

SEMINAR NEWS

The luncheon seminar at Ancon on Tuesday, December 21 will be given by OLA FINCKE, STRI Short-term Fellow from the University of Iowa, who will speak on:

Damsels and dragons in tropical holes: reproductive biology and larval ecology of odonates inhabiting phytotelmata on BCI

LIBRARY NEWS

Gifts to the library from the Cuban visitors include the following journals which will be received on exchange:

- Academia de Ciencias, Serie Agrícola
- Ciencias Biológicas
- Poeyana

And 2 noteworthy monographs:

- Los murciélagos de Cuba
- Plantas medicinales, aromáticas
o venenosas de Cuba

COMINGS & GOINGS

GENE MONTGOMERY is expected back at STRI this week.

DECEMBER 24 - Arriving, JACALYN MADDEN, Upsala College, and her husband, GREGORY WILLIS. They will be on BCI until the end of January. Dr. Madden will be continuing her studies on: "Population ecology of Sciurus granatensis in relation to Dipteryx fruit availability".

No other expected arrivals or departures for the coming week.

REMINDER

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL (STAFF, VISITORS AND FELLOWS) AT THE STRI XMAS PARTY AT 2 P.M. IN THE ANCON COURTYARD.

RECORDERIS

ESPERAMOS VERLOS A TODOS (EMPLEADOS, VISITANTES Y ESTUDIANTES) EN LA FIESTA DE NAVIDAD, EL MARTES, 21 DE DICIEMBRE A LAS 2 P.M., EN EL PATIO DE ANCON.

HISTORICAL NOTES ON GAMBOA

(Specially for STRI residents at Gamboa. Adapted from the GAMBOA MOSQUITO, original version excerpted from the Panama Canal Review, Sept. 1953.)

In the year 1911 a townsite was established at Gamboa for the people of Tabernilla and Gorgona who had to move as the waters rose to create Gatun Lake. At that time 700 persons lived in Gamboa, but by 1914 Gamboa's population decreased to only 173. There were a few houses, a police station and some bachelor quarters in old box cars.

The mosquitoes were terrible, and the high rate of malaria sparked a debate over whether it would be healthier to relocate Gamboa on the south side of the Chagres. This argument was continued for many years.

In 1923 the Superintendent of the Dredging Division requested that this division be moved from Paraiso to Gamboa. Gamboa was the logical location between any possible dredging and the dumps in Gatun Lake, and in addition, the Canal traffic was a hazard to the dredging fleet moored at the Cut in Paraiso. In 1933 the move was approved, and all the facilities and housing for the Dredging Division and its employees had to be built at Gamboa. In 1936, the first employees of Dredging Division moved raising the population from 280 to 1,400 in the first year. Gamboa's peak population was in 1942 when there were 3,800 persons.

These were the people who built the original Civic Center at Gamboa used for town meetings and community activities. Another community project was the Gamboa Golf Club, built with Gamboa labor and money, and which opened in 1939.

The people of Gamboa like their town. They think Gamboa stars shine brighter; Gamboa breezes blow cooler; Gamboa grass is greener. Confirmed Gamboans agree "It's the best town in the Isthmus".

UPCOMING HOLIDAYS

Friday, December 24th and December 31st are official holidays for STRI employees.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS