In Memoriam

EUGENE GILLESPIE KELSHIEPER
1902-1985

Eugene (Kel) Gillespie Kelsheimer of the Gulf Coast Experiment Station, Bradenton passed away May 31, after a long illness. He was born in Paris, Illinois, October 14, 1902.

He received his B.S. degree from the University of Illinois in 1925, M.S. degree from Iowa State University the same year and his PhD from Ohio State University in 1931. He was Assistant State and Extension Entomologist for Iowa from 1923-26. He worked at Wooster, Ohio from 1926-35, first as an Assistant Entomologist with The Ohio Agriculture Experiment Station and then as a Technician for the Bureau of Plant Industry with the USDA. He served as Assistant Pathologist for the USDA at Morristown, N.J. from 1935-37. From 1937-42, he was an Agent for the USDA's Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine in Bloomfield, N.J. In 1942, he accepted a position as Entomologist at the University of Florida's Gulf Coast Experiment Station and remained there until he retired in 1969. His work, primarily on the biology and control of insects of turf, ornamental and vegetables, resulted in more than 100 scientific articles. He was a member of the Entomological Society of America, Florida State Horticultural Society, Theta Xi, Gamma Alpha, and the Florida Entomological Society. He served as president of the latter society in 1948. Among other organizations, he was a charter member of the Bradenton Boys' Club and he worked with 4-H members for more than 25 years. He served as president of the Manatee County Chapter of the American Red Cross, was a director for the Junior Science Museum and was active in the Orchid Society.

Dr. Kelsheimer was known throughout Florida, especially among agriculturists. A coworker once described Kel to me as having kindness and patience in his “bedside manners” which exceeded that of most of us. He knew his field insects and plants very well and could diagnose field problems better than most of us.

Kel and his wife Lorna both retired in 1969. They had planned to travel and engage in pleasant retirement activities. In a very short time, his health deteriorated and his activities were curtailed.

His good-natured friendliness has been and will be missed—but not soon forgotten. He is survived by his wife, two daughters, three grandchildren and a host of friends.

D. O. Wolfenbarger
Photo by F. W. Mead