

MOUNTAIN LAKE ECHOES



G.A.S. '51



THE MOUNTAIN LAKE ECHOES 1951

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THE SEASON'S GREETINGS

How better to gladden your hearts than to tell you that the Station's grounds have been nearly doubled through the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. James W. Wiltshire. They have purchased and made available to us that tract of land (about 561 acres) lying between the Station's lease and the Jefferson National Forest and extending north of the Station to War Spur Trail between the old Salt Sulphur Turnpike and the Jefferson National Forest. This gives us a continuous boundry with the Jefferson National Forest of approximately three miles.

All not present last summer will be glad to learn that we have acquired an electric autoclave and sterilizer and a Beckman glass electrode pH meter from War Surplus property.

Dr. Robert K. Burns donated about 2,000 reprints to our library, and Mrs. J. C. Flippin gave us 50 medical books.

Emory University has joined other cooperating institutions by establishing a scholarship or fellowship to the Station.

Those attending the Station last summer came from fourteen states and 37 colleges and universities.

We plan to offer the following courses next session: Animal Ecology, Coelomates, Helminthology, Hydrobiology, Mycology, Physiology, Plant Anatomy, and Plant Taxonomy.

Director

Weather Notes

Temperatures during the seventy days of the summer session ranged from 40° to 82.5°. The average daily variation, however, was 21.5°, mostly from somewhere in the 50's to the 70's. Only eight days reached 80° and only six were below 45°.

Rainfall for the period was just under seven inches, well spaced. An inch of rain fell in one day during the first cold week. Later showers, on twenty-three days, averaged only 25 in. There were at least four periods of six to eight days each, with only a trace of rain. During the first term the Vertebrates boasted that in daily field trips only once were they even slightly sprinkled.

Changes

The new caretaker, Mr. Bueland Stevers, has been busy this fall carrying out one of the Director's long-cherished projects - a parking place back of the laboratory, with a road encircling the whole "campus." No longer will cars be parked on the old West Virginia road. In fact, there is no road in front of the laboratory, nor even a stone wall. Instead, a continuous expanse of grass, reminiscent of Mr. Jefferson's lawn at the University of Virginia, extends from the stone laboratory to the Laing apartment building, except where the rock-garden intervenes. This area of rocks-too-large-to-move was the scene of much activity during the summer. It is to be hoped that the orchids and lilies, wild roses, and other native flowers so carefully planted will thrive in their new habitat and become part of an ever-growing mountain wild-flower garden.

Personals

Bubble gum sold this season at the Commissary was unusually viscous. Ask Punky Lintz.

"We've been working on the pipe-line" - theme song of Drs. Reynolds and Orcutt and Johnny Burns, late for dinner after a particularly strenuous afternoon.

In a dither all summer over the arrival of his first-born, Harry Holloway was kept in ignorance for several hours after the news did come because he was taking his final examination.

A propos Peggy Walton's falling in the bog on her back, we treasure the words of Ogden Nash:

"You look divine as you advance -

Have you seen yourself retreating?"

Thought for the year -- contributed by a two-year old:

Tibby Penn, running on the mess-hall porch, stumbled and fell flat on her face. There was no outcry, not even a whimper. She simply gave her head a determined shake and said, "Tibby got to get up!"

Typed but not read - two term papers for the Vertebrate field course were turned in under the heading, "Invertebrate Zoology."

Superlatives

The most remarkable find. -- A lignified "melk's" head - by Miss Smyth. It is now in the museum.

The best rock-gardener. -- Dr. Burns - he loves it.

The pluckiest gals. -- Mrs. Wiltshire and Dr. MacKay - "Trails" never get too rough for them.

The safest medicine man. -- Dr. Goin - his brew won't kill you.

Social Gatherings

Watermelons, contributed by Mr. Wiltshire and cooled in Penelope's Pool (to the disgust of the resident green frog) attracted most of the station to a Fourth of July party at Dr. Lewis' cottage. The singing afterwards, both patriotic and folk, was unusually gay and spirited.

Another sing, at the rock garden, later in the season, featured "The Old Apple Tree."

Open House, July 6th, was a perfect day, and not only neighbors from the Laing estate and the hotel, but also visitors from Blacksburg and Radford came to see the exhibits and demonstrations in the laboratory. Unfortunately the most persistent efforts had failed to procure a live rattlesnake for the occasion. Sassafras tea made a hit with some, although one guest was heard to mutter something about tasting "like varnish." For such as he there was also punch. As a special attraction local talent later in the afternoon presented a unique lawn show: Fulton Fite and his banjo, Ben Hoffman's one-man band, and Ed Kuenzler, star acrobat and tumbler.

Monday evening programs of classical music and Saturday night square dances have become almost as traditional as Sunday night sings. Among informal activities associated with various cottages might be mentioned coffee at LeConte, Kodachromes at Maphis, popcorn at Audubon, and snake-feeding at Hentz-Mohr. After-lecture gatherings at Walter Reed kept Dr. and Mrs. Reynolds busy entertaining most of the summer.

