## OBITUARY

## Don M. Rees 1901-1976



Dr. Don M. Rees, Professor Emeritus at the University of Utah, died suddenly of a heart attack, April 5, 1976, in Salt Lake City, Utah. He had been enjoying an active retirement and was in apparent good health at the time he was stricken.

He was born September 9, 1901, in Wales, Utah. He earned a BS degree in 1926, and an MS degree in 1929, both from the University of Utah. He received his Ph.D. degree from Stanford University in 1937.

Dr. Rees joined the staff at the University of Utah in 1930. He served as Head of the Department of Zoology and Entomology from 1948 to 1963, and was Chairman of the Division of Biological Sciences from 1951 to 1965.

He has often been referred to as the "Father of Mosquito Abatement in Utah." He was directly responsible for the establishment of the Utah Mosquito Abatement Association in 1948, and served as its president from 1948-51, and again during

1974-75. His influence, knowledge and leadership were instrumental in maintaining the splendid cooperation between districts and other state agencies directly or indirectly concerned with the effects of mosquito control. He was elected an Honorary Member in the Utah Association in 1970. He had been a member of the Board of Trustees of the Salt Lake City Mosquito Abatement District from 1938 to the time of his death and had served as a consultant to all of the Abatement Districts in Utah and to others outside of Utah.

He was one of the organizers of the American Mosquito Control Association. He served on its Executive Committee during 1947-48, and as the Chairman of the Interim National Board in 1949, when the American Mosquito Control Association organized its Constitution and Bylaws. He served as its President in 1952. His many services to the cause of mosquito control were recognized when he received the Medal of Honor Award from the American Mosquito Control Association in 1974 for "Distinguished Contributions to Mosquito Control."

He was a leader in developing and stressing means of control of mosquitoes by other than chemical methods and was a recognized national authority in the field of water management and mosquito control. He was also an expert on mosquito-borne diseases.

In 1947, he served as a Medical Entomologist Consultant to the Surgeon General in a study of the control of viruses and rickettsial diseases in the Orient. He was a consultant to the U. S. Public Health Service from 1948-52, and in 1964, was a

consultant in the Canal Zone where he was asked to evaluate and recommend improvements in mosquito control practices. He was a vising professor at the University of Indonesia Medical School in Djakarta in 1957-58, and helped to reorganize their program in Medical Entomology.

In 1965 he received the "Distinguished Service Award" from the Utah Academy of Sciences, Ams and Letters for outstanding achievement in the biological sciences.

Dr. Rees was the author of over 200 scientific publications in entomology, most of which dealst with multiple phases of mosquito control activities.

One of the greatest contributions of Don Rees was his influence on his many students. While a Professor at the University of Utah, he produced almost 100 graduate students with Masters or Ph.D. degrees in entomology. The great majority of his students have become highly productive teachers and scientists in universities and in state and federal agencies throughout the country. He was very proud of them and often stated that their achievements gave him greater satisfaction than his own. A source of particular pride to him was that four of his former students had been elected to serve as President of the American Mosquito Control Association.

Don M. Rees was a remarkable man with remarkable achievements. He was also a warm, friendly, unselfish human being and a devoted husband and father. He will be greatly missed by many people.

He is survived by his wife, Norma; two sons, Dr. Thomas Dee, New York City, Dr. Joseph Richard, Ogden, Utah; and 6 grandchildren. Lewis T. Nielsen