MICHIGAN ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Volume 7, Number 2, March 1963

ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

The Ninth Annual Meeting of the Society will be held on Saturday, March 23, at Western Michigan University at Kalamazoo in Room 109, Leslie Wood Hall. Maps showing routes to Kalamazoo and to Leslie Wood Hall will be found at the end of the Newsletter. Awards will be presented for the best papers presented at the meeting. Dr. Roland L. Fischer has arranged the following program:

10:00 Preliminary business meeting and announcements.

10:15 A method for collecting feather lice (Mallophaga: Insecta). D. B. Crockett and R. L. Fischer, Michigan State University.

10:25 Behavior and ecology of the fern sawfly, Aneugmenus flavipes (Hymenoptera: Tenthredinidae). Gottfried Hogh, The University of Michigan.

10:45 A new record for Lepidocyrtus paradoxus Uzel in North America (Entomobryidae: Collembola). R. J. Snider and R. L. Fischer, Michigan State University.

11:00 A simplified technique for rearing and maintaining a colony of houseflies (Musca domestica L.). G. W. Ozburn, Northern Michigan College.

11:15 Special collecting techniques for Indian butterflies. Julian P. Donahue, Michigan State University.

11:35 Some Mexican examples of mimicry. Henry Townes, The University of Michigan.

12:00 - 1:30 Lunch. Student Union.

1:30 Population sampling of Dendroctonus monticolae. Robert Robert Carlson, The University of Michigan.

1:45 A revision of the genus Limnia Robineau-Desvoidy (Diptera, Sciomyzidae). George C. Steyskal, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service.

2:00 Some Central American Orthoptera and their habitats. Irving Cantrall, The University of Michigan.

2:15 A first report of Wohlfahrtia vigil (Walker) myiasis in man in Michigan. D. L. DeGiusti and H. Zackheim, Wayne State University.

2:25 The nesting behavior of Heriades (Physostetha) carinata Cresson (Hymenoptera: Megachilidae). R. L. Fischer and R. W. Matthews, Michigan State University.

2:45 Observations on the seasonal developmental periods of Perithous divinator Rossi (Hymenoptera: Ichneumonidae) and its host, Pemphredon lethifer Shuckard (Hymenoptera: Sphecidae) under normal and adjusted environmental conditions. Sylvan J. Thomas, Saint Clair Shores, Michigan.

3:00 Respiration rates in Polistes. Walter Moberly, The University of Michigan.

3:15 Business meeting.

NOTES FROM THE BRANCHES

The Detroit Branch of the Society has been rejuvenated under the leadership of Stanley K. Gangwere, President-elect of the State Society. Two meetings have been held this year with the following programs:

January 24, 1963.

Sylvan Thomas (Saint Clair Shores, Michigan): The development of an ichneumon fly under different climatic conditions.

Theodore J. Cohn (Ann Arbor, Michigan): Problems collected and collecting in Mexico: trials and tribulations of an entomologist in quest of Man-eating Katydids.

February 28, 1963.

Robert Raikow (Detroit): Some aspects of the behavior of honey bees or "bee-havior."

Stanley K. Gangwere (Detroit and Ann Arbor): Why go to Spain to study grasshoppers?

About 20 entomologists attended the first meeting, and 40 the second.

The Ann Arbor Branch has had a very active program, holding a meeting every month since September. The first meeting took place at the new University of Michigan Botanical Gardens which includes a small relatively wild area. Although the weather was cold, some interesting insects were collected. These were exhibited and discussed when the group gathered in one of the buildings for a picnic supper. The following talks were presented at the subsequent meetings, with much discussion after each.

November 9, 1962.

Jack Nord: A new species of Agrilus infesting aspen suckers.

December 7, 1962.

Samuel A. Graham: Ancient insects and Indian ruins: the Mesa Verde mystery.

