each stop; when last seen Larry was coming.

7. Assume a horizontal position on a soft bed of leaves. Deposit field guides 1, 2, 3, and 4 and your field guide to field guides, along with binocs, plastic bags, and those dead animals which you will skin later. Having assumed this position relax completely, you are bird watching.

Note: If you don't make it to the top, come back again and try it next year. We didn't make it either.

DEGREES AWARDED

The degree of Master of Arts was awarded to Harold R. Milliken and D. Hugh Puckett. Their theses were entitled "A Contribution Toward a Knowledge of the Gill Mushrooms of Mountain Lake, Virginia" and "Histological Observations on the Oviduct of Cambarus longulus longulus Girard".

LIBRARY

Miss Marjorie Carver from the Alderman Library of U. Va. spent a busy ten days with us getting the Station Library organized. She is always a welcome visitor and we wish she could spend more time at the Station. Elisa Frye was librarian for the rest of the summer. Four-hundred and thirty-one reprints were catalogued. Additional help was provided by Joan Simmons, Carl Frey, Dean Ezell and Bill Frye. We owe a note of thanks to the library of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute in Blacksburg. The library staff was most generous and helpful in lending to us a number of much needed journals and books.

DINING HALL

As usual, Ane did a fine job in planning meals which were attractive, tasty, and nourishing. Curtis, Bill and Raleigh are to be commended, not only for their excellence as cooks, but for their marvelous ability to have meals always ready on time. We must not forget to mention the lovely cakes baked by the kitchen staff to celebrate birthdays and anniversaries.

Last winter and spring Dr. Hobbs spent many busy hours hauling newer and more efficient equipment up the mountain for the kitchen, painting the walls, etc., with the result that the kitchen is now light and cheerful and a much more pleasant and sanitary place in which to work.

IMPROVEMENTS, ADDITIONS AND REPAIRS

Two useful additions to the laboratory equipment were the new herbarium case and a new set of analytical balances. A peat sampler has also been secured. Less important scientifically was the new croquet set. Mr. Couch and Bob spent considerable time straightening the edges of the paths on the lawn and placing new gravel on them. Some effort was made to halt the inroads of Nature into the rock garden by weeding out undesirable plants and adding several new species of botanical interest to the garden. Also on the esthetic side, the piano was tuned, Chapman cottage now has a pale

blue living room (with curtains!) and Bannister has a cheerful yellow living room and a blue bedroom and bath.

SPORTS

Volleyball, in spite of sprained ankles and thumbs and other injuries, remained the favorite sport. The North-South Game was, alas, won by the North. But save your Confederate volley balls, the South will rise again! Croquet had many faithful fans, both young and young-old, and it was a rare occasion on which one could cross the lawn without dodging wickets, mallets and players - even after dark. A few individuals (notably Hugh and Randy), determined to be non-conformists, stuck with horse shoes. Ping pong also had a small but faithful following. For reasons which some remember well, efforts to turn the tennis court into a soft ball diamond were abandoned early in the season! A new innovation this summer were the impromptu swimming lessons taken in the pool in full attire (by Muriel and Angie, with the enthusiastic encouragement of George and Dean).

ENTERTAINMENT

One could scarcely say that the summer was all work and no play since nearly every week-end found us enjoyably involved in some well planned entertainment.

June 20, Chapman Cottage sponsored an evening of bingo and card games, followed by refreshments.

June 27, Audubon turned the auditorium into a bowling alley, a unique idea that met with enthusiasm from all quarters.

July 4, the main event was a hilarious and touching skit about a maiden mountain girl (Primrose Peg), complete with villains, a Prince Charming and a few hundred cave crickets. The next day saw the North-South volley ball game, a hike and the picnic at Stonehenge. DeSchweinitz in charge.

July 11, Gattinger, Hentz-Mohr, Reed and "Shanty Town" sponsored the movie "Jet Pilot" (borrowed from the Hotel), with punch, popcorn and seat prizes in true theatre style.

July 25, An auction, sponsored by Laing, with Major Reeves (an auctioneer) extorting high prices for assorted items. From this sale, \$57.80 were added to the Recreation Fund.

August 1, Stephen-Elliott, Bannister, LeConte, Clayton, Harriot and Catesby had a hillbilly party. Several Mt. Lakers came so well costumed (?) that the Eugenics Society is planning to instigate sterilization proceedings! Next day was Waterless Sunday, with plenty of water in the spring, but unable to get through the pipes. It is doubtful that Dr. Hobbs, Bob Jochen or Mr. Couch would list this as entertainment!

August 8, Stephen-Elliott provided the food and Audubon provided drinks for the "open house" held in Chapman. Nice party.

August 9, Official Open House at the Station.

August 15, Chapman, DeSchweinitz and Audubon sponsored an evening of music on the lawn. Mr. William P. Carver of the Carver Furniture Co. in Blacksburg, very kindly lent Hugo James a "Hi-Fi" for the occasion.

OPEN HOUSE

The annual open house, held on Sunday, August 9, was a real success. The day began rather gray and cloudy, but skies cleared up, and 390 persons signed the guest book before days end. It is estimated that the total number of guests was closer to 500. Mrs. Hamilton was in charge of the decoration committee which decorated the entire Laboratory with displays of mountain flora. Rosemary Johnson's crew of guides directed groups of interested (and interesting) visitors through the various exhibits prepared by students and investigators. Refreshments were served on the dining hall porch, including the usual sassafrass tea.

