

MOUNTAIN LAKE

# ECHOES



*Vol. 16*

*1953*

MERRY CHRISTMAS

## THE MOUNTAIN LAKE ECHOES

1953

Editor: Margaret Walton

Art Editor: Lucile Walton

### MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

There is nothing faint about this Echo. Instead of fading with each repetition these echoes seem to get stronger. This year our Editor has used a loud speaker to emphasize the happenings of 1953. Our thanks to Peggy, and also to Lucile for another beautiful "front". We are grateful to the Danville High School printers for their cooperation.

Forty students and eleven investigators, plus the staff, wives, and children contributed to making the largest crowd in attendance since 1950, when the G. I's. roamed the range. Eleven states and thirty-seven educational institutions were represented by our personnel.

Next session courses will be offered in: Limnology, Protozoology, Physiology, Experimental Embryology, Plant Morphogenesis, Radiation Biology, Vertebrates, and Mycology. During the summer we plan to observe our silver anniversary.

With all good wishes! May Santa bring you more than you deserve and may your accomplishments next year recompense the jolly old fellow!

Director

Greetings from the Editors

Let us pause in our preparations for the Holidays and think of Mountain Lake, so beautifully different at this season, covered in a blanket of pure white snow with pale green lichens on the trunks of bare trees being the only visible color, with the winds howling and moaning as they move across the lawn and through the deserted cottages, with the swirling snow almost obliterating a deer standing in front of the Laboratory which alone appears as strong as the wintry blast.

Our greeting, "Merry Christmas", is wishing you much happiness and good health. May the year 1954 find us once again at the Station renewing friendships amid blue skies, balmy weather, flowering rhododendron and singing birds.

## LECTURERS AND TOPICS

### First Semester

- June 25 Dr. William F. Diller - "Nuclear Reorganization Processes in Paramecium".
- June 29 Dr. John R. Totter - "Butterfly Wing Pigments and Their Relation to Some B Vitamins".
- July 2 Dr. Paul M. Patterson - "Geographical Distribution of Byrophytes".
- July 6 Dr. Donald L. Augustine - "Some Health Problems of an American Jutemill in India".
- July 7 Dr. Richard F. Kimball - "Effects of Radiation on Paramecium".
- July 13 Dr. Mary Esther Gaulden - "Human Implications of Recent Researches in Radiation Biology and the O. R. N. L.".
- July 16 Dr. William E. Bickley - "Examples of the Species Complex Among Insects".
- July 20 Dr. George E. Stapleton - "Recent Experiments in Radiation Biology".
- July 21 Dr. Irence C. Diller - "Recent Advances in Cancer Research".

### Second Semester

- July 27 Dr. Grover C. Pitts - "Some Aspects of Gross-Body Composition".
- July 29 Mr. A. B. Massey - "Alleghany Wild Flowers." A movie.
- Aug. 4 Jack Reeves and Grace Smyth - Prehistoric Indians of the Southwest and So-ian Indians of the Piedmont.
- Aug. 10 Dr. Woolford B. Baker - "The Okeefenokee Swamp".
- Aug. 17 Dr. A. M. Winchester - "Phase Contrast Studies of Chromosomes".
- Aug. 19 Dr. Arthur W. Jones - "Teaching Evolution in Tennessee".
- Aug. 21 Dr. John Davis - "The Biological Productivity of Some Big Springs in Florida".
- Aug. 24 Dr. Robert K. Burns - "The Hormone Theory of Sex Differentiation and Its Present Status".

## OF WORK

Special attention should be called to the course offered in Radiation Biology in cooperation with the Oak Ridge National Laboratory. The fine work and delightful personalities presented by this group are deeply appreciated. The sincerity of this statement is evidenced by the fact that we have asked them to come back again next year.

Grateful acknowledgements to Phipps and Bird for establishing the Fellowship under which Dr. Silva made an excellent survey of the algae of the region.

## PROJECTS AND IMPROVEMENTS

The Rock Garden continued to be a center of interest and beauty. Dr. and Mrs. Robert Burns devoted many hours to its care and added many new plants. Since the garden attracted the rabbits, deer, and "little dears" it was suggested that a border of nettle be planted around it for protection.

