



## IN MEMORIAM

## HARRY KYDD GOUCK

Harry Kydd Gouck, a retired research entomologist from the USDA-ARS Medical and Veterinary Entomology Research Laboratory, Gainesville, FL died 9 May, 1994 after a long illness.

Harry Gouck was born and raised in Andover, MA. He attended the University of New Hampshire where he earned a B.S. degree in entomology in 1935 and played varsity football. He continued his education at the University of Massachusetts where he received his M.S. degree in entomology in 1936. While a student, and after receiving his M.S. degree, he worked for the USDA under the direction of Dr. C. N. Smith on the island of Martha's Vineyard, MA. Together, they studied the biology and ecology of the American dog tick. When this laboratory was closed in 1942, the staff, including Harry, moved with their families to Savannah, GA, to continue research on ticks.

The laboratory in Savannah was split in 1947, and some of the staff, including Harry, joined other scientists at a newly organized facility expressly devoted to the control of medically-important insects. Established at Orlando, FL in 1942, this laboratory was the Insects Affecting Man and Animals Research Laboratory which had the primary task of solving insect-borne disease problems facing U.S. combat troops during World War II. Ultimately, this laboratory and its scientists received global recognition for their contributions to the field of medical entomology.

In 1950, Harry was transferred to the USDA Corn Research laboratory at Champaign-Urbana, IL, where he worked on the control of the corn earworm for two years.

In 1952, Harry and his family returned to the Orlando laboratory to find that his colleague, Dr. C. N. Smith, had become laboratory director. Harry's new job was to evaluate and develop insect repellents. He tested numerous chemicals as repellents

against mosquitoes, biting flies, ticks, chiggers, and leaches. This research took him to field sites in Asia, Africa, Central America and the Bahama Islands. He collaborated in the discovery and development of the repellent deet which, to this day, is the most widely used insect repellent in the world.

When the laboratory in Orlando was moved to the campus of the University of Florida in 1963, Harry was named head of the mosquito repellents and attractants research project. In 1968, together with laboratory chemists, he participated in research that led to the identification of lactic acid from human skin as a mosquito attractant.

During his career Harry wrote and/or co-authored more than 60 scientific publications and reported this research at major scientific meetings. He retired from the USDA in 1973 and, together with his wife, started a second career as a flea marketeer and antique dealer. He continued this work until his health declined three years ago.

Harry is survived by his daughter, Polly Hall of Atlanta, GA, son Peter E. Gouck of North Attleboro, MA, and three grandsons.

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