

## O B I T U A R Y

Oliver Irvin Snapp, Sr.

1895 - 1987

Oliver I. Snapp, Sr., a prominent entomologist for the U. S. Department of Agriculture for many years, died July 2, 1987, in Atlanta, Georgia, at the age of 91. He was born in Winchester, Virginia, August 1, 1895, graduated from the Congressional District Agricultural School, Middleton, Virginia, and in 1916, received a bachelor of science degree from Virginia Polytechnic Institute. In 1925, he received a master of science degree from Mississippi A & M College (now Mississippi State University), followed by graduate work at the University of Delaware, University of Maryland, and The Ohio State University.



Mr. Snapp began his career with the USDA in 1917 at Mississippi A & M College cooperating with the Mississippi Agricultural Experiment Station working on control of the plum curculio. In the fall of 1920, he was transferred to Fort Valley, Georgia, to establish and head up the U. S. Peach Insect Station. This transfer was made following a devastating outbreak of plum curculio in the Georgia Peach Belt that year in which 85% of the peach crop was destroyed due to "wormy" fruit. Mr. Snapp's first efforts involved studies of the life history of the plum curculio. Under the direction of Mr. Snapp, the staff of entomologists developed a control program that involved orchard cultural practices and insecticide spraying directed at critical stages of the life cycle of the plum curculio. By 1928, the peach industry had recovered and was peaking in production. Mr. Snapp often stated that the plum curculio was potentially the most devastating pest of the peach industry. During a career of 49 years with the USDA, he religiously worked with all insect and mite pests of peaches and developed control strategies that are still being used today. He was an authority on all of the major insect pests associated with peaches. In addition to his expertise with peach insects, he was an official weather observer for the U. S. Department of Commerce. In 1966, he was presented the Thomas Jefferson Award for continuous weather observations of outstanding quality and legibility at Fort Valley, Georgia, for over 40 years.

Mr. Snapp was a charter member of the Georgia Entomological Society and served as its Historian for more than 20 years. He was president of the society in 1946 and 1947. He was presented with a silver bowl by the society in recognition of his long and distinguished service to Georgia entomology at one of its annual meetings at Jekyll Island, Georgia. He was a member of the Entomological Society of America. He served on the governing board for 3 years and was one of its

presidents, and had been vice chairman and chairman of section A of the society. He was made an honorary member of the society in 1970. He was a member of the Southeastern Branch of the Entomological Society of America and served as president in 1941 and as secretary for a number of years. He was secretary-treasurer of the Cotton States Branch of the American Association of Economic Entomologists for 13 years, member of the Newell Entomological Society and the Georgia Horticultural Society. Following his retirement, he served as a consultant for Woolfolk Chemical Works, Inc. During his illustrious career as an entomologist with the USDA, he authored 317 publications.

Aside from entomology, Mr. Snapp was active in church and civic affairs as well. He was a member of the Fort Valley United Methodist Church and had served as vice chairman and chairman of the board of trustees. He was a 32 degree Mason and Shriner, and served as Worshipful Master of Fort Valley Lodge No. 110 F. & A. M. in 1931 and 1932. He was honored with a 50 year award and certificate by the Grand Lodge of Georgia Masons. He was a member of the National Association of Retired Persons.

Mr. Snapp will always be remembered as a pioneer entomologist with peaches in the southeastern United States. He truly was a legend in his time and will never be forgotten. We were delighted and honored to have known him and fortunate to have shared part of our lives with him.

He is survived by his wife, Eloise Parham Snapp, of Atlanta, Georgia; a daughter, Frances Snapp Bowns of Norcross, Georgia; two sons, Oliver I. Snapp, Jr. of Houston, Texas; and Robert L. Snapp of Rome, Georgia; and seven grandchildren.

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