Dr. Paul Patterson cleared an area near Schoew cottage in which approximately 30 species of ferns and lycopodiums were planted. However, the climbing fern is still missing, possibly some zealous collector in the near future will correct this omission. This place has been named Paul's Pteripodium.

Dorothy Crandall painted new signs, as many had disappeared during the winter. The Crandall-hair-paint brush, designed and executed by Dr. Reynolds, is now in the museum.

Thanks to Mr. Couch and the ground crew the laboratory floors had an excellent waxing. With the ever eagle-eye of Jesse Thompson and his command, "Wipe your feet!" they remained in good condition during the entire summer.

The Indian artifact enthusiasts, Dr. Reynolds, Jack Reeves, and Grace Smyth had an interesting exhibit in the foyer of the laboratory. This, with the paintings and models made by Grace Smyth, the photographic prints of leaves made by Randy Shields, and the collections of insects made by the Entomology Class attracted much attention.

Some of the cottages were very definitely benefited by their summer inhabitants. Dr. and Mrs. Baker added carefully selected end bannisters to Schoew's porch, planted ferns and even built a walk. The boys in Schweinitz made it a show place by redecorating the interior with wall panels of green, red draperies, accented with a gold horse's skull and what-nots. Not to be outdone the inmates of Stephen Elliott added curtains and even planted ferns and mosses in the stump by the porch. Gattinger also had its walls redone by Bob Heffner's father who was visiting.

Jim Wiltshire and Dr. Lewis remodeled Penelope's Pool by adding a miniature bird bath for the redstarts, a larger one for the cedar waxwings and towhees, leaving the pool for Cokey, Jr. (a very elusive sun perch).

Mr. Couch sprinkled the lawn with lime during a very dense fog. Harold Genty, unaware of the project, expressed his amazement at the whiteness of the ground. Whereupon, someone asked, "Doesn't fog settle like that in Texas?"

The Archegoniate Class made an all day expedition to White Top. The weather was perfect and many specimens were collected.

The Plant Ecology Class spent the week-end studying various habitats at Mt. Rogers and the surrounding area.

The road leading to the Station was taken into the Secondary Highway System. We hope it will be kept up better. The Station's property has been made into a game sanctuary.

#### OPEN HOUSE

The weather cooperated in making our annual Open House on August 14 very successful. Approximately sixty guests from the neighboring communities and Charlottesville were shown interesting exhibits and demonstrations in the laboratory (none were disappointed as John Burns exhibited a rattlesnake and his black snake, which was back for the third summer). Sassafras tea, punch, and cookies were served from the dining room porch. Indidentally, it seems that we all enjoy the occasion as it gives the members of the station an opportunity to observe some of the work being done by the classes and investigators, visit the cottages that are open, and see the laboratory as well as each other dressed up for the occasion.

#### THE PLANNING COUNCIL

The Planning Council continued its weekly meetings in the Rose Room. The projects and constructive suggestions made by the members contributed much to the success and enjoyment of life at the Station. Elected representatives were: Women students - Jean Dofflemoyer and Marian Beckner, Men students - John Burns and Jesse Thompson, Investigators - Ben Johns.

#### DIETITIANS

In her usual style Mrs. Bates fed us excellently for six weeks and then took a much needed vacation. Her duties were taken over by Mrs. Mary Smith, dietitian at R.M.W.C., who carried on the good work. With two such culinary artists there is little wonder that many carried more pounds off than they brought on.

#### WEATHER

The wather was all anyone could wish for. Temperatures ranged from 46.5° F to 89.3° F, thus reaching a new high for the station. Rain-fall for the area was probably the least since 1930 with only 2.8 inches during the second term. A few days of cold, fog and rain showed the newcomers what Mt. Lake weather can really be like. Swimming both day and night was a favorite pastime during the warm weather.

#### CARETAKER

The new caretaker Mr. Farley Couch and family arrived at the station from the mountains of Kentucky in a 17 inch snow storm in January 1953. He was a favorite character with all and we will long remember his choice remarks. Thanks to the new wood shed and Mr. Couch's "stove-size" wood, fire making was a pleasure. Prospects for next year are even better, since a chain saw has been provided.