January 11, 1963.
T. J. Cohn: Man-tasting Katydids - conquest of Mexico before the Indians.
February 8, 1963.
Wolfgang Englemann: How insects overwinter; Hibernation in pitcher-plant midges (Metriocnemus knabi).
March 8, 1963.
Richard Alexander: Insects in verse and song.

The following items were exhibited: new entomological books in the Insect Division Library, University of Michigan, frozen pitcher plant insects, living Mexican singing katydids, and archaeological insects. Average attendance has been 20 persons. Officers of this branch are Fred B. Knight, Thomas E. Moore and Marjorie C. Townes.
No news is available from the East Lansing Branch.

A NEW PUBLICATION: THE MEMOIRS OF THE AMERICAN ENTOMOLOGICAL INSTITUTE

This is a series started last year by Dr. H. K. Townes. For historical and other details see under Townes in the section below on News from Michigan entomologists. The address of the Institute is 5950 Warren Road, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

NOTES FROM MICHIGAN ENTOMOLOGISTS

M. S. Adams (Ann Arbor), now an MD, is interested in quantitative variation and polymorphisms in moths, particularly in the genus Catocola and in massive polymorphism and melanism in the Geometrids. He has collected intensively with a mercury vapor light in the Ann Arbor region.

James Arnold (Detroit), on leave of absence from Wayne State University, is continuing his research on the histology of the nervous system of various roaches at Cornell University.

Cecilia Chang (Detroit and Taiwan) is beginning her studies on Orthoptera, in particular, a morphological and life history study of the shield back katydid Atlanticus.

Theodore J. Cohn (Ann Arbor) is assisting T. H. Hubbell in his revision of the Camel- and Cave Crickets (Gryllacrididae) of the New World. Since material of this group from the western United States is scarce in the Museum of Zoology collections, those who are planning field trips to the west this year and who might have time to collect these animals, and those having collector friends in the West, are urged to contact Cohn at the Museum of Zoology, The University of Michigan.

David R. Cook (Detroit) is presently Fulbright Senior Lecturer at the University of Poona, India (south of Bombay). He reports the following: "My work is coming along pretty well now, and I expect to reach my original goal of between 100-150 species [of water mites]. I am going into southern India on a two-three week collecting trip starting tomorrow. I started out on a similar trip in early December but it coincided with a week of very heavy, unseasonal rains which ruined collecting conditions so after two days I gave up and came home. The streams have receded again and unless the rains come again, collecting conditions ought to be ideal. I have learned one important ecological fact of life here in India--it is not only how much rain falls which is important but over what period of time it falls. I had looked at rainfall maps of India and found that from 100 to over 200 inches falls in many parts of the nearby mountains, and expected conditions similar to those in tropical Africa. However, except in unusual years (such as this - when we had heavy rains in December), it all falls within a four month period. The result is that there are very few permanent bodies of water and much of the vegetation resembles that of semidesert. I therefore have to travel long distances to find suitable permanent waters in which to collect. In southern India the rainy season extends over a much longer period of time and I am hoping to find collecting conditions more ideal there. Most of the larger rivers here have extensive gravel deposits and I have found a well developed psammophilic (subterranean) fauna."

Dominic DeGiusti (Detroit) continues his studies on Arthropod born parasites and recently finished (with another author) a paper on the genus Wohlfahrtia which causes myiasis in humans.

George C. Eickwort (East Lansing) received his B.S. from MSU in March 1962, and assisted Dr. Fischer at Oregon State University, summer 1962, working half time for the MSU Entomology Museum preparing insects collected by MSU team, and doing research on biology and ecology of sweat bees. George has a paper in press entitled "A Morphological Study of the Tibial Spurs of Bees of the Subfamily Halictinae (Hymenoptera: Halictidae) of Eastern North America," with R. L. Fischer. The work was presented at Michigan Ent. Society meetings at Ann Arbor in March, 1962, where George was awarded first prize for undergraduate entomological research. His current research interest is with taxonomy of Dialictus, and the nesting behavior of Halictines.

