

## Bray to retire from U. of Del. June 30

NEWARK, DEL. — After 25 years as professor of entomology, 22 of them as department chair, Dale F. Bray will retire from the University of Delaware on June 30.

Born in raised in Michigan, he attended Western State Teachers College and Michigan State University. He was forced to interrupt his undergraduate studies to work on malaria mosquito control in the Pacific during World War II.

Returning to Michigan State after the war, Bray completed work for a B.S. in forestry in 1947, and went on to earn an M.S. in entomology with a minor in plant pathology in 1949. That's when the University of Delaware hired him as a research fellow, to fill a need for a bright young entomologist with a background in mosquito control. He was soon promoted to instructor and then assistant professor.

While teaching at Delaware and supporting a growing family, Bray also managed to earn a Ph.D. in entomology at Rutgers University. Upon completing that degree in 1955 he took a job as an entomologist for Bartlett Tree Research Laboratories. But three years later he returned to the

University of Delaware as a full professor and entomology chair.

Throughout his years chairing the department, Bray divided his time among teaching, extension and experiment station duties. Thus, he has always had a broad appreciation of the department's responsibilities to students, growers, and the public in general. In fact, it was his desire to serve all kinds of people that initially drew him into entomology. He realized early that insects affect the homes, food supply, gardens, and health of everyone.

As an extension specialist, Bray often received frantic phone calls. In one case a doctor called to describe a spider that bit his patient. When Bray confirmed it was indeed a black widow, the doctor had no idea what to do next. Fortunately, Bray found a textbook that described the proper treatment.

A great believer in the value of books, under his stewardship the entomology section of the university's Morris Library expanded tremendously. In fact, it is now recognized as one of the library's major areas of strength.

Bray also spearheaded the creation of an entomology museum

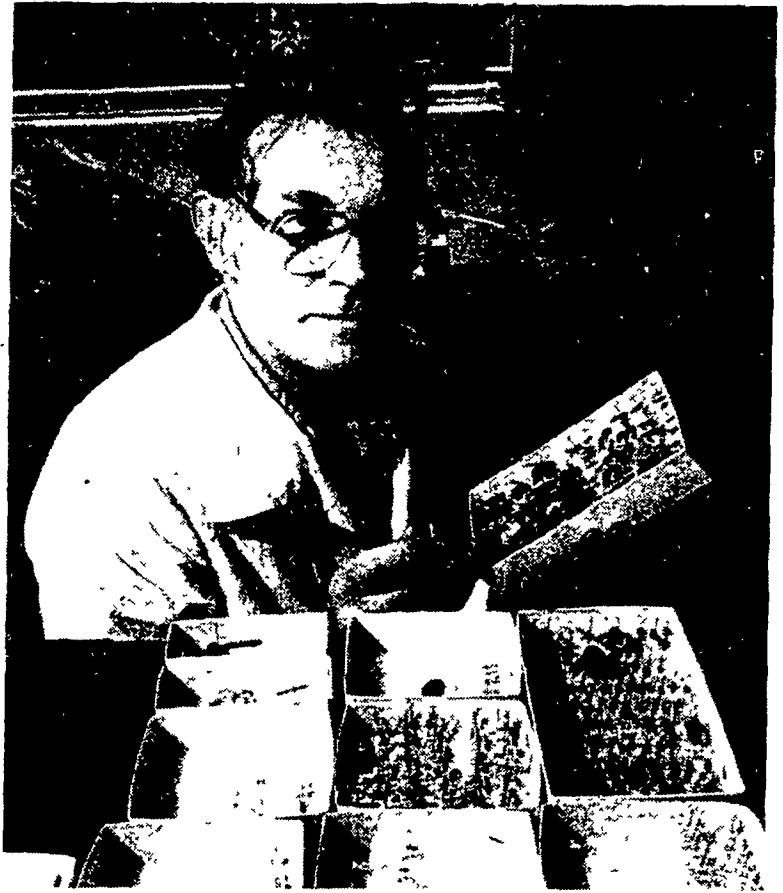
in Agricultural Hall, and has long been its curator. The museum is not only a popular destination for school groups, it also helps the entomologists make insect identifications.

A bee hobbyist, Bray reactivated the Delaware Beekeepers Association, now a popular, active group. In 1977 he became president of the Eastern Apiculture Society.

He was also responsible for bringing together the pest control operators of the state in 1959. Formerly total strangers who viewed each other only as competitors, they are now a close-knit group with high professional standards and a noteworthy record of public service. For each of the last 24 years, members of the Delaware Pest Control Association have returned to the university for a refresher course. Bray has been their technical adviser for the entire period.

He has also helped the state through many serious insect outbreaks. The successful mosquito control program he helped devise involves complex but ecologically sound practices such as raising and lowering the water level of the marshes,

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University of Delaware entomology professor Dale Bray will retire after 25 years of service.

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