

In Memoriam

**Alfred Mullikin Boyce**

1901-1997

Professor of Entomology, Emeritus  
Riverside

Dean of the School of Agricultural Sciences; Emeritus Professor of Entomology and Entomologist in the Agricultural Experiment Station; Emeritus Associate Director of the Citrus Research Center and Agricultural Experiment Station.

The career in research and administration of Alfred M. Boyce at the University of California, Riverside, was one of distinguished achievement over a period of more than 40 years. He was born on a farm on the eastern shore of Maryland on May 2, 1901. In 1919, he spent one year at St. John's College in Annapolis. Then for a number of years he pursued an adventurous career as a crewman on freighters and ocean liners, traveling the seas to Hong Kong or Bremerhaven, Buenos Aires or Cairo, Capetown or Calcutta. At the end of this youthful odyssey, he was wrongfully imprisoned in a Naples jail for five months charged with mutiny, along with 70 other crew members of the S. S. Philadelphia, after seizure of the ship by creditors.

His inquiring mind and early farm experience then directed him to the field of entomology. He entered Cornell University in 1923 where he received his bachelor's and master's degrees. In 1927 he took a temporary research position at the Citrus Experiment Station in Riverside at the University of California intending to return to Cornell. He was persuaded to stay at Riverside by the promise of research in the entomology of subtropical agriculture and remained there for the rest of his university career. He earned his doctorate in entomology from U. C. Berkeley in 1931.

A most vigorous and remarkably energetic man, Dr. Boyce excelled in his dissertation and later research with a newly introduced major pest, the walnut husk fly, and in 1934 published this work in an entire issue of *Hilgardia*. He subsequently conducted research on many citrus and deciduous orchard insects and mites, continually with emphasis on their control, publishing over 100 papers in this field. He established one of the first university laboratories for the study of insecticide residues on crops. Dr. Boyce led an 8-week lecture and laboratory course in entomology in the summers of 1928 to 1931 at Riverside. When a division of the statewide College of Agriculture was established at UCLA in February, 1933, he offered two 4-unit courses in general entomology and on subtropical fruit insects. His entomology course began at 8 a.m. on the first day of the first semester and Dean Hodgson often commented that he gave the first course in agriculture ever taught on the UCLA campus. His wide experience in entomology and his dynamism made this a popular and informative course, as one of us (G.Z.) can personally attest. He became Head of the Division of Entomology of the Citrus Experiment Station in 1940 and presided over an extensive expansion of that

group to include research on most aspects of the chemistry and insect toxicology of modern insecticides and their application. Most of these new members of the Division came with their recent doctorates achieved post-war and Dr. Boyce's relationship with them reflected his career at sea. He was captain of the research ship!

During 1951, along with his wife and two small children, he explored many parts of southern Asia for parasites of the olive scale. He discovered two species of parasitoid wasps, one in Iran and Iraq and the other in India and Pakistan. These wasps were introduced into California by other U.C. entomologists and the scale insect was suppressed as a pest. Dr. Boyce strongly resented that he was not credited for his discoveries, made under most difficult and at times hazardous conditions.

As Director or Associate Director of the Citrus Research Center and Agricultural Experiment Station (1952-1968) he helped mold that institution into a world-renowned organization. Under his leadership, UCR pioneered the earliest studies of the effects of air pollution on plants now carried on by the Statewide Air Pollution Research Center that he helped organize. In 1960, he became Dean of UCR's new College of Agriculture, later designated the School of Agricultural Sciences and presently the College of Biological and Agricultural Sciences. Dr. Boyce guided this fledgling college through its formative years.

Dr. Boyce developed a national and international reputation. While president of the American Association of Economic Entomologists, he facilitated the amalgamation of that group with the Entomological Society of America, a controversial move at the time. He served on committees of the National Science Foundation and of the National Research Council. He served the Kennedy administration on a sub-panel of the President's Science Advisory Committee. Among other tasks, this group was charged with a review of the research program of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Dr. Boyce retired in 1968 and in 1969 was awarded the University's highest honor, a Doctor of Laws degree. During his university career, he was greatly admired and respected by agriculturists and by county and statewide officials. He received accolades from many sources including the following: the Board of Directors of Sunkist Growers; the California Citrograph; the California Avocado Society; the Lemon Men's Club; the Assembly of the California State Legislature; the Agricultural Administrative Committee of the Division of Agricultural Sciences of the University of California, the Association of Western Agricultural Experiment Station Directors; the Citrus Institute of the National Orange Show; and the California Macadamia Society. He also received the Albert G. Salter Memorial Award and the UCR Chancellor's Award of Merit. He was an honorary member of the Entomological Society of America and the Entomological Society of India.

The Al Boyce Lecture Series was established in 1977 by the UCR Department of Entomology, providing a single lecture each year by a distinguished entomologist. The Alfred M. Boyce Chair at UCR was established by the Regents in 1984 to be funded by

the UCR Foundation and this Chair was filled in 1995. Alfred M. Boyce Hall is a major building on the UCR campus, currently housing in whole or in part several departments of the College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences.

Dr. Boyce was a Member of the Board of Consultants for Agricultural Sciences of the Rockefeller Foundation in the years prior to his retirement. His retirement did not end his career. He continued as a Consultant to the Administrative Staff and traveled extensively advising on agricultural endeavors overseas. He also gave leadership to the first domestic program to be funded by the foundation in many years: an interdisciplinary teaching and research program concerned with quality of the environment. After leaving the foundation in 1974, Dr. Boyce remained active, developing his autobiography, *Odyssey of an Entomologist* published, in 1986, a record not only of his unusual life, but of his remarkable memory as well.

Dr. Boyce's wife of almost 50 years, Dr. Janet Mabry Boyce, a scientist in her own right, died in 1988. Dr. Boyce passed away on July 11, 1997. He is survived by a daughter, Karen Boyce Risher of Poway, CA, sons Allen W. Boyce of Coronado, CA, and Barry S. Boyce of Cypress, CA, six grandchildren and nine great grandchildren.

Martin Barnes, Chair  
George Georghiou  
George Zentmeyer