



Laurence Kremer Cutkomp 1916 - 2006

at University of Minnesota as an assistant professor in 1947, he served as a research fellow at University of Pennsylvania, research associate at University of Minnesota, and associate entomologist for the Tennessee Valley Authority doing mosquito control work. He was promoted to an associate professor in 1953 and attained the rank of professor in 1960. He retired from the University of Minnesota in 1986.

Cutkomp taught undergraduate and graduate courses and conducted research for more than 40 years at the University of Minnesota; he trained 16 M.S. and 13 Ph.D. students. He taught courses in Economic Entomology, House and Garden Insects, Principles of Economic Entomology, Insect Toxicology, and Insecticides and Their Action. He authored or coauthored more than 90 extension and popular articles on economic insects, injurious and beneficial. However, he is recognized internationally for his research on the inhibition of insect, fish, and mice adenosine triphosphatases (ATPases) by various insecticides, especially chlorinated hydrocarbons, and the circadian rhythms in sensitivity of insects exposed to insecticides. In addition to these areas, Cutkomp conducted research on temperature-toxicity relationships of synthetic pyrethroids, sterilization of fruit flies, aerial application of insecticides, and chemical management of stored-product insects. In all, he published more than 100 research papers. Cutkomp was the coauthor of a *Glossary of Pesticide Toxicology and Related Terms* in 1984 with N. Eesa, his former Ph.D. student (Thomson Publications; second edition, 1994). Two of his books include *How to Know the Immature Insects* with H. F. Chu (W. C. Brown Publishing, 1992), and *Senses and Moves in Insects*, a book for high school students (Xlibris, 2005).

Cutkomp traveled internationally on behalf of the Food and Agriculture Organization, World Health Organization, and the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna, Austria. Some of the countries he visited were Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Tanzania, India, Pakistan, China, Italy, the United Kingdom, Switzerland, Poland, Greece, Germany, Panama, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Honduras, Korea, Japan, Philippines, and Thailand.

Laurence Cutkomp was a soft-spoken and caring person. He kept physically fit by walking every day, playing handball, cross-country skiing, biking, bowling, and swimming.

He is survived by his wife, Ethel B. Longley of St. Paul; daughters Kay (Dave) Bahan of Mechanicville, NY, Terry (Esi) Ostovar of Asheville, NC, and Lee (Dan) Ross of Hovland, MN, and son Kent (Deb) Cutkomp of Minneapolis, grandchildren Andrew Cutkomp, Kayhan and Payam Ostovar, Naseem Ostovar (Gideon) Alston, and great-grandchildren Braden and Whalen Alston.

A memorial service was held on 29 April 2006 at Unity Church in St. Paul.

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Dial Franklin Martin

DIAL MARTIN was born 30 April 1915 in Gilmer, TX, and he died 2 April 2006 in Bryan, TX. He is survived by Eva Jones Martin, his wife of 67 years. As a member of a large farm family in East Texas during the Great Depression, Dial faced many obstacles to achieving early academic success. Despite the occasional need to miss school to help on the family farm, he made good grades, and through hard work and the encouragement and help of his teachers, he persevered to graduate from Gilmer High School in 1933. As many young men did during those difficult economic times, Dial served in the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). During his two years in the CCC, he managed to save a small amount of money, which he set aside to start college. Few among family and acquaintances during those trying times probably believed that he could afford to attend college, but his resolve to do so never wavered.

At the urging of his high school vocational agriculture teacher, in 1935, he enrolled at Texas A&M College (now University). With meager financial resources available,



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it was imperative that he obtain additional support, and upon arrival in College Station, he informed college administrators of his need for a part-time job. Fortunately, S. W. Bilsing, entomology department head, premier teacher, and staunch friend of students in financial need, was able to provide such employment. Consequently much of Dial's spare time during his undergraduate days was spent working for hourly wages on the biology and control of pecan insects on Bilsing's project. When Dial arrived at Texas A&M, he was not aware that the curriculum included the study of insects, but he quickly became one of Bilsing's many converts and chose entomology as a major, graduating with the B.S. degree in 1939.

1939 was a banner year for Dial in more ways than one. He not only achieved his dream of obtaining a college degree; he gained a lifetime partner and a totally dedicated supporter of his career in entomology in his marriage to Eva Jones. It must have occurred to him that things could not get much better when during the same year, he was offered a position as instructor in the Department of Entomology with the opportunity to pursue graduate study for the M.S. degree. He quickly accepted the offer and began teaching undergraduate students, enrolled in graduate courses, and conducted thesis research on pecan insects. He received the M.S. degree in 1942.

Bilsing, always the promoter of graduate study by his students, had already extracted a promise from Dial that once he obtained the M.S. degree, he would begin work for the Ph.D., But these plans were interrupted by World War II. Dial volunteered for service in the U.S. Army immediately after completing his M.S. degree. He was commissioned as a First Lieutenant in the Medical Corps, and after initial training in North Carolina,

he was sent to Burma and India to control mosquitoes and other arthropod vectors of diseases affecting Allied troops. After 3 1/2 years of service, he was discharged with the rank of Captain in 1946.

