

OBITUARY

MAURICE W. PROVOST 1914-1977

Dr. Maurice W. Provost, Director of the Florida Medical Entomology Laboratory, Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services, Vero Beach, Florida, died suddenly of a heart attack at his home on December 1, 1977 at the age of 63.

A native of New Hampshire, Dr. Provost received his B.S. degree from St. Anselm College in 1935. His M.S. degree in vertebrate zoology was received from the University of New Hampshire in 1940. Work on his Masters degree was also performed at the University of California at Berkeley. He received his Ph.D. degree in Economic Zoology from Iowa State University in 1947.

His work experience began with the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department in 1935. He came to Florida in 1942 at the request of the Florida State Board of Health and was assigned to the U. S. Public Health Service, Malaria Control in War Areas Program, where he served as an area supervisor and State Entomologist. In 1946 he entered Iowa State University where he conducted studies on waterfowl nesting ecology, from which he wrote his dissertation for his Ph.D. degree.

In 1947 he accepted a full time position with the Florida State Board of Health as director of research on mosquito biology and control. He planned and organized the construction and staffing of the Florida Medical Entomology Laboratory at Vero Beach, and the development of Florida's medical entomological research program, and served as its only director since its founding in 1954.

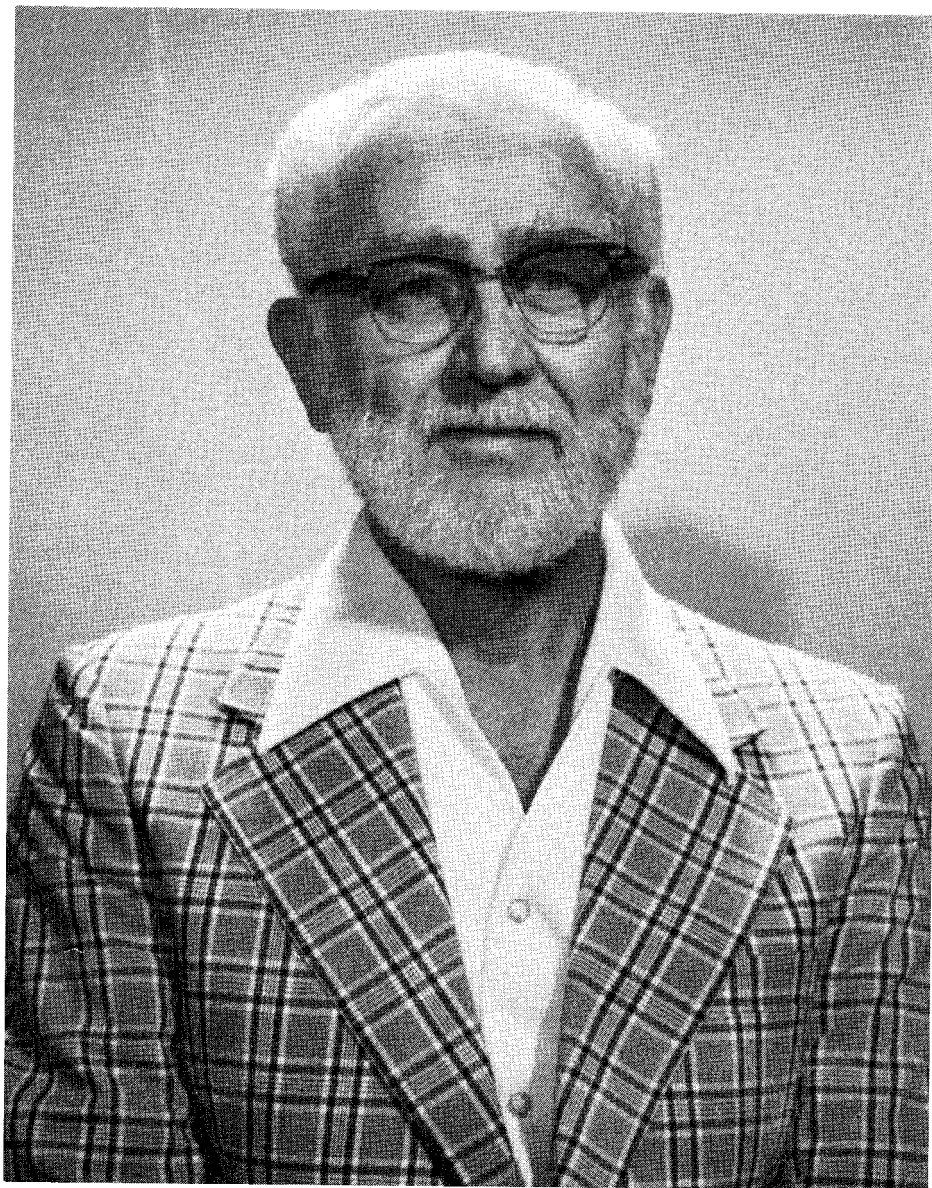
During his long and productive career, and until his untimely passing, he authored and otherwise coauthored 53 publications in the field of mosquito biology and control and other biological and conservation endeavors. He was a noted specialist in mosquito dispersal and longevity, ecology of tidelands, wildlife conservation and insect control strategies.

