JOHN W. WILSON
(1902-1974)

John W. Wilson, Professor Emeritus of Entomology, University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, died June 20, 1974 at Orange City, Florida. He was stricken while playing shuffleboard. He was interred in the Villa Rica Cemetery following services in Villa Rica, Georgia.

Dr. Wilson was born at Villa Rica, Georgia, September 19, 1902, the son of Ulla and Margaret Wilson. He attended the Carroll County, Georgia schools. He received the B.S. degree from Clemson College, South Carolina in 1924; the M.S. degree from North Carolina State College in 1926 and the Doctor of Science degree from Harvard University in 1929.

During the summer of 1924, John worked with the Gypsy Moth Laboratory, Highlands, Massachusetts; the summers of 1925 and 1926 at the Cotton Insects Investigations Laboratory in Florence, South Carolina and the summer of 1928 with the Rockefeller Institute Laboratory in Princeton, New Jersey. He joined the academic staff of the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station system in 1930. He served at the Main Station in Gainesville, the Watermelon and Grape Laboratory in Leesburg, Strawberry Laboratory in Plant City, Everglades Experiment Station in Belle Glade, and since 1947 at the Central Florida Experiment Station in Sanford. In 1959 Dr. Wilson was promoted to Entomologist in Charge of the Central Florida Station. He retired in 1967.
John's initial responsibilities involved the biology and control of the Fern Caterpillar, a serious pest of Asparagus plumosus fern. Following this he was a productive researcher and responsible for many commercial insect control practices on vegetables. He contributed much to the development of the "worm-free" sweet corn and celery industries in Florida. He was the author or co-author of more than 50 technical papers and bulletins appearing in the "Journal of Economic Entomology" and publications of the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station. He co-authored a paper on the History of Entomology in Florida.

Dr. Wilson was active in the Florida Entomological Society and served as its President in 1952 and as Business Manager-Treasurer from 1936-1942. In 1952 he was elected to the Executive Committee of the Cotton States Branch of the American Association of Economic Entomologists. He was a member of the Entomological Society of America and the Florida State Horticultural Society. He was a member of the Sanford Kiwanis Club and an elder in the Presbyterian Church. He was very active in promoting the development of Florida Presbyterian College at St. Petersburg, Florida.

In June of 1942 he took a military leave of absence and served as a captain, Sanitary Corps, in the U. S. Army Medical Department. From 1943-1945 he was commanding officer of a Malaria Control Unit stationed in Chabua, India. During late 1944 and 1945 this unit was responsible for all aerial applications of insecticides for mosquito control in the CBI theatre including the initial use of aerial applications of DDT.

Dr. Wilson married the former Mary Louise Noble in 1931, who survives him. Also surviving are three daughters, nine grandchildren, two sisters and three brothers.

Dr. Wilson was held in high esteem for his good judgment and qualities of leadership. He set a high standard for hard work, exemplary personal habits and devotion to family, associates, and the science of entomology.

L. C. Kuitert
Department of Entomology and Nematology
University of Florida
Gainesville