The faculty of the Department of Entomology at Texas A&M was severely depleted during World War II, so immediately afterwards, there was an urgent need for instructors to teach the enlarged classes of returning veterans and new students. Dial and other returning faculty members had little time following discharge from the services to relax and recover from their military duties. He quickly rejoined the faculty at the rank of assistant professor and resumed teaching and research activities. As was his prewar intention, Dial soon began to plan to start Ph.D. study. In 1947, he enrolled at Iowa State College (now University) to pursue that goal under the guidance of H. M. Harris. After 1 1/2 years at Ames satisfying course and residency requirements, he returned to Texas A&M to conduct dissertation research on pecan insects. He received his Ph.D. in 1950.

Back at Texas A&M, Dial progressed rapidly through the academic ranks and was promoted to professor in 1954. His research during the early 1950s involved study of the effectiveness of the new chlorinated hydrocarbon insecticides for controlling major pests of pecans and peaches. In 1954, he assumed responsibility for research on the biology and control of arthropod pests of cotton, an area in which he was involved either as a researcher or research administrator throughout the remainder of his career.

Dial resigned from Texas A&M University in the fall of 1957 to accept a position in the USDA as investigations leader of pink bollworm research at the Brownsville, TX, laboratory. He remained in that position for 8 years, directing research on the biology and control of the pink bollworm. Later during his tenure at the laboratory, research was expanded to cover other major pests of cotton. In 1965, Dial was promoted to assistant branch chief, Cotton Insects Research Branch, ERS-ARS-USDA, and was transferred to Beltsville, MD. He served in this position until 1968, when he was named Laboratory Chief of the USDA Bioenvironmental Control Laboratory at Stoneville, MS. The same year, his title was changed to Research Leader of Pilot Programs for Insect Control Research at the Stoneville laboratory. In the latter capacity, he was responsible for research directed toward developing alternative methods of controlling the bollworm and tobacco budworm.

Dial retired from the USDA in January 1981 after 24 years of federal service; however, he was not yet ready to quit entomology

altogether and was soon looking for other challenges. The perfect opportunity came in 1983, when he became a consultant to the Brazilian government to provide advice on the control and possible eradication of the boll weevil, which had recently invaded the country and seriously threatened its cotton crop. His vast knowledge of cotton insects and broad experience developing and conducting control programs suited him well for this work. This project obviously required considerable on-the-scene involvement, so Dial and Eva moved to Brazil, where they lived for slightly more than two years. They returned to Stoneville, MS, in 1985.

The Martins moved to Bryan, TX, in 1987 to be near relatives and Dial's beloved Texas A&M. Ever the entomologist, he immediately became involved in activities of the Department of Entomology, attending meetings, seminars, serving on committees, and, in general, supporting the department in any way he could. Dial's great storehouse of knowledge of early entomologists and entomological programs at Texas A&M was especially helpful as a resource during the department's centennial celebration in 1999.

Over a period of about 40 years, Dial Martin authored or coauthored about 100 journal articles, bulletins, and reports, mostly on cotton pests. Of interest is the fact that his first publication, an indicator of things to come, was a pioneering book in 1942 co authored with V. A. Little entitled *Cotton Insects of the United States*. It was 12 years before he returned to the subject of cotton insects, initiating a long and uninterrupted career of research on these pests. His contributions to the knowledge of cotton insects were extensive, resulting from his hands-on research on the biology and control of a wide variety of species and leadership of groups of scientists investigating new and promising technologies for insect management. His career as a cotton entomologist spanned a period of extensive

research, beginning with study of the use and efficacy of chlorinated hydrocarbon insecticides following WWII and extending through involvement in development of management and eradication programs based on ecological, behavioral, and genetic principles. Dial was involved in all levels of cotton insect research from the mid-1950s until his retirement in 1981.

Dial was very active in the professional aspects of entomology, becoming a member of the Association of Economic Entomologists in 1940 and later joining the Entomological Society of America (ESA). He served as chairman of the Southwestern Branch of ESA in 1964 and president of the Southeastern Branch of ESA in 1980; he also served on many ESA committees. He was also chairman of the Entomologists Association of the Rio Grande Valley (of Texas) in 1960, and president of the Mississippi Entomological Association in 1981. In addition to contributions to entomological societies, Dial served on many academic, scientific, and commodity committees during his long career.

Dial Martin was respected by all who knew him for his honesty, integrity, loyalty, and devotion to country, family, and church, and for his kindness to everyone he met. His gentlemanly and professional manner was always foremost in his relationships with others. The Martins' generosity in supporting scholarships and various academic and athletic programs at Texas A&M University stands as ample proof of their sincere desire to help students, just as Dial himself had been helped during the formative days of his career. The entomology profession has lost a dedicated member and ardent supporter, and many have lost a great friend.

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