His energy and drive were amazing. Although physical problems were constantly with him throughout his lifetime, he accepted and carried out a heavy load of national and international assignments while fulfilling his leadership in Florida's medical entomology research program. He was not only an eminent scientist, but was an efficient administrator, a quality quite rare at the present time.

In the scientific community, he was a respected national and international figure. He served on and chaired several prestigious committees of the National Academy of Sciences, of the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health. He was internationally recognized as an authority on mosquito ecology and especially on the ecology of the wetlands. He uniquely held an astonishingly large accumulation of knowledge in the fields of entomology, ecology, aquatic biology, ornithology, conservation and statistics, and was always ready and eager to place his experience at the disposal of those who consulted him. He was in constant demand as a speaker, panel member or consultant. Each talk he presented was a model of clarity, each article concise and to the point, making complicated concepts easily understood.

He was a devoted member of the American Mosquito Control Association. He served on many committees and made many contributions over the years, and was the current chairman of the Editorial Board of *Mosquito News*. In addition, he held memberships and was active in 15 other professional and conservation organizations.

He was awarded many honors and consultantships during his career. He was a past president of the Florida Anti-Mosquito Association (1955); Entomological Society of America delegate to International Congress of Entomology in Moscow (1968); was presented



the Governor's Conservation Award (1970); member of the Florida Parks Advisory Council (1969-1970); was awarded the Annual Certificate of Appreciation (1971) and Entomologist of the Year Award (1975) by the Florida Entomological Society; received the American Mosquito Control Association Award for Distinguished Contribution to Mosquito Control (1972); received the Florida Audubon Society Special Award (1974); served the National Academy of Sciences as member of the Public Health Study Team, for An Assessment of Pest Control Technologies (1974-1975) and as a member of Workshop on Impact of Pesticide Regulations and Decisions (1976).

His many accomplishments and his personal philosophy will long be remembered by those who personally knew him and by

the scientific scholars of the future. He was a true disciple of nature and had a deep and abiding understanding of environmental ethics. He loved his God and the creative talents of man. He himself was an accomplished pianist.

This kind, intelligent, wise, unassuming and generous person will be sadly missed by his many friends and admirers everywhere who affectionately knew him as "Maury" Provost. Yet, all of us who have been touched by his presence and example may rejoice that we have been privileged to have known this just man.

He is survived by his wife, Olivine, four daughters, a son, six grandchildren and a brother.

John A. Mulrennan
Paul J. Hunt
James S. Haeger

RECRUITMENT NOTICE

Position: Administrator, Florida Medical Entomology Laboratory, Vero Beach, Florida. Ph.D. degree in entomology or biology with administrative experience and background experience in Medical Entomology and research is preferred. *Salary range:* \$19,397.52 to \$26,287.92 annually.



Apply to: **Mr. Peter Donovan, Central Personnel Services
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