Roland L. Fischer (East Lansing). The Fischers migrated to the west where Dr. Fischer was visiting Professor at Oregon State University. Bob Matthews and George Eickwort accompanied the Fischers on their western jaunt. Camping was the order of the day on their way to Oregon with bug

collecting at night. The Fischers highly recommend Oregon for insect collecting because of the varied habitats which are available within relatively short distances. Thus, within an hour or so drive from Corvallis you could be in a desert, along the Pacific coast, in either the Coast Range or Cascade Range of mountains, or with a little additional driving in the semi-rain forest areas of the state. Nearly 40,000 mounted specimens were returned to Michigan State from these week-end collecting trips. Dr. Fischer was accused of running a vacuum sweeper over the state of Oregon, but he feels sure that he left enough insects behind to repopulate the state in another year. In addition to the 40,000 specimens of Oregon insects, Dr. Fischer states that the entomology museum has several other additions. The museum has recently acquired the collection of the late Arthur Yates, of Roseville, Michigan. This collection totals over 2,500 specimens of Michigan moths and is a most welcome addition to the museum for the majority of the specimens were collected in earlier years in the Detroit and Roseville areas -- which, from the habitat standpoint, have been largely obliterated by the encroachment of industry and housing developments. The entomology museum has thus acquired through gifts within the past five years over 17,500 Lepidoptera. This has come about with the donation of the Walter C. Stinson collection of 7000 Michigan Lepidoptera, over 8000 Danish Lepidoptera from the Funnar Hejgaard collection, and the recent Michigan collection of 2500 in the Arthur Yates collection. Dr. Fischer recently revised the British version of INSECTS AND THEIR WORLD by Harold Oldroyd for North American distribution. The book was recently published by the University of Chicago Press as one of the Phoenix Science Series.

Stanley K. Gangwere (Detroit) returned this fall from Spain where he worked in the laboratory of Morales Agacino one of Spain's greatest Orthopterists. He is writing on marking of Orthoptera, feculae of Orthoptera of Tunisia (with Morales) and the feeding behavior of a local grasshopper, Arphia sulphurea. He has recently published a paper on feculae in Eos.

Theodore H. Hubbell (Ann Arbor) is presently on an extensive trip in South America collecting Camel Crickets from Tierra del Fuego to Ecuador. In December he visited the major museums on the east coast of the continent, and is presently collecting his way up the west coast. The season has been very dry, collecting hard and pickings slim. Judging from his latest report, he is as active as ever: "I have lost about 20 lbs. - one day in Illapel I rode 35 km. horseback over boulders in canyon in 8 hours - two days later climbed to top of small mountain 2000 feet above camp, 6:30-10:00 a.m., and then rode the same 35 km. down to El Buto, took a bath and shaved, drove 30 km. to the main ranch house at Huintil, and

had dinner with the owner manager of the hacienda. Today I'm resting up." He has collected some very unusual animals including what is "probably the smallest acridid [grasshopper] in the world, males about 3 mm. long, females about 5mm." Collecting in Tierra del Fuego was difficult and yielded no Gryllacridids: Western Tierra del Fuego is mostly pampas - the big Nothofagus forests begin about Vicuña. This is really wild country - miles and miles with no sign of man. We set traps in beautiful gryllacridid-looking forest - dead trees and logs, leaf mold, etc., and then spent all afternoon rolling logs, and the night to 12 p.m. with oatmeal trails. Nothing - very few insects, mostly beetles and flies. If they aren't here, they aren't anywhere in this land... You get an ear-ache from the cold and buffetting of the wind, and have to lie down on the ground to shelter the stones before you turn them over to keep the insects from being blown away."

Laurence Levine (Detroit) is studying the physiology of cell division in Acheta domestica (house cricket) and is also investigating the chemistry of its hemolymph, and assessing various synthetic diets for this cricket.