Sports

Croquet - As soon as the grass was down the wickets were up, and thereafter the balls kept rolling - whether knocked about at random by small fry or driven with the precision and unerring strategy of the Director (with all grades of proficiency in-between!) In the absence of daylight saving, critical games were occasionally caught by darkness and finished by flashlight, with the same enthusiasm and intensity that have always marked Mountain Lake Croquet.

Swimming - A thorough scouring by station personnel made the pool attractive, and continuous sunshine brought swimming back into favor. Morning, noon, and at least once at night, hilarious groups outshouted the tree frogs, but few enjoyed the water more than the Drivers' infant.

Tennis, badminton, and pingpong had their own small groups of followers, and the clang of horseshoes was a familiar sound,

but the game of the season was Volley-ball. Stampeding from the mess hall evening after evening, boys and girls, students and faculty - nearly half the station, in fact - made a bee-line for the volley-ball court. And then such excitement! "Arduous, exhausting fun." Joe Chapman dubbed it, and who should know better? He sprained an ankle at it and was back at the game inside a week. Here is his impressionistic account: "Fun? Sure! The ball was wet (it rained that day) Splat! The sand flew. So dark you couldn't see the ball. And if you could, it was coming too fast. It was out anyway. See that line? Besides, you hit the net. Applegate, whose side are you on? Look out for that spiked ball! etc. etc." Why such strenuous exercise so soon after eating had no ill effects remains a mystery. There were, to be sure, bruises, black eyes, and broken glasses, but in a way the gallery of spectators suffered most: midges were a prime nuisance all summer.

Birds

Birds of the area had little privacy this summer with so many bird watchers afoot, spying upon them, taking notes on their hourly activities and photographing them from ambush. Ruffed grouse, more numerous than ever, were flushed up on nearly every trail; sometimes a single one, interrupted at her dust bath, and again a whole family with Mother executing her broken-wing routine to save her young. An early riser heard the beautiful flight song of the oven bird and a group after dark were flagged down by the glowing red eye of a whippoorwill in the road, mistaken for the tail-light of a car. On a Sunday afternoon trail-clearing-hike another whippoorwill was discovered at Rattlesnake Rock leaving her "nest" with one egg and a newly-hatched downy light-brown chick. Later two young were photographed scarcely visible against the brown leaves of the nest spot on the bare ground.

Sleek cedar waxwings and fighting robins nested all over the Station grounds, with chipping sparrows, least flycatchers and indigo buntings for neighbors. In the laurel on the fringes, chestnut-sided warblers patiently sat out the mass intrusion, and from a low oak branch a mountain vireo calmly looked down on all the curious. A family of flickers in an oak in front of the laboratory amused the whole station, as did a yellow-bellied sapsucker with his daily loud rat-tat on the metal conduit of a power line pole. Rose-breasted grosbeaks and scarlet tanagers brightened the tree-tops and added their voices to the daily chorus of wood thrushes, towhees, and red-eyed vireos, to mention only a few.

Close observation of a pair of golden-winged warblers in Little Meadows led to the discovery and subsequent photographing of a nest full of hungry young. A female parula warbler was

seen gathering Usnea "moss" near Hunter's branch while the male sang in a tree close by, but their nest was not located. Early one morning a pair of beautiful Canada warblers were discovered lying on the ground beneath a front window of the laboratory against which they probably had flown.

More Field Notes

The unofficial Keeper of the Trails reports all in fair condition. Accompanied by his faithful shadow and occasionally an able-bodied crew he followed them all, clearing and reblazing the Twin Springs Trail to Rattlesnake and Rovelli Rocks, and the Bear Cliff-Tower Trail received especial attention.

Woods near the tower were ravaged by caterpillars which ate every leaf, giving them a mid-winter appearance.

Two observers at the lake one morning were rewarded by three unusual sights: a red squirrel sitting on the rim of a trash barrel by the boat-house, eating peanuts, a five-pointed buck smoothly swimming across the lake, and a bewildered gray fox, pursued by yelping dogs, bounding down the trail and coming to a stop almost at their feet before taking off up the mountain side.

At least two expeditions encountered moonshiners, the Palaeontology class on its Bluefield trip, and a small group in Johns Creek Valley.

Library

To many, the library will be remembered as an ideal observation spot for watching the deer at the salt block. How cautious one had to be opening a window so the camera enthusiast could get a clearer view!

The sound of the typewriter, busy typing the reprint cards, is now quiet and all cards have found their places in the file. The Alderman books have been taken back to their resting place in Charlottesville to await another inevitable journey come June. Then again, the card files will be searched through, the books shelved, the new journals recorded, the steel file put in order on the arrival of last year's term papers, and the much worried-over "Charge Out" box will be back on the table. Thus again a number will seek this spot to "cram" before tests or just to pass the time of day.

