## THE AMCA MEMORIAL LECTURE THE MAN WE HONOR DON MERRILL REES 1901–1976



Dr. Don Merrill Rees was one of AMCA's most distinguished and dedicated members and an internationally known teacher and scientist

He was born September 9, 1901, in Wales, Utah, to Thomas Davis and Elizabeth Rees. 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 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

coveted Medal of Honor Award from the American Mosquito Control Association in 1974 for "Distinguished Contributions to Mosquito Control."

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.

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 rickett-sial 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 visiting professor at the University of Indonesia Medical School in Djakarta in 1957–58, and helped to reorganize their program in Medical Entomology.

Dr. Rees was the author of over 200 scientific articles in entomology, most of which dealt with various phases of mosquito biology and control, but also included many on other insects of medical importance.

Don Rees was an inspiring teacher and was always more proud of his students' accomplishments than his own. There have been very few who can equal his influence in entomology and mosquito research in this regard. While a professor at the University of Utah, he produced almost 100 graduate students with Masters and Ph.D. degrees. Over one fourth of these are now professors in entomology in American Universities and nearly 10 hold prestigious positions in foreign schools. Another 20 hold responsible positions in U. S. Public Health Service, Department of Agriculture and other federal agencies. Several are presently serving in state health related agencies. Several have served as managers of mosquito control districts. Some are presently employed by the World Health Organization, and four have served as president of the American Mosquito Control Association.

His sudden death from a heart attack on April 5, 1976, was a great loss, but his expertise and influence will long survive through his many students, associates and friends who were proud and fortunate to have known him.