GIDEON HERMAN BOEWE

1895-1970

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G. H. Boewe in 1963

Gideon Herman Boewe, associate plant pathologist, Illinois Natural History Survey, and a member of the Illinois State Academy of Science, died suddenly in his home in Champaign, Illinois, on Saturday, December 19, 1970, at the age of 75 years.

Mr. Boewe was born October 3, 1895, in Parkersburg, Richland County, Illinois, a son of Henry M. and Augusta C. Maas Boewe. He spent his boyhood years on a farm and attended grade schools in Richland County. He graduated from the Olney Township High School. From 1918 to 1924 he taught in grade schools in Lawrence and Richland Counties. On June 12, 1921, Mr. Boewe married Isabelle Shafer in Olney. For nearly 50 years the Boewes were a devoted couple.

Mr. Boewe attended Illinois State Normal University and Eastern Illinois State Teachers College (now Eastern Illinois University), receiving a Bachelor of Education degree from the latter in 1928. He then enrolled in the University of Illinois and obtained a Master of Science degree in 1930. Mr. Boewe joined the staff of the Illinois Natural History Survey as field botanist on March 17, 1930. He became assistant plant pathologist in 1947 and associate plant pathologist in 1955. His work was primarily concerned with the distribution, severity, and incidence of field, forage, fruit, and vegetable crop diseases. He was, however, interested in plant diseases in general and collected numerous specimens which form a large part of the plant disease survey herbarium of the Survey. From 1933 to 1946, the accumulation of Illinois vascular plants for the Survey herbarium was added to the duties of the plant pathologists on the staff. Mr. Boewe conscientiously assumed this duty and collected numerous samples in conjunction with his work on the plant disease survey. Mr. Boewe retired in 1966, after 36 years in plant pathology at the Survey.

In the course of his field work, Mr. Boewe discovered a number of plant diseases new to Illinois. Among these were the downy mildew of soybean in 1929, a tiny toadstool on crop plants in 1935, charcoal rot of potatoes in 1941, and Helminthosporium blight of oats in 1947. In 1964, his report on plant diseases new to Illinois during the period of 1922-1964 included 123 organisms that attack 101

host plants. Plant pathologists in Illinois, and those in the corn belt, perhaps remember him best for his publications on field crop diseases and for his annual forecasts, beginning in 1948, on the late-season or leaf-blight stage of Stewart's disease of corn.

Mr. Boewe was active in his church, the First United Methodist Church of Champaign. He and his wife were members for 40 years. He not only attended regularly but served as an usher for 25 years, was a Church School teacher for many years, and, during the past 10 years was secretary of the Church School. For many years he served on the Official Board. He was also an active member of the Men's Club of the church. Those of us who associated with Boewe at work, soon learned that his religion was not a "Sunday cloak" but a vital part of his life which was exemplified daily by his kindness and generosity to his fellow men.

Mr. Boewe was a member of the Illinois State Academy of Science for many years and he attended the annual meetings regularly. In 1944, he was appointed to the Membership Committee, serving as a member until 1950 when he was appointed chairman. He served as chairman until 1959 when, at the annual meeting and at his request was retired from the position. Under his chairmanship the Academy grew, reaching the highest membership in its history. He served on the Council of the Academy from 1960 to 1964, was a member of the Nominating Committee in 1962-63, and a member of the Resolutions Committee for a number of years, beginning in 1963. He truly was devoted to the work of the Academy.

In addition to the Academy, Mr. Boewe was a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Phytopathological Society, the Illinois State Horticultural Society, and the Illinois Vegetable Growers Association. He was also a member of the men's division of the W.C.T.U., serving as Treasurer of the local union and the county unit since 1967.

He is survived by his wife, and brother, Ellis, of West Salem, Illinois. He was preceded in death by his parents, one sister, and three brothers.

Publications of Gideon Herman Boewe

1930

Brown rot (Clerotinia sp.) on flowering almond. Plant Disease Reporter 14-(11): 94.

