

THOMAS D. MULHERN—AN APPRECIATION

Thomas Desmond Mulhern has devoted his entire professional life to activities related to the abatement and control of mosquitoes. Beginning with his first summer job in 1925, as a mosquito inspector for the Monmouth County New Jersey Mosquito Extermination Commission, to 1949, Tommy has contributed professionally through the development and design of equipment and procedures used worldwide for the abatement and control of pest and vector mosquitoes. His full-time professional activity began in 1928 when working with the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, Department of Entomology, as a drainage engineer and administrative assistant.

Among his many professional contributions was participation in the design and development of the New Jersey mosquito light trap and procedures for utilizing traps for the survey and evaluation of adult mosquito populations.¹ He designed inverted-siphon, self-cleaning outlets for mosquito control ditches through sandy seashore beaches; designed a salt marsh ditching system to supplement the natural system, admitting salt water minnows that preyed upon mosquito larvae, and designed and developed more efficient marsh ditching machines for salt marsh and fresh water marsh areas.

While with the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, Department of Entomology, Tommy managed the Sussex County (New Jersey) Mosquito Extermination Commission program from 1936 to 1945, and, as technical consultant in mosquito control, provided consultation to all New Jersey Mosquito Extermination commissions up to 1949.

From the time of the formation of the Eastern Association of Mosquito Control Workers in 1935, in addition to his full-time professional activity, Tommy maintained a full-time interest and participation in the activities of this Association through its renaming in 1944 to the American Mosquito Control Association and its incorporation as a non-profit corporation in 1948 in New Jersey.

In 1949, Tommy accepted a position with the California State Department of Health as a vector control specialist and moved to Fresno, California. In addition to his department

duties, he provided technical guidance and consultation to the State's mosquito abatement districts. In the course of his activities, he participated in the evaluation of larvicidal and adulticidal equipment and procedures, the design of custom-made mistblowers, and development of aircraft applicators for larviciding and adulticiding, and assisted in the development of source reduction programs. He was principal author and editor of the California Mosquito Control Association's training program designed to prepare technicians for state-administered examinations.

When Tommy moved to Fresno, California, the business affairs of the Association, which had been handled by him as Secretary-Treasurer, were moved with him. His professionalism, reputation for understanding, ability to provide practical professional guidance, and his ability to work harmoniously with professional associates and fellow workers led to a variety of assignments and services to international organizations including WHO, PAHO and USAID, all of which were concerned with malaria eradication and the use of engineering techniques and chemicals in the control of vectors of malaria.

As a member and officer, Tommy has contributed much personally and professionally through his dedicated service to the American Mosquito Control Association, its advancement over the past 50 years, and the preservation of its rich history. From 1935 to 1950, he served as Secretary-Treasurer, 1950 to 1952 and 1974 to 1978 as Executive Secretary and was Executive Director from 1980 to 1985.

He received the Medal of Honor Award in 1963 and was given Honorary Membership in the American Mosquito Control Association in 1979 in acknowledgement of his long, unselfish and dedicated service. He was made Executive Director Emeritus at the Association's annual meeting in 1985.

It is in recognition of a debt of gratitude that our profession and association owe him that we dedicate this 50-year commemorative issue of the *Journal of the American Mosquito Control Association* to our fellow worker and friend, Thomas D. Mulhern.

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¹ In commemoration, the American Mosquito Control Association is reprinting Tommy's classic paper, New Jersey Mechanical Trap for Mosquito Surveys (N. J. Agric. Exp. Stn. Circ. 421, 1942).