Mogens C. Nielson (Lansing): "During the past summer and fall I collected and made observations of Lepidoptera in six counties, from Lenawee to Schoolcraft. I used my blacklight setup 40 nights for moths, recording many unusual records, including 3 new state records: Adita chionanthi, Anicla infecta and Basilodes pepita. I found the Lepidoptera populations slightly better than last year. The butterflies were more numerous in both species and numbers as 94 species were recorded. Especially abundant throughout the state were Danaus plexippus and Pieris rapae. One specimen of Libythea bachmannii was collected in Lenawee County on July 28 - the first in 12 years collecting in this area. Strymon caryaevorus appeared more numerous on sumac flowers. The most interesting trip for the year was on May 31-June 3 when J. H. Newman, Virgil Warczynski and I teamed up for collecting in Otsego and Schoolcraft Counties. We found ideal species of moths, including such desirables as Cerma cora and Acronicta quadrata. Virgil and I were lucky enough to collect the arctic butterfly, Boloria frigga, north of Manistique in its usual haunts. For those interested in Orthoptera: I collected a fine specimen of praying mantis (Chinese species) on Sept. 3 in Lenawee County, just north of Morenci. It came flying into my blacklight setup atop my car. This is the first "wild" mantis that I have seen in Michigan."

Dennis and Jennifer Owen shifted their base of operation from Ann Arbor (they are originally from England) to Uganda where Dennis is in the Dept. of Zoology of Makerere University College in Kampala. He is teaching ecology and studying polymorphism in the Lepidoptera, locusts and in fossil

and recent snails. Jennifer is continuing her studies on the nesting of certain local wasps.

Rudolph Scheibner (East Lansing) spent most of the summer visiting museums in Canada and the northeastern United States. He was able to see the majority of the Centorhychus types and obtain a few specimens as homotypes. Talking with prominent taxonomists he met altered, to some degree, the consideration of his thesis problem. He intends to finish the thesis soon and is in the market for a teaching or other entomological position.

George Steyskal (Detroit) is now a Curator of Diptera in the U.S. National Museum, but, as can be seen from the program, is back for a professional visit.

Sylvan J. Thomas (St. Clair Shores) The past year has been quite productive in extracting and organizing data accumulated from past observations on the development of twig-nesting hymenopterous insects. These notes have been organized and presented in several short published papers and several that are currently "in press". The specimens used for these observations are collected near my home in St. Clair Shores and are generally rather common species in Michigan. Occasionally, however, I will find an adventive wasp that has immigrated to our community and finding habitats here suited to its needs, has settled and prospered. One such Korean wasp, Pison koreense, conveniently constructed its brood cells of beautifully sculptured mud on the eaves of my home. Subsequent observations of the developmental stages proved quite interesting when compared to the development of the closely related local wasps of the genus, Trypoxylon.

I have begun some observations on the developmental stages of the walking stick D. femorata, while it is developing within the egg. Some preliminary observations have been made and I hope to continue them during the latter part of the year.

Henry K. and Marjorie C. Townes (Ann Arbor): "The Towneses finished another book on ichneumon wasps last September (Nearctic Hemigasterini, family Ichneumonidae). Publication of most previous papers had been wrangled through various museums and journals, in the case of larger papers with the help of some sort of subsidy. The service in those places had deteriorated and the subsidy ante had climbed till it was decided to stop dependence on these sources and start a new publication series for book-length monographs on insects. This was duly launched in December under the title 'Memoirs of the American Entomological Institute'. To date there are two memoirs published and six more in preparation for the series. Advertisement resulted in some subscriptions for the series. As expected the operation is in the red, but still less expensive than previous publication outlets.

