



3 GRASSLAND DELEGATES caught by the photographer in corridor conversation ← are, left to right, Dr. Harold Heady, University of California; Dr. Robert R. Humphrey of The University of Arizona Brazilian team, and Dr. Kenneth Parker of the U. S. Forest Service.

Wright Reports On Grass Congress Held in Brazil

EDITOR'S NOTE: Following is an interview with Dr. Neal Wright, professor of agronomy and research agronomist with the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Note our cover picture and reference to it on Page 3.

Nine International Grassland Congresses have been held in various countries. The first was in Germany in 1927, the second in Sweden and Denmark in 1930, the third in Switzerland in 1934, the fourth in Great Britain in 1937, the fifth in the Netherlands in 1949, the sixth in the United States (Pennsylvania State University) in 1952, the seventh in New Zealand in 1956, the eighth in England in 1960, and the ninth in Brazil in 1964/65.

It has been the general plan to hold the congresses every three or four years; however, the tenth congress is scheduled for Finland in 1966. Three countries (Canada, Australia, and Russia) extended invitations to host the eleventh congress. Those in attendance in Sao Paulo, Brazil voted to accept the invitation of Australia to host the eleventh congress in 1970.

From 50 Nations

It was my privilege to attend the Ninth International Grassland Congress in Sao Paulo, Brazil, January 7-21, 1965. There were more than 800 delegates and members in attendance

from 50 or more countries. More than 200 scientific papers were presented and discussed during the nine days of the formal meetings in 20 sections and plenary sessions.

I was invited by the congress to present a paper in the area of my primary interest, genetics and breeding of forage plants. The title was "Drouth Tolerance Evaluation Among Range-Grass Genera, Species, and Accessions of Three Species Using Program - Controlled Environment." There was excellent audience participation during the discussion period.

Other major subject areas of the congress were physiology, ecology, nutrition, conservation, utilization, soil, and economics. Papers were presented by delegates from Brazil on various aspects of the host country. Brazil was the first country with tropical grasslands to sponsor the congress. Thus, the general theme centered around research of the tropics.

In Three Languages

The official languages were Portuguese, Spanish, and English. All proceedings of the congress were simultaneously translated to the other two languages, so those in attendance could dial the language of their choice and listen to the proceedings through individual earphones. Questions, answers and discussions were translated.

The sessions were most informative and educational. Perhaps the most stimulating and profitable experiences were the personal discussions and visiting during off hours with research workers from around the world who are concerned with grassland problems of arid and semi-arid environments. Some very fine contacts were made and closer ties established for

exchange of ideas and research progress.

In addition to the professional aspects of the congress, the trip was most educational and pleasurable, particularly since my wife and I made the trip together. The congress provided extensive activities for the ladies and opportunities were available for excursions. The Brazilian people are very gracious and were wonderful hosts.

Various Side Trips

We visited Santos-Guaruja which is known as the "World's Coffee Port" which is connected with Sao Paulo by one of the most modern highways in South America. The shipping industry of Santos is of major importance to Brazil, as is the tremendous resort attraction of the beaches. "Millionaire's Beach" of Guaruja attracts thousands of Brazilians during the summer months. The population grows from a few hundred thousand during the winter to several million for the vacation season. These people are largely native, as Rio De Janeiro attracts the foreign tourists.

Another excursion was to Brasilia, the new national capital, which is a city approaching a million people, a city completely built in the past seven and one-half years. The ultra-modern architecture was a sight to behold. It's people are proud to state that Brasilia is the only city in Brazil with a complete system of purified

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BELOW, DR. WRIGHT of the U of A and USDA addresses the 800 delegates at Sao Paulo.



Heritage, Habits Hazard Advances For Campesinos

By JOHN BURNHAM

The First Interamerican Research Symposium on the Role of Communications in Agricultural Development (Primer Symposium Interamericano de Investigacion de las Funciones de la Divulgacion en el Desarrollo Agricola) was held in Mexico City and I was privileged to attend.

There were 35 to 40 participants, about half of them from Mexico and the rest from Chile, Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras, Costa Rica, Brazil and the United States. There were representatives from government agencies, colleges, Ford and Rockefeller foundations, from agricultural extension services of governments and universities.

