## Paul Truman Riherd 1905 - 1980



Paul Riherd was born 14 July 1905 at Dublin in Erath Co., Texas. He graduated from Tarleton Academy in Stephenville, Texas in 1928 and from John Tarleton Agricultural College in 1931. Paul entered Texas A&M College (now Texas A&M

University) in 1934 and graduated in 1936 obtaining a B.S. in agriculture with a major in entomology. Having chosen entomology as the field in which to specialize, he moved to the University of Florida to do graduate study. The M.S. was awarded to Paul by that institution in 1938. His research there involved the

ecology and control of mosquitoes.

From June 1938 until November 1939 he was employed as agent by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to work on grasshopper control in West Central Texas. In November 1939 Paul was employed by the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station at the Lower Rio Grande Substation at Weslaco where he worked on a variety of insect problems, most involving vegetable pests. He continued in this position for about 3 years after which he resigned to work for approximately 6 months with the U.S. Public Health Service in Florida. From 1943 to 1946 Paul served in the U.S. Navy in charge of a malaria control unit. Seventeen months were spent in overseas duty in the South Pacific, mostly in the Philippines. After leaving the Navy he took a temporary position for about 7 months with the U.S. Department of Agriculture with which he worked as Inspector at Nogales, Arizona.

Paul rejoined the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station at Weslaco in 1949. Biological control investigations were initiated on the Rhodesgrass mealybug in 1949 by the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station in cooperation with the USDA and Paul immediately became involved in this work. A hymenopterous parasite, Anagyrus antoninae Timberlake, was introduced into South Texas as a potential biological control agent for the mealybug. Paul studied the biology and effectivness of A. antoninae and found that this parasite was only partially successful in controlling the mealybug. He also conducted some work on chemical control of the pest. When Paul resigned from the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station in 1954 this work was taken over by others. After introduction of another parasite, Neodusmetia sangwani (Rao), control was obtained and the project is now considered to be an example of a highly successful biological control program (Dean, H.A., M.F. Schuster, J.C. Boling and P.T. Riherd. 1979. Bull. Entomol. Soc. Amer. 25(4):262-267).

From 1954 until his retirement in 1972, he was self

employed as a consulting entomologist in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas and in Northern Mexico.

Upon retiring in 1972 Paul moved back to Erath Co. where he built a home a few miles NE of Stephenville. He lived there with his wife Hazel until his death on 1 August 1980.

Paul had broad training and experience in entomology and was very knowledgeable about insect systematics, biology and control. He was especially interested in the Lepidoptera and collected extensively with light traps for adults. He also did considerable rearing to determine larva-adult associations. He wrote an extensive paper on the common lepidopterous larvae in Texas, including keys for identification, descriptions and notes on hosts. Although copies of this manuscript were distributed to Extension entomologists and others for aid in identifying lepidopterous larvaie, it was never formally published. His collection was donated to Texas A&M University in 1977. This fine collection consisted approximately 2,700 identified adult Lepidoptera and 3,700 larvae. Included with the collection were about 1,500 slides of wings and genitalia of moths. The entire collection was well curated and clearly indicated the care with which it was built, maintained and catalogued. Paul never lost his interest in collecting and was still operating Malaise and light traps in his backyard until a few days before his death.

His office, built alongside his home, contained a fine library of entomological books, journals and reprints. A quick glance at these materials indicated his breadth of interest in entomology and how closely he kept up with the field during his active years as well as after retiremnt. Although he did not publish extensively, he certainly kept up with what others were doing in the field. He was a long time member of the Entomological Society of America and was also active in the Professional Entomologists Association of the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas.

Paul is survived by his wife Hazel, and brothers D. J. Riherd of Stephenville, Texas, James Riherd of Kerman, California and Herman Riherd of Lubbock, Texas.

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## Charles O. Persing 1909 - 1982

Charles O. Persing died 12 September 1982, at home in Los Altos, California, where he had resided since 1943.

Charley was born on 2 December 1909, in Whittier, California where he received an early introduction to farming on the walnut orchard planted by his father. He received a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of California at Berkeley in 1933, married Carolyn Hagerty in 1935, did his thesis under Dr.

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