

## OBITUARY

### HARRY HUTCHINSON STAGE

1894-1979

Harry H. Stage, highly respected and beloved member of The American Mosquito Control Association, of which he was President for the 1946-7 year, died on February 28, 1979, in his 84th year, at his home in Barview, Coos Bay, Oregon.

Throughout his distinguished career, Mr. Stage was an extraordinarily effective champion of AMCA, and was one of those who fostered its conversion from the regional "Eastern Association of Mosquito Control Workers" to a national and world-wide association, to better serve the widespread need for scientific and practical information on mosquitoes and their control. His kindly encouragement and sagacious advice helped countless members to attain their goals, and during the formative years of AMCA his wise counsel was of inestimable value to the Board of Directors and to the many committees upon which he served with distinction. He was particularly noted for the diplomatic ease with which he frequently showed the way to mutually satisfactory solutions when controversial issues threatened to fragment the struggling new association.

Harry was born May 1, 1894 to Augustus and Grace Hutchinson Stage, in Crittenden, New York. In 1916 he obtained a degree in Forest Entomology at Syracuse University, which some years later recognized his accomplishments within his chosen field of entomology by awarding him an Honorary Doctorate. He was a member of Alpha Tau Omega fraternity, and in 1975 was granted membership in The Silver Circle.

He wed Iantha Emmerling in 1917, beginning a very full and satisfying life together which continued for 58 years, until 1975 when she passed away. Their union has been blessed by a daughter, Shirley, now of San Francisco; and a son, Anson Hutchinson, formerly of Coos Bay, now of Greenville, S.C. Dr. Anson Stage in

due course delighted Harry with 4 grandchildren: Key, now of Dallas; Steven, of San Diego; Allison and Robyn, of Greenville, S.C. Also among his descendants is great-grand daughter, Jennifer, of Dallas.

The professional career of Harry Stage was highly varied, interesting, and productive, illustrated by the following high-light examples:

He enlisted in the Navy during World War I, serving on a ship which took him to France. Following the war he was employed as Entomologist In Charge of Mosquito Control for the Cotton Belt Railroad, with headquarters at Pine Bluff, Arkansas, until 1929. In that year, while traveling in Europe he received a cablegram informing him that his position had been a victim of the Great Economic Depression, and no longer existed! En route home, he stopped off at Washington, D.C., and was employed by the Bureau of Entomology of the USDA.

In mid-1930, the Stages moved to Portland, Oregon, Harry to pursue his distinguished career in the USDA, and the entire family to begin a life-long love for the Pacific Northwest. During this period Harry was also involved with the Fish and Game Department of Oregon State University.

Ten years later, in mid 1940, a promotion within the USDA required that he transfer to Washington, D.C. where he remained until 1953, when he took an assignment with the USPHS for service in Saigon, Vietnam.

Returning in 1956, he then retired from Federal service, to return with his wife to enjoy once again the Great Northwest. He soon accepted a mission aiding the State of Washington in its development of mosquito control program in the Moses Lake region and elsewhere. He lived first in Walla Walla, later in Spokane, and finally retired again in

1959, to his home in Barview, Coos Bay, Oregon.

During the leisure years of this last "re-

tirement" he loved to watch the shipping inbound from the wide Pacific Ocean to Coos Bay, from the beauty spot occupied



The late Harry Stage with one of his award-winning orchids.

by his home, high atop a bluff overlooking the harbor inlet. Each inbound vessel appeared to be headed for his living room as it followed the inbound channel from the sea—turning with the channel only when close inshore; surely reminding Harry of his services and sojourns on the other side of the Pacific.

Harry Stage was a member of the important USDA Division that perfected DDT for the military, thereby contributing to the US successful war effort and to peace-time progress. He conducted mosquito control experiments in Alaska and Dutch Guiana, and under loan to the American Aluminum Company he helped suppress the tsetse fly in parts of Africa.

His Vietnam assignment required travel throughout the Orient, including Japan, Thailand, India, Australia, and the Great Barrier Reef. While teaching medical entomology in Vietnam, he traveled into the jungle, sometimes on the back of an elephant, and discovered a new mosquito species, named for him.

He authored a major article on mosquito control which was published in *National Geographic* for February, 1944, receiving world-wide distribution and thereby tending to popularize mosquito control. He also published many papers in *Mosquito News* and other journals.

Throughout his working career and thereafter, Harry found time for many activities and hobbies—pursuing them with characteristic thoroughness and success. He loved people, the out-of-doors, travel, and nature's wonders, including animals and plants.

While in the Orient, he saw many varieties of beautiful wild orchids—and this led to his most absorbing hobby, one which gave him great joy as long as he lived—collecting and growing fine orchids. Soon he was exhibiting and consis-

tently winning awards. His good friend, Rod McClellan of South San Francisco named some of his award winners "Harry Stage Coos Bay," "Harry Stage Greenlight," "Iantha Stage," "Harry's Friend," "Jennifer Stage," and "Shirley." The 1977 Butterworth Prize for the best specimen plant was awarded to Harry Stage and Bert Logsdon of Coos Bay, for the superbly flowered *Paphiopedilum Rothschildianum*, "Charles Edward."

He collected gems, black opals, emeralds, pearls and rubies, which he incorporated in jewelry of his own design for members of his family. He also selected for his own home fine examples of rugs made in India, and rosewood furniture.

Lesser hobbies included swimming, for which in 1933 he won a trophy of the Multnomah Athletic Club for the marathon; and needlepoint, for which in 1937 as the only man to enter a contest, he won the grand prize from Meier & Frank Co., a fine Louis XIV chair and the needlepoint to cover it. Hunting wild orchids in far-away places from Australia to Madagascar or game in Kenya or USA, camping, or just enjoying the sunset over the Pacific Ocean from his living room all had their valued place in his life. Extensive reading of both prose and poetry took him down many lanes of diversified knowledge, and he loved animated, friendly discussions of the views of others with his associates and family.

The stay of Harry Hutchinson Stage on this earth surely advanced the knowledge of mosquitoes and their control, and made this a better world in which to live. The final chapter, in accordance with his wishes, was the scattering of his ashes over the Pacific Ocean beyond the entrance to Coos Bay.

T. D. Mulhern