Papers were read each day of the 10-day session, some in English and some in Spanish, but typed copies in both languages usually were available later. Discussion periods were vigorous, ranging the gamut from human liberty and birth control to laboratory and office equipment and personnel.

Motive — to Help People

A keynote voiced by Felipe Gaytán C., early in the session was (I translate loosely) "The final aim of Agricultural Extension work is not solely

Mr. Burnham is Experiment Station editor.



A SHARP EYE for black cows has Jake Weathersby, son of Mr. and Mrs. Newell Weathersby of Graham County. Jake was champion 4-H boy judge at the Angus Field Day held at The University of Arizona's farms here.

greater agricultural production. That is only a means toward a better economic condition of agricultural people. It is necessary that the Agricultural Extension Service utilize its strength not only to see that the fields produce more, or better, but also to see that this is translated into a general rise in the level of life of the agricultural producers and their families."

Reviewing the subsistence life of the Latin-American campesino, speakers agreed that 1) He is not lazy, although his efforts frequently may be handicapped by poor nutrition or ill health; 2) He does have aspirations

for a better life, a better living, but 3) Those aspirations are shackled by his limited resources which do not permit him to gamble with any change from proven methods.

Thus, he grows a diversity of pitiful little crops, not daring to take a chance on one or two major crops, for if they failed, his family would go hungry. He must put his little eggs in many baskets. Likewise, he has no extra cash for the fertilizers, insecticides, better seeds and other crop-improvement materials or methods which could improve his lot.

Initiative Not Encouraged

Frequently his initiative, a daring to make a change, is stunted by many generations of living under the padrón system, whereby all agricultural decisions were made for him, and initiative on the part of the field worker not only was not needed but was frowned upon. Another handicap, of course, is lack of markets, or only markets which are distant and not easily reached by roads which may be impassable much of the year. Thus, production, excepting for the large commercial farming areas (such as the Yaqui Valley in Sonora and Sinaloa) is largely for the household, and for trade within the home village.

Efforts to change things for the campesino are diverse, but results frequently are frustrating. First of all, of course, he is suspicious of the outsider who enters his village. He is suspicious of trickery on the part of anyone from the outside, especially if that person represents government.

Other means of communication, besides the direct human contact, have their difficulties. Some large rural areas are largely illiterate. Many speakers told of whole villages where newspapers and other printed materials scarcely penetrated. In others, where there is no electricity and transistor radios are too expensive, even radio communication is sparse.

He Can't Afford Risks

If communication can be established — through extension workers, through printed and radio messages — there is still the barrier of risk and uncertainty. The greatest need for research in this general field would appear to be related to risk and uncertainty which the subsistence farmer faces in considering new and improved practices. Such research should also identify ways in which the campesino can make desired changes by reducing these risks.

Dr. Myren of the Rockefeller Foundation
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water and a complete and modern sewer system.

One of the most beautiful spectacles of nature in the world is Iguassú Falls, longest natural falls in the world. Of course the city that is known the world over is Rio De Janeiro. We spent two days in Rio and enjoyed every minute. Rio is celebrating its 400th Anniversary this year, so the activities are many. The only discouraging part of the entire trip for a couple of sun loving "desert rats" was the frequency of rain. With our background we realized the importance of rain to grasslands so we were happy for them, particularly since the state of Sao Paulo and other areas of Brazil have experienced drouthy periods during recent years.

Dr. R. R. Humphrey, a member of The University of Arizona team on assignment in Fortaleza, Brazil with the University of Ceara, also attended the congress. I enjoyed visiting with Bob in Sao Paulo about the grasslands of Brazil. Mrs. Wright and I traveled to northeastern Brazil and spent four days in Fortaleza. We were guests in the home of Dr. and Mrs. R. E. Briggs. We had the opportunity to visit with all the Arizona group there. We attempted to bring them up to date on the happenings of Tucson, and extended best wishes on behalf of friends and associates. It was certainly a pleasure for us to see their work and visit in their homes. We hope our visit added a spark to the continued progress in their work, and pleasure while away from home.