#### LIBRARY

It was nice to have Marjorie Carver of the Alderman Library back for two weeks. Helen Peightel, the Station librarian, with the assistance of Hazel Thompson and Bill Peightel catalogued about 600 reprints and labeled books belonging to Mt. Lake so that they can be returned easily if taken to Charlottesville during the winter.

#### GRADUATE

Ben Johns completed the requirements at Mountain Lake and received a Master's Degree from the University of Virginia on August 22, 1953. The title of his thesis was Morphological Observations on Cambarincola sp., Branchiobdellidae (Annelida, Oligochaeta).

#### SOCIAL NOTES

Dr. and Mrs. Reynolds entertained the members of the station at a watermelon feast on July 5. Dr. Reynolds never fails to pick the best and the sweetest - as it was Sunday no "face-washing" and the like occurred.

The second term was ushered in with a "get-to-gether" in the auditorium. The Staff and new members were introduced by Dr. Reynolds. This was followed by a social hour with refreshments.

Johnny Burns called the figures for the Saturday night square dances held at the Station. Many also enjoyed the dances at the Hotel.

The after dinner coffees, the cottage parties, and the midnight snacks all contributed to the pleasures of the summer.

The boys in Schweinitz added much to the enjoyment of Sunday afternoons by their concerts of classical and semiclassical music on the lawn.

Dr. Ladley Husted, Dr. Walter Flory, Dr. Jacques Rappaport and Dr. David Bierhorst from the Biology Department of the University visited the Station during the summer.

- The stork has been busy

Jack Stallard became a proud father just before exams. A son was born to Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Burns in August.

Since the Station closed Dr. and Mrs. Arthur Jones have another daughter, Mary Ellen; Betty and Ben Jons have another little girl, Elizabeth Newell; Mr. and Mrs. Couch have a daughter, Linda Gail, added to their family; Mr. and Mrs. Fulton Fite have a daughter, Cynthia Ann.

### STONEHENGE

A picturesque spot near the Station, discovered last summer by the Reynolds and the Wiltshires was the scene of a gay picnic supper on the Fourth of July and another celebration a week later. In a circular area, cleared of underbrush and small trees, lay a jumble of great stones, impressive for their size and peculiar fitness for the occasion. Here at hand were fireplace, tables and seats for all, some even with backs and moss upholstery. Since nothing seemed lacking but a name, a contest was immediately organized to choose one, and a beautiful certificate, now hanging in the rose room of the laboratory, was painted by Lucile Walton for the winner. In a vote the following Saturday, on 65 different entries, "Stonehenge" topped the list. This name, aside from recognizing some slight resemblance to its great English prototype in Wiltshire, served also to remind us that the area in question lies in Wiltshire Woods, the tract of land given to the Station by Mr. and Mrs. James Wiltshire.

Thither all repaired that evening for the presentation ceremony. By firelight in the gathering dusk (a scene which Neolithic man himself would have enjoyed) Dr. Reynolds presented Lucile Burns with the degree of Nomenclator cum laude, with all the privileges thereunto appertaining. The hope was expressed that she would not begin forthwith calling people names.

Mrs. R. K. Burns

### On Bath County and a Journey Thither

Toward the middle of July a small but select party left the Biological Station on an expedition to the northward, to see and collect some of the rarer ferns and mosses, and in quest of greener pastures. The party consisted of the Station's chief expert in the field, and a colleague of distinction - a "dean" no less - and on these two fell all scientific responsibility. They were accompanied, however, by an escort of honor whose duties were to observe and make suitable comment on the beauties of nature and the activities of the collectors, and to take due heed of the territory covered and so insure a safe return. It was well that such precaution was taken, and particularly fortunate that the escort leader knew the far country where the party went and had personal contacts there.

Penetrating the fastnesses of Bath county in the vicinity of a noted spa, the party found themselves ascending a wild ravine of remarkable beauty. Here our scientists became wholly immersed in their work while the escort, after a period of spartan endurance, took off in a bee line in quest of lunch and refreshment. Then, well fortified, they returned to encourage and safeguard their charges, only to encounter at the head of the ravine one whose aspect and demeanor betokened a minion of the law. By

great good fortune it proved that this Captain of the Ravine and our own Captain of the guard were known to each other, and the two embraced in ancient fellowship, after which the Captain of the Ravine assumed a serious mien and became confidential somewhat, if not literally, as follows.

