



WILLIAM GORDON GENUNG
11 March 1914—6 April 1982

Entomology and natural science lost a dedicated devotee in 1982 with the passing of W. G. "Bill" Genung, Professor and Entomologist, University of Florida Agricultural Research & Education Center, Institute of Food & Agricultural Sciences, Belle Glade. Bill was a native of West Haven, Con-

necticut, but moved to the St. Augustine area at an early age with his parents and siblings. His early interest in wildlife, both plant and animal, was learned from his father, Dr. Frank Genung, a dentist/naturalist, who had collected one of the best groups of bird skins ever amassed in Florida. His fondest memories of childhood seemed to be his endless hours of visits to the woods and along the rivers and creeks learning everything he could of his surroundings. This intense interest continued throughout his life.

Although trained as an entomologist, Bill was an expert on the entire fauna and flora of the State and its surrounding waters, and was well versed on the entire southeastern United States. At Belle Glade, he researched on insects of pastures, cattle, sugarcane, vegetable crops, agronomic crops, and every new or special crop as the opportunities presented themselves. His publication list on insect damage and control is very lengthy and impressive. He had a number of papers in preparation at his untimely death. He was a sensible environmentalist.

During World War II he volunteered for Army service and was a tank commander in the Second Armored Division with General Patton's Corps and Field Army. He was in the Battle of the Bulge and received many Army awards and citations for bravery. His poetry of this era, as yet unpublished, will make a worthy contribution some day.

He graduated from Saint Augustine High School in 1935, worked in the white-fringed beetle program in western Florida, and entered the U. S. Army in 1941 from the University of Florida. In 1945, he re-entered the University and received the B.S. degree in 1947. From 1947-49, he completed the course work for the M.S. and became Asst. Entomologist at the Lake Worth Field Laboratory of the Everglades Experiment Station on 15 March 1949. He submitted part of his extensive work on bast fiber crops, probably the most concentrated effort on insects of those crops ever conducted in the USA, for his thesis work for the M.S. which was granted in June 1953. He was promoted to Assoc. Entomologist in July 1958 and to Professor (Entomologist) in July 1970.

Mr. Genung made studies of the ecology, biology, and control of cost of the insect pests of most of the major and minor crops of southern Florida. Biological and ecological investigations accompanied or preceded chemical control tests. Biological agents and cultural control practices were always taken into consideration. Integrated pest management involving insecticides, nematicides, fungicides, and herbicides in the year-round crop picture was always his goal. He cooperated splendidly with scientists involving studies in those disciplines. His excellent collection of insects should certainly be preserved or integrated with other fine collections for the benefit of other Florida entomologists.

Mr. Genung was an active member, officer, and/or committeeman of the Entomological Society of America, the Florida Entomological Society, the Soil and Crop Science Society of Florida, and the Florida State Horticultural Society. He was an inspiration to a number of graduate students on whose committees he served. The number of people and organizations for whom he identified insects, reptiles, arachnids, birds, and plants is legion. He was listed in American Men of Science, and was a member of the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Second Armored Division Society, and a past secretary and past president of the Lake Worth Lions Club.

Survivors include his wife, Nancy Elaine Genung, 32 W. Mango Road, Lake Worth, FL; two sons: Frank Genung, NY, NY and Donald Dexter, Lake Worth; a daughter: Heather Katz, North Miami Beach, FL; and four grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Rev. Frank Macarly of the First Baptist Church, Lantana, FL at the Smith & Sons Funeral Home in Lake Worth at 10 a.m. 8 April 1982.

VICTOR E. GREEN, JR., CPAg.
Gainesville, FL 32607

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Pell City, AL 35125

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Muma, Martin H.
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Route 4 Box 793
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Gainesville, FL 32607

Tissot, A. N.
214 Newell Hall, Entomology
University of Florida
Gainesville, FL 32611

Wolfenbarger, D. O.
29220 SW 187th Ave.
Homestead, FL 33030

