

HAROLD FARNSWORTH GRAY**1885-1963**

The notice reprinted below appeared in the Oroville (Calif.) *Mercury Register* for December 19, 1963. Although included here to give some of the events of Harold's life, it does not serve adequately to express the deep sadness and profound sense of loss felt by all AMCA members who knew and loved this remarkable man.

We are happy that during his lifetime

some of this affection and respect was conveyed by the tributes paid to him on the occasion of the joint meeting of the California and American Mosquito Control Associations, which was held in Los Angeles in 1955, and dedicated to him on the occasion of his retirement.

A large number of AMCA members also had the privilege of knowing Mrs. Gray who often attended meetings with

her husband. To her and to their children, the members of the American Mosquito Control Association, individually and collectively express their heartfelt sympathy, and their personal sorrow and feeling of deprivation at losing their beloved leader, teacher, guide and friend of so many years.

"Harold Farnsworth Gray, 78, known to professional men as "Mr. California Mosquito Control," died this morning in a local hospital. Mr. Gray, the author of 24 articles on public health concentrating on mosquito control, and the joint author of seven articles on the same subject, lived on Oakvale Avenue with his wife, the former Harriet Helman.

"Mr. Gray was born in San Francisco on June 29, 1885. In 1907 he received a bachelor of science degree from the College of Civil Engineering, University of California, in the field of sanitary engineering. He was presented with a master's degree in parasitology and a like degree in sanitary engineering from U of C in 1912. In 1915, Mr. Gray was awarded a doctor's degree in the field of public health.

"Mr. Gray was one of the early pioneers in the work of mosquito abatement. His first work in the field began about 1908 at Penryn in Placer County. A year or two thereafter, following the publicity he received from his work at Penryn, Oroville businessmen asked him to come here to see what could be done about the mosquito problem. Oroville at that time was plagued by malaria.

"As the result of the abatement district. Oroville has had no case of malaria fever reported in the past 40 years. The sickness had been widespread before.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

"Following Mr. Gray's work here, a voluntary program was established in mosquito abatement, supported by contributions of the local businessmen. Mr. Gray's information led to the formation of the Oroville Mosquito Abatement District. At that time he was working under

Professor William D. Herms of the University of California.

"On the basis of the information obtained by Mr. Gray, the legislature, in 1918, passed an act that established a mosquito abatement district. While Oroville was not the first district formed, it was one of the earliest, and this was all because of Mr. Gray's work in that field.

"In 1919 Mr. Gray was district health officer of California, and, according to John Brawley of the Butte County Mosquito Abatement District, he was stationed in either Oroville or Chico.

"In 1930 Mr. Gray assumed the position of engineer manager of the Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District, and held that position until 1955. During this same period of time he was also an active member of the faculty of the University of California School of Public Health. He taught sanitary science.

RETIRED IN 1955

"Upon his retirement in 1955, Mr. Gray was made an honorary member of the California Mosquito Control Association, and had been active in the association until just recently. He was also an honorary member of the American Mosquito Control Association, where he was an active participant.

"When he was made an honorary member of the California Mosquito Control Association his book, entitled 'Mosquito Control,' was cited.

"Mr. Gray was a member of numerous organizations, including the American Public Health Association, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the California Academy of Sciences and the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene.

"He was a member of the Elks, Moose, California Pioneers, Sierra Club, and a host of others.

"Mr. Gray is survived by his widow, Harriet, whom he married Aug. 6, 1911; sons, Dr. Harold Farnsworth Gray Jr. of Gridley, and Dr. Charles Helman Gray of the United States Navy, and a daughter, Mrs. Charlotte Anna Newman."