This ravine is my special precinct and all that transpires within it is my personal concern and responsibility. I am now face to face with duty. There is down here below us "a pair of shabby old rascals" who delve and scratch in search of I know not what. They open their bags and show me "a lot of fuzzy old trash" which they describe in words of "pure nonsense and asininity". Obviously this "foolishness" they talk is intended only to mislead me and conceal their real business. They are to a certainty members of that very low fraternity of "sang (ginseng) diggers" and thus in false guise trespass to plunder the ravine of its treasure. It is within my prerogative to seize, hold and prosecute them to the fullest extent of the law. In this vein he continued, and it is the Station's great loss that many other choice comments and characterizations do not lend themselves to quotation and so are lost to its archives forever.

In the face of this wonderful dilemma the imagination and visibilities of the Captain of the Guard were so excited that he wellnigh forgot his duty to his charges; while the secretary of the expedition found it expedient to turn his gaze on distant places and talk about the weather. At this moment who should clamber into view but the two villains, laden with their spoil, and there was naught to do but recognize them. Thus were matters put in their true light, and after more talk between our two captains in the context of auld lang syne all was set right and the expedition turned homeward. This is a distressing example of the risks attending exploration by innocent biologists, even in this age, and shows the necessity of having all such expeditions properly chaperoned and escorted.

R. K. Burns.

## THE TRIAL

### Dramatis Personae

Judge of the Court - - - - - W. B. Baker  
Amicus Curi - - - - - Arthur Jones  
Prosecutor - - - - - Robert L. Amy  
Defense Attorney - - - - - Robert R. Miller  
Sheriff - - - - - Ed. A. Crawford  
Court Stenographer - - - - - Mrs. Robert Miller  
Sordid Press - - - - -  
Virginia Odocoileus, the Plaintiff - - - - Dolores Hoback  
Jack the Ribber, the Defendant - - - - Jack Reeves

### Expert Witnesses

Bacteriologist - - - - - Dr. Kay Russell  
Game Warden - - - - - Mr. Randy Shields  
Ornithologist - - - - - Mrs. J. W. Wiltshire  
Art Collector - - - - - Mrs. W. B. Baker  
Director of Station - - - - - Dr. B. D. Reynolds  
Expert on Galls - - - - - Dr. Ivey Lewis and Miss Lucile Walton  
(Witness not called since prosecutor admitted it did not take much  
gall to steal a set of teeth)  
Expert on legs - - - - - Miss Peggie Walton (Defense admitted many legs  
necessary)

### Jurymen

Dr. and Mrs. Royal Shanks, Dr. and Mrs. John Davis, Mrs. B. D. Reynolds

CASE NUMBER 82253 - Court of Guiles County, State of Confusion.

Virginia Odocoileus versus Jack -the Ribber.

Charge: Grand Larceny of Personal Property (A set of upper molars)

After much preliminary investigation, both public and private, of the facts, rumors and criss-cross accusations, a fair trial before a jury was held in accordance with the legal code in operation at the Mountain Lake Biological Station. At which trial the following salient, pertinent and relevant facts were established:

1. The plaintiff, poor dear, ate a hearty breakfast, took a long walk, and having come to a sunny glade near her home beside Big Stony, decided to relax and rest.

2. Fearing bacterial infection from the food she had eaten she removed her upper plate of molars and placed them beside a stump in the bright sunlight for sterilization.

3. As she lay dozing she heard heavy foot-falls along the creek bed.

4. According to her sworn testimony, "A huge, crouching figure -- a sort of gay, sly looking old bird of a man" came into view. He would stop at intervals, carefully examine small bits of rock and then making a sort of chuckling sound would say, "They were here at this very spot". He would then place the bits of rock in his pocket.

5. Poor, startled, frightened and timid Virginia watched these proceedings with trembling limbs and beating heart.

6. The giant figure came slowly into the open and started toward the stump where lay the precious plates. How could they escape the eagle eye of this "gay old bird", this "snake in the grass"? Alas, they did not.