WEATHER

According to Dr. Cleveland, Dr. Lewis and other "old-timers" the summer of '59 was the dryest in the history of the Station. The total rainfall between June 18 and Aug. 26 was only 3.9 inches, based on records kept by Mrs. Couch. This unusually low precipitation caused some concern lest a fire hazard should develop. However, except for the period between July 2 and 25, when only .48 inches rainfall were recorded, light showers fell at fairly regular intervals, keeping drought conditions from becoming critical. The spring held up well in spite of the low precipitation. High temperature for the summer was 87°F., low, 39°F.

VISITORS

Visitors and guests add a nice note of "different faces from different places" during the summer. Some of our visitors were Dr. Gelar Wiraatmadja (Indonesia), Dr. Lawrence Snyder (Univ. of Hawaii), Dr. I. R. Gibbons (Cambridge, England), Dr. Robert K. Burns (Carnegie Institution of Washington), Mr. and Mrs. James Wiltshire (Randolph Macon W.C.), Dr. and Mrs. Fred Orcutt, Dr. and Mrs. P.C. Holt, Mr. and Mrs. R.L. Hoffman, and Dr. Byrd McGinnis (all of V.P. I.). In August Dr. Burch (W. Va. Biol. Station) stopped by with his Field Zoology Class. Dr. B.F.D. Runk brought his Summer Institute class of high school teachers up to spend most of one day. Drs. J. Rappaport, R. D. McKinsey, and S.P. Maroney came for a short visit and the final examinations of Messrs. Milliken and Puckett.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

Prior to opening of the Station in the early summer, the Brooks Bird Club spent a week at the Station, holding their Annual Foray. Dr. Burns, who attended this outing, said that the group, consisting of some 80 persons, had a fine time.

Picture-taking days were attended by good weather both terms, and we are all now preserved for posterity.

Ann Emmons, whose paintings graced the auction sale, still has a few Mt. Lake watercolors and sketches available.

Dr. Tom Cheng has written that he has accepted a position in the Department of Biology, Lafayette College. Hugh Puckett is on the staff of the Department of Biology at the Norfolk Division of

the College of William and Mary. Ed. Crawford is on the staff of Erskine College.

U. Va. will never be the same now that Rosemary Johnson is teaching at Sweetbriar!

MOUNTAIN LAKE REVERBRATIONS

Here, for the sake of posterity, are recorded a few classical remarks which continue to echo through our brain tracts after a summer of intimate community life at Mt. Lake. We're sure you'll recognize the authors, but, if not, the initials will help you locate them in the Directory.

"David, stop throwing firewood off the porch" (S.M.); "I got a letter today" (said with a big grin) (M.S.A.); "There is absolutely no truth in the rumor that the spring has run dry and we are closing the station". (H.H.H.); "Are we gonna have dessert?" (asked three times a day!), (J.E.); "Guess what I heard!", (A.B.); "We don't do things like this at Princeton", (B.Z.); "How much will you pay me not to circulate this snapshot?", (J.W.); "This was Mr. Jefferson's piano. Of course, the keys are not the same, neither are the pedals, nor the stool,...", (M.N.R.); "No, I will not play pin-the-tail-on-the-donkey", (B.E.F.); "Have you heard the legend of the McKinley Oak?", (J.R.); "No, you boys cannot borrow the still" (already in use?), (R.J.); "We can't go to the movies tonight, Janie, we have to collect camel crickets", (D.E.); "Now I will render Eleanor Roosevelt rendering 'Peter and the Wolf'", (J.P.); "Operator, I want to call Bowling Green, Ky.", (D.H.P.); "You mean we can't have thirds on potatoes today?!", (B.M., R.E., etc., etc.); "...and then we discovered the snake was still alive!", (H.L.H.)...

CAN SOMEONE TELL US....?

Where did Muriel and George acquire the idea that they could collect amphibia at the drive-in theatre? * * Why did Larry lead people to believe his guest was to be a female? * * How did Jean Pugh get her luggage past the Mt. Lake Customs Inspectors? * * Is Dave's nickname of "Thumper" really deserved? * * Why Dean, an avowed yankee, spent such a suspicious amount of time going barefoot? * How Bill and Helen Peightel keep little Willy (our selection as Mt. Lake's "Best Dressed Man") so clean and charming? * * Why was Ame in such a hurry to get the curtains up in Harriot? * * How did Lucile and Peggy Walton "misplace" the trail back to the station? * * Has Marvin really hired a secretary to answer the letters he gets from those twenty girls each day? * * "Why do we have to have a king?" (query voiced by Tommy Pearson) * * Are Nola and Sally really planning to enter the National Ping Pong Tournament? * * Just what prompted Bruce to put a big white sign on the blackboard reading, "kill"? * * Why Josh Emmons, a real gourmet, prefers the candles to the cake? (Randy worries about this peculiarity and tries to persuade his son to eat the whole thing, after blowing out the candles, of course.) * * What does Dr. Lewis keep in his pond? Is it true that Jim Barefoot plans to switch from snakes to crocodiles? * * Why Hug

bought a bath for \$2.40 (at the auction), then gave a party. * *
 found out the tub was to be filled with water instead of punch? * *
 Are the Hollywood agents still annoying Primrose Peg in vain at-
 tempting to get her to sign a contract? * * Why Angie prefers "younger
 men" (see Matt Bovee for details)? * * Was real tea actually served
 at some of the tea parties on the Mt. this summer? * * How Gail can
 nonchalantly sit on the lawn and look charming while surrounded by
 mad croquet players. * * Where did Bud Jones get his corn
 shucking skill? * * Where did Ed Crawford learn to drawl like that?
Etc. ad infinitum.....

MOUNTAIN LAKE DIRECTORY

1959

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LATE NEWS BULLETIN

Muriel Beuschlein and George Babcock are to be married in late
January. Best wishes!!