

# A SYMPOSIUM ON A CENTURY OF ENTOMOLOGY IN INDIANA

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## Introduction

RAY T. EVERLY

This year entomologists in the United States are recognizing the 100th anniversary of economic entomology as a profession in this country. In 1854 Townsend Glover was appointed to the U. S. Patent Office as entomologist. His duties were to prepare exhibits of insects, seeds, and plants and fruits. In addition he did research on insects attacking orange trees and cotton. The same year Asa Fitch was appointed as a full-time entomologist by New York State. He studied life histories and habits of insects especially those injurious to vegetation in New York. His research laid the groundwork for further development of entomology.

Since the appointment of these two men to full-time study of insect problems in 1854, the science of entomology has made an expansion and development equalled by few other sciences. Prior to 1854, entomology was largely a hobby of wealthy individuals and persons in other professions, who spent their spare time making collections and working out the taxonomy and phylogeny of insect groups. This work was important as it laid the foundation of the knowledge required to identify the injurious insects that are our problems today. Today entomology as a profession is followed by some 6,500 men and women in the United States.

This rapid development of entomology in the United States was due to many causes. The influx of emigrants and the import of plant materials brought many insect immigrants which, relieved of restrictive environmental controls, became major problems in this country. The application of mass methods of production to our food and other raw materials set up ideal conditions for certain insects to multiply in great numbers. Increased standards of living and increases in population has made necessary increased protective measures for our food sources, as well as those of our fiber crops. Advertising has made people aware of imperfections of raw foods and has thus brought the demand that our fruit, vegetables, and packaged goods be free of imperfections and insects.

Greater concentrations of populations, and the penetration of man into areas where certain insect-borne diseases are epidemic has necessitated intensive study of the control of those insects that affect our health. All in all, insects today play a greater and more important part in our lives than ever before in the history of man.

The development of entomology in our country was paralleled by that in Indiana. All those causes that contributed to increased need for insect control in the U. S. were present in this state. Lying in the eastern edge of the rich midwest, Indiana was among the first to feel the influence of migrations, increasing populations, and the increased production of food and other products. Thus as these speakers bring to you the picture of entomology in the Hoosier State, they will give to you a good picture of what occurred generally throughout the United States.