1935

Soybean downy mildew in Illinois. Ibid. 19(16): 257-258.

1936

Mosses from Apple River Canyon, Mississippi Palisades and White Pines Forest State Parks (with Stella Holmes Barrick and Stella M. Hague). Ill. State Acad. Sci. Trans. 28(2): 83-84. (Volume dated Dec. 1935).

The relation of ear rot prevalence in Illinois corn fields to ear coverage by husks. Ill. Nat. Hist. Surv. Biol. Notes No. 6, (Mimeo). 19 p.

Peach leaf curl in Illinois. Plant Disease Reporter 20(9): 147.

The relation of ear rot prevalence in Illinois cornfields to ear coverage by husks. Ibid. 20(10): 165-172.

1938

Tiny toadstools on crop plants in Illinois. Ill. State Acad. Sci. Trans. 30(2): 103-104. (Volume dated Dec. 1937).

Peach leaf curl in Illinois. Plant Disease Reporter 22(11): 199-201.

Naucoria on small grains in Illinois. Phytopath. 28(11): 852-855.

Ergot on barley in Illinois. Plant Disease Reporter 22(14): 287-288.

1939

Diplodia ear rot in Illinois cornfields. Ill. State Acad. Sci. Trans. 31(2): 92-93. (Volume dated Dec. 1938).

Diseases of small grain crops in Illinois. Ill. Nat. Hist. Surv. Circ. 35. 130 p.

Range extensions for Naucoria cerealis in Illincis in 1938 and a key to certain species in the genus. Plant Disease Reporter 23(2): 24-27.

Peach leaf curl in Illinois in 1939. Ibid. 23(15): 254-258.

Epidemic of bitter rot of apples in southern Illinois in 1939. Ibid. 23(17): 294.

Charcoal rot in Illinois (with L. R. Tehon). Ibid. 23(19): 312-321.

1940

Fruit disease problems in Illinois. Trans. Ill. State Hort. Soc. 74: 154-159.

Crown rust of oats in Illinois. Plant Disease Reporter 24(14): 302-303.

Peach leaf curl in Illinois. Ibid. 24(14): 305-307.

Stem rust of oats in Illinois. Ibid. 24(15): 331.

Alfalfa downy mildew in Illinois. Ibid. 24(15): 332.

Bitter rot of apples in southern Illinois in 1940. Ibid. 24(16): 346.

1941

Peach leaf curl in Illinois in 1941. Ibid. 25(13): 355-358.

1942

Charcoal rot on potatoes in Illinois. Ibid. 26(6): 142-143.

Peony anthracnose found in Illinois (with D. B. Creager). Ibid. 26(12/13): 280-281.

1943

Scab and glume blotch of wheat in Illinois. Ibid. 27(12/13): 251.

Cereal smuts and rusts in Illinois (with L. R. Tehon). Ibid. 27(17): 343-347.

Survey for corn diseases in Illinois (with R. C. Baines). Ibid. 27(22): 611-613.

1944

Damage by smuts to small grains in Illinois in 1944 (with L. R. Tehon). Ibid. 28(24): 789-791.

Fruit diseases in western Illinois (with J. S. Tidd). Ibid. 28(32): 991-993.

Corn diseases in North Central Illinois (with J. S. Tidd). Ibid. 28(35): 1077-1079.

1945

Violet scab found in Illinois for the first time (with J. L. Forsberg). Ibid. 29-(25/26): 680.

1946

Late blight in southern Illinois. Plant Disease Reporter Suppl. 164: 293-294.

New oats disease is widespread in Illinois in 1946 (with L. R. Tehon). Plant Disease Reporter 30(9): 328-330.

Northern anthracnose of red clover in Illinois in 1946. Ibid. 30(9): 330-332.

Late blight in Illinois. Plant Disease Reporter Suppl. 165: 334.

Late blight of potatoes in 1946. Illinois. Plant Disease Reporter 30(12): 452.

1947

Gibberella zeae damage in Illinois in 1946 (with Benjamin Koehler). Ibid