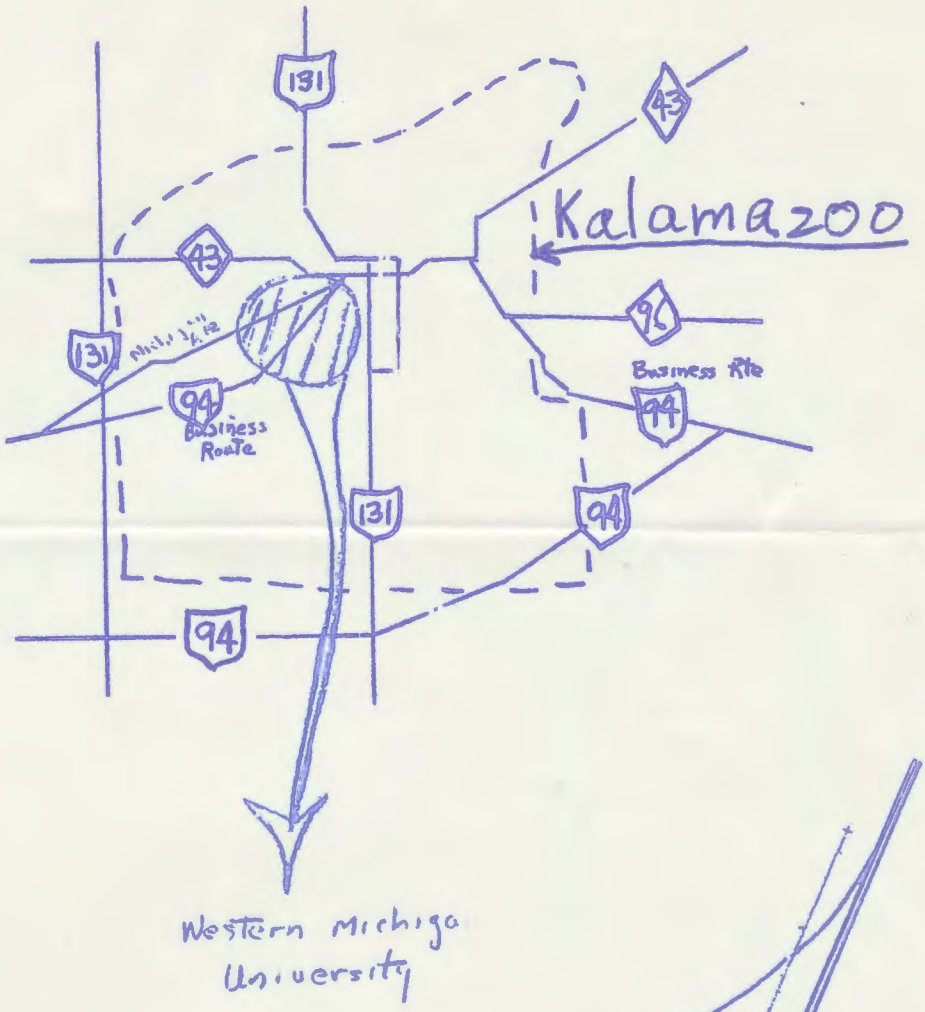
Physical assets of the new 'American Entomological Institute' consist of the publication series, and a mail box shared with the Townes. Nevertheless it is now listed by the Library of Congress as a 'learned society' and European societies and research institutions are sending requests for exchange of publications (sorry, the books are for cash only).

Mr. and Mrs. Townes spent October in their first trip to Mexico [they have finally been converted to the Museum of Zoology tradition] , just poking around but particularly interested in collecting ichneumonids from the type localities whence several hundred Mexican ichneumonids were described about 90 years ago. The October season was just beyond the end of the rainy period, a good season for ichneumonids. Collecting was mostly in the Sierra Madre Oriental and near Mexico City. A surprisingly rich and interesting fauna was found, with the result that the estimate of the number of Mexican ichneumonids was raised to 5,000 species. Judging from collections already made in Mexico, it had been at about 3,000 species."

Mina Jean Voyles (Detroit) has become the representative of the Society in Ohio. She has accepted a position as Health Educator with the Cleveland Health Museum in Cleveland Ohio. We hope that she will be back occasionally for a visit and will report on insect conditions in Ohio.