In Attendance - 1951

Robert L. Amy, Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove, Pa.
Shelton P. Applegate, Route 8, Richmond, Va.
Dr. and Mrs. Lowell Bailey, Dept. of Bio., U. of Ark., Fayetteville
Myrtle A. Bates, Virginia Episcopal School, Lynchburg, Va.
Walter H. Bryan, 315 Lewis St., Harrisburg, Pa.
Charlotte B. Buckland, 2623 Herschel St., Jacksonville 4, Fla.
Dr. & Mrs. R. K. Burns, 2115 Kelly Ave., Baltimore 9, Md.
John M. Burns, 2115 Kelly Ave., Baltimore 9, Md.
Wm. S. Burton, 128 Cropper St., Chincoteague Island, Va.
Marjorie W. Carver, 100 High St., Charlottesville, Va.
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Chapman, 308 S. College St., Jefferson City, Tenn.
Dr. & Mrs. Hiden T. Cox, Dept. of Biol., V.P.I., Blacksburg, Va.
John C. Dalton, 504 Virginia Ave., Bluefield, Va.
Mr. & Mrs. Donald D. Driver, Timberville, Va.
Dr. & Mrs. Wm. L. Engels, Dept. of Zool., U. of N.C., Chapel Hill, N.C.
Fulton W. Fite, 445 14th St., Charlottesville, Va.
Mr. & Mrs. F.F. Flint, Victoria, Va.
Harold Gentry, 830 W. Bond St., Denison, Texas
Dr. & Mrs. C.J. Goin, Dept. of Biol., V. of Fla., Gainesville, Fla.
Donald P. Gordon, 5240 Davis Rd., S. Miami, Fla.
Carol W. Haff, 395 Washington Ave., Pelham 65, N.Y.
Ray E. Harris, Sheperdstown, W.Va.
C. W. Hart, Jr., High Street, Farmville, Va.
Winifred Heller, 8804 Semmes Ave., Norfolk, Va.
Ben. F. Hoffman, Jr., 1316 E. Belvidere Ave., Baltimore 12, Md.
Harry L. Holloway, Jr., 4-B Copeley Hill, Charlottesville, Va.
Donald B. Jeffreys, 321 Bruffey St., Salem, Va.
Mr. & Mrs. Ben. I. Johns, 611 Beverly Dr., Alexandria, Va.
Albert V. Kanner, 4510 Wentworth Rd., Baltimore 7, Md.
Donald A. Kautter, 511 Lindbergh Ave., Stroudsburg, Pa.
Edward J. Kuenzler, Jr., Loxahatchee, Fla.
Anna D. Leatherman, Upland College, Upland, Calif.
Dean and Mrs. Ivey F. Lewis, E. Lawn, U. of Va., Charlottesville, Va.
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Lintz, Jr., MacKay School of Mines, Reno, Nevada
Elizabeth MacKay, Dept. of Botany, Purdue Univ., Lafayette, Ind.
Rachel McCormick, Dunn Rd. RFD 2, Fayetteville, N.C.
Wayne M. Meyers, Aitch, Pa.
Mary R. Michie, 715 W. 4½ St., Winston-Salem, N.C.
Morrison A. Miller, Newton, Bucks Co., Pa.
Rommie Moore, Box 201, Bassett, Va.
Dr. & Mrs. Fred S. Orcutt, Dept. of Biol., V.P.I., Blacksburg, Va.
Dr. & Mrs. Paul M. Patterson, Hollins College, Va.
Dr. & Mrs. Geo. H. Penn., Dept. of Zool., Tulane U., New Orleans, La.
Mr. & Mrs. Wm. E. Peightel, Box 268, Martinsburg, Pa.
Dr. & Mrs. Bruce D. Reynolds, 1702 Burneley Ave., Charlottesville
Melvin M. Rose, Jamison Rd., Luray, Va.
Mary E. Smith, 203 Washington St., Blacksburg, Va.
Grace A. Smyth, Jr., 433 Market St., Salem, Va.
Daniel B. Suter, E. Monnonite College, Harrisonburg, Va.
Janie E. Turner, 8804 Semmes Ave., Norfolk 3, Va.
Edna Turpin, Route 2, Crewe, Va.
Lucile and Margaret Walton, 1116 E. Main St., Danville, Va.
Dr. & Mrs. B.H. Willier & Louise, Dept. of Bio., J. Hopkins U., Balt., Md.
Mr. & Mrs. James W. Wiltshire, 2949 Rivermont Ave., Lynchburg, Va.
Gerald N. Wogan, 1203 Broadway, Juniata, Altoona, Pa.
Mr. and Mrs. Wm. S. Woolcott, Box 375, Jefferson City, Tenn.