7. With a gleam in his eye and a furtive glance in all directions he seized the teeth, hastily put them in his pocket and with an exulting, "Ah, Hah", he disappeared into the forest.

8. Virginia was heart broken. How could she eat, how could she sleep, how could she purse her ruby lips into tantalizing curves or how could she prevent her dainty dimples from becoming hollow invaginations? What should she do-- this timid forest damsel? Should she tell her mother? Should she tell her boy friend? How could she?

9. As she started dejectedly homeward she saw her close friend and counsellor, the game warden. Here was the solution to her problem. She unburdened her heart and her limpid eyes took on a new gleam as he promised to report the theft and seek to find the culprit.

10. Said game warden reported the matter to Director Reynolds of the Mt. Lake Biological Station and asked that a search be made of all property and persons on the station premises for the missing teeth.

11. Such a search was instituted and Harry Holloway discovered the stolen property in a leaking water tank in quarters occupied by defendant, Jack the Ribber.

12. Said find was reported to Director Reynolds who set in motion a thorough investigation under due process of law.

13. Knowing a party was planned in quarters occupied by said Jack the Ribber, the official photographer was assigned to secure pictures of the participants and recordings were made of the confusing noises. The pictures and records were impounded by the court of Guiles Co, State of Confusion and were presented as evidence during the trial.

14. Conviction seemed certain when the pictures were shown in court and the defendant was seen placing the stolen teeth in his mouth preparatory to eating a sandwich. As the picture was flashed on the screen before the jury Jack the Ribber arose, threw off his shirt and placed himself on the mercy of the court. The Judge however insisted that the case be given to the jury for evaluation.

15. After hearing the testimony of expert witnesses the jury was charged \$100.00 by Judge Baker and were conducted from the court room by the sheriff. Tenseness reigned throughout the room as the spectators eagerly awaited the verdict.

16. Without warning the sheriff rushed into the room, mounted the bench and whispered into the ear of Judge Baker the ominous word that the jury had hung itself. Judge Baker rushed from the room and there on the chandileer hung what was left of the faithful jury. Apparently his charge had been too exorbitant.

The Judge returned excitedly to the bench (Piano bench, that is) and in sad but stentorian tones announced: "Since the jury has been hung there can be no verdict the case is dismissed.

17. Thus came to an excited end the first, last and only trial held at the Station during the summer of 1953.

Signed W. B. Baker, Judge of the Court.

#### HERE AND THERE ON THE MOUNTAIN

Charlie Scheaffer looking for centimeter eggs -- Skip Pelan asleep on the ground outside of Schweinitz at 1:30 A.M. -- Jeff Pitts collecting milliweeds -- calcium chloride used to keep down the dust on Quality Row (formerly known as Shanty Town) -- the boys in Schweinitz appearing at breakfast in coats and ties -- bulletins on the family life of the Sinclair family (the deer mice) as reported "blow-by-blow" by the mouse keepers --

Glenda Couch's two puppies, named Joice and Rejoice -- Dr. Lewis' favorite fish hook that was caught in the lake being released by Cokey Pitts as she, poised in mid-air above water, was held in tow by Jim Wiltshire, who in turn was anchored to a root -- the surprise of the summer, Delores Hoback opening one of many cigar boxes collected from a country store in Entomology Class and finding \$100 in cash (eventually the henpecked owner was located and to his sorrow had to admit he was saving it to buy beer without his wife's knowledge) -- seen somewhere near Gold Bond; Dr. Baker (weight 140 lbs.) holding Jack Reeves (weight 240 lbs.) over a cliff -- Lloyd Richert while testing his aspirating bottle found to his dismay that it works -- the proof -- a fly in his mouth -- Irene, Dr. Lewis' pride and joy, a gray-green convertible (1936 model) with rumble seat and right front yellow wheel -- the pictures taken in a room in Audubon on a Saturday night -- the visits of Mrs. Phil Graef, Mrs. Ed Crawford and Mrs. Burich made some question their motive as to whether they came to encourage their respective mates in their work, or check up.