DUES REMINDER

Annual dues of $2.00 for Regular members and $1.00 for Student Members are now used to cover the cost of the Award Program (four cash awards for the best papers at the Annual Meeting). Although the bank account of the society can sustain these costs for several more years, the income of both last year and this year has only been half of the yearly cost of the award program. Dues should be sent to Theodore J. Cohn, Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan.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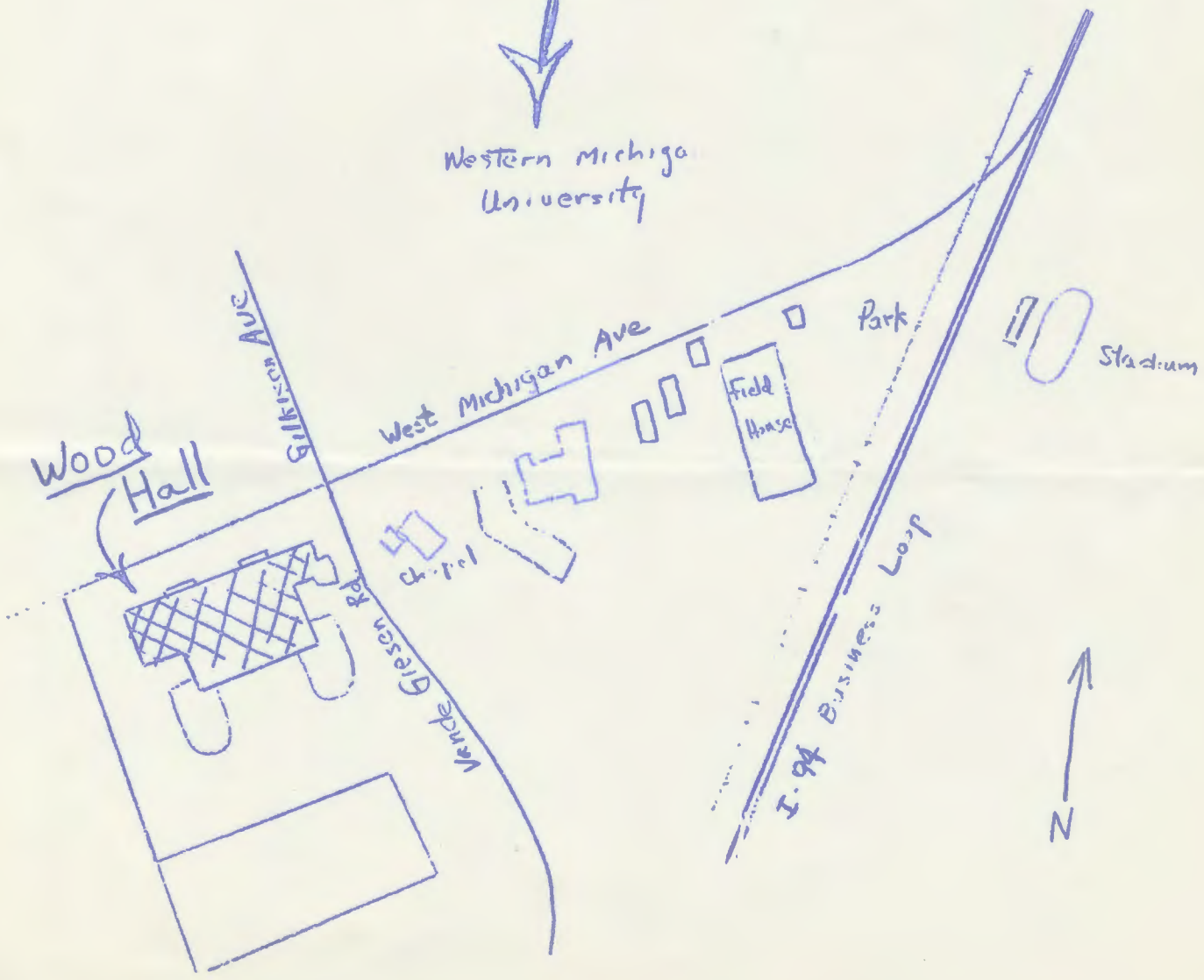
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