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cultural Experiment
Station

Research location . . .

WHY BERKELEY?

WHERE SHOULD THE Agricultural Experiment Station be located? The Experiment Station should be located where the environment favors development of ideas and where the researcher can relate himself to the people of the state and their problems. In the words of a University report of the fifties: "One of the biggest assets of the College of Agriculture . . . is that it has roots on all four of the major campuses and directly benefits from the particular strong points of each." At the present time we have "roots" on three major campuses,—Berkeley, Davis and Riverside.

We have a large "center" at the Kearney Field Station, near Parlier. We have nine field stations ranging from El Centro to Tulelake. To complete this network of knowledge developing centers, all are tied in directly or indirectly with the agricultural teaching programs of the University and with the Agricultural Extension Service.

None of the units listed completely fulfill the requirements mentioned for location: favorable environment for development of ideas, and opportunity for researchers to relate to the problems of the state. Berkeley is the oldest continuously operated college-associated station in the United States. It has served as "foundation stock" for many of our departments on the other campuses and its scientists have served as a nucleus, by transfer, for many research groups throughout the University.

The Berkeley campus itself is without doubt the greatest research establishment in the world in breadth of interest, size, and quality. A recent report listed 60 organized research units on the campus ranging from the Cancer Research Genetics Laboratory to the Center for Pure and Applied Mathematics. While these may not all be relevant to agricultural research, many of them are, and will become more important to us as time passes

—the International Center for Biological Control, Institute of Business and Economic Research, Center for Research in Management Science, Sanitary Engineering Research Laboratory, and the Sea Water Conversion Laboratory, to name only a few.

There are over 70 teaching departments where the faculties engage in research (some critics say to too great an extent). From each of these units and departments comes a continuous stream of ideas all of which are ours if we just let ourselves tune in and accept them. We all recall the "fall-out" to agriculture from the cyclotron that started before World War II with the research on radioactive tracers in plants. Remote sensing had its beginning on the Berkeley campus, and has now become another important tool in agricultural research, and production.

I recall being introduced to pioneers in modern heat transfer theory in the College of Engineering at Berkeley when I first came to California in 1946 to conduct research on the transfer of heat between livestock and their thermal environment. These engineers and physicists were not handicapped by applying these concepts to cows instead of steam boilers. We are now beginning to see agricultural applications of the laser, discovered at Berkeley.

Ideas coming out of Berkeley from modern scientific research in biology, physics, engineering, meteorology, and life and social sciences are ours—for agricultural application—if we are aware and have the imagination to put them into use. As farms and food production business units become larger, competition between units will occur at an even higher level—and it will become our job, through the Agricultural Extension Service, to provide industry's scientists with basic new ideas for application to problems of the future.