#### Unwelcomed Visitors

The rattlesnake that came to Leconte for coffee, and was spotted by Dr. Mary Esther Gaulden -- the early catbird that pecked on windows between 5 and 6 A.M. -- creatures in the attics -- the bobcat that screamed at Marian Beckner -- the bat that visited Dr. Diller and found that it was not aquatic -- the "Bug!"

#### SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS

Swimming: Dr. Herman Silva proved to be the aquatic star by swimming the length of the pool 33 times non-stop. When little Johnny Jones (aged 3) took a dip in the deep end of the pool and was asked if he swam, his reply was, "Oh, no, I sank!"

Volley Ball: The big game of the season was the Radiation Biologists vs. the All Stars (comprised of other members of the Station). After a hard fought battle the All Stars won two out of three games. Interest was kept high in the sport by such ardent challengers as the "Mousers", "The Chow Hounds" and classes.

Horseshoes: Quite the sport of the summer with many striving for top honors. Perhaps Dr. Reynolds' biggest difficulty was in having someone top his ringers. Some of the other more skilled players included Danny Cox, Bob Amy, and Bob Heffner.

Fencing: Mr. Couch found this quite new and intriguing and said, "Now I've seen everything." Our most prominent experts included Ted Malinin and Dr. Jones. Up'n coming fencers include Jesse Thompson, Sherby and Tony Jones.

Ping Pong: The one who rates recognition in this department is Sam Byers.

Croquet: Dr. and Mrs. Reynolds still remain the undisputed champions. Charlotte Lyle and Sam Byers make a fine team.

## ALUMNI NOTES

Dr. Ivey F. Lewis, for many years Head of the Department of Biology, and Dean of the College at the University of Virginia, and Director of the Mt. Lake Biological Station from 1933 to 1946, retired from active service in June, 1953.

Maggie Thurman Pennington received the Doctor of Philosophy degree from the University of Virginia in June 1953.

Nancy Groseclose spent the summer in California and has been granted a year's leave of absence from Agnes Scott to work on her doctorate at the University.

Dr. James N. Dent has been granted a leave of absence from the University to continue his research at Oak Ridge.

Dr. Hiden T. Cox is the Deputy Executive Director of the A. I. B. S.

Dr. Walter Whitehurst is serving his internship at Johns Hopkins.

Bobby Burns has been granted a fellowship to do research in France.

Dr. William F. Diller was elected Vice-President of the Society of Protozoologists.

Dr. Bruce D. Reynolds is a member of the Council of the A. A. A. S.

Melvin Rose is in the Army now. We think.

Among the "old-timers" who just couldn't stay away from Mountain Lake and paid short visits were Dr. and Mrs. Gordon Woolcott and two boys; Dr. and Mrs. D. L. Augustine; Dr. and Mrs. Herman Odell and son; Dr. and Mrs. Perry Holt and Susie; Anna Leatherman; Dr. and Mrs. Homer Will; Jack Davis; Dr. Bob Brumfield; Colonel and Mrs. Bob Carroll, Mr. and Mrs. A.B. Massey and Miss Mabel Massey; Dr. and Mrs. Hiden T. Cox; Dr. and Mrs. A. M. Winchester and Betty Joe; Dr. and Mrs. John Davis; Ed Keunzler; Mr. and Mrs. Herman Brandt. Dr. and Mrs. L. R. Cleveland collected at the Station before it opened.

## Personnel

Robert L. Amy, Copeley Hill, Charlottesville, Va.  
Dr. and Mrs. W. B. Baker, Dept. of Biology, Emory University, Ga.  
Mrs. Myrtle A. Bates, V. E. S., Lynchburg, Va.  
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 Herman Silva Forest, Dept. of Biology, W & M, Williamsburg, Va.  
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 John Pelan, 706 Oneida St., Huntingdon, Pa.  
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 Z. J. Wampler, 4509 Patterson Ave., Richmond 21, Va.  
 J. B. Williams, 143 Carroll Ave., Colonial Heights, Va.  
 Mrs. J. T. Wiltshire, 2949 Rivermont Ave., Lynchburg, Va.  
 Elizabeth M. Zipf, 316 Kingston Ave., Barrington, N. J.