



IMPORTANT

November 2nd, 3rd and 4th will be official holidays in Panama. All public offices and banks will be closed on those days. All private offices and commercial establishments will close on November 3rd, Panama's Independence Day, and many will do so on the 2nd and 4th, as well.

ANYONE PLANNING ANY BUSINESS (E.G. TRAVELING AND NEEDING PAZ Y SALVO, EXIT PERMIT, ETC.) SHOULD PLAN ON DOING IT DURING THIS COMING WEEK.

SEMINAR NEWS

The luncheon seminar on Tuesday, Oct. 27, will be given by Dionisio Soto, Belermina Muñoz, and Rigoberto González, from the University of Panama, who will speak on the subject of their thesis:

"Estudio de las poblaciones de insectos acuáticos en aguas lógicas del río Frijoles, Parque Nacional Soberanía".

This seminar will be in the Ancon Conference Room.

EXPECTED ARRIVALS

Dr. & Mrs. Robinson and Dr. Egbert Leigh are expected to return to STRI next week.

Dr. Carol Jopling, the new STRI Librarian, will be arriving in Panama on December 2nd. Dr. Jopling is presently having an orientation on SI Libraries procedures in Washington.

HELICOPTER LANDING PAD ON BCI

As a bonus of the construction of the new plant growing house on BCI, there is now a helicopter landing site on BCI for potential emergency evacuation of the island. The landing, with 180° approach and excellent wind detection, was used recently for the first time by CW3 Dent, and all went well.

EUGENE EISENMANN

by Neal G. Smith

My friend and mentor of 30 years, Eugene Eisenmann, Doctor of Law, (Harvard 1930) died at this home in New York City last Friday at the age of 75. Typical of his Panamanian clan, Gene always appeared to be at least 20 years younger than his actual age.

Eisenmann (cont.)

His keen and critical mind was a great deal younger than that. Gene was born here in Panama but left before the age of 9. He always claimed that this was the level of his Spanish vocabulary, but he was the only one who thought that.

Many will wonder, if the Eisenmann to whom I am referring is the same one in "The Birds of Barro Colorado", "The Species of Middle American Birds", "The Revised List of the Birds of Barro Colorado (with Willis)" and the Eisenmann whose name appears on almost every page of Robert R. Ridgely's "A Guide to Panama" Yes, indeed. A lawyer? Yes, and from what I been told, a very good one. He was proud of having argued several cases before the United States Supreme Court, and also served as legal advisor to Alger Hiss (for those of you who remember that era). But he retired from his law firm, turned down an offer of professorship at Columbia University and accepted a non-paying position in the Department of Ornithology at the American Museum of Natural History, a position he held until his death. This was recognition for the immense amount of knowledge that he acquired over many years, as an amateur bird watcher, particularly here in Panama.

Gene was, in his own words, an annual migrant to the tropics, and almost always visited BCI. After the Smithsonian was given the administration of BCI in 1946, Alexander Wetmore formed a scientific guidance committee for the Island, and Eugene Eisenmann became a member. He argued strongly (and he could argue very effectively) against the "Acadia Concept" and for the opening the island to diverse scientific studies. He made one move that insured that this would happen, recommending to Secretary Wetmore that he hire for the position of Resident Naturalist, a student of Niko Tinbergen, Martin Moynihan.

Eisenmann brought his lawyer's mind to ornithology, and quickly became the ornithological expert on zoological nomenclature. He was the Chairman of the American Ornithologists' Union Checklist Committee. The new Checklist will include all the birds of North and Central America including

Eisenmann (cont.)

Panama. Eugene Eisenmann was a Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union, an honor not often given to a "non-professional." A perusal of the taxonomic literature of Neotropical birds will give one an idea of Eisenmann's influence. Almost all include some phrase by the author acknowledging Eugene Eisenmann for his help and criticism of the paper.

On a personal level, he literally took me, a 14-year old New York City bird watcher, by the hand into the hallowed 5th floor of the American Museum and announced to the Greats that I wanted to be a volunteer worker. We made many field trips together; he

VIROLOGY-EPIDEMIOLOGY MEETING

There will be a meeting at the Gorgas Memorial Laboratory, Building 265, Gorgas Road at 8 a.m. on October 27th, at which Dr. Dutari will outline a proposed genetic study of vector competence for yellow fever. Selvatic vectors of the yellow fever virus will be discussed. STRI researchers interested in this topic are invited.

taught me the birds. We exchanged hundreds of letters. If I wanted criticism, I needed only to write Gene Eisenmann. Once I wrote him that I had seen an adult Scarlet Ibis on the mudflats of Farfan Beach off and on for several weeks, and he replied: "Neal, are you sure?"

I, and many others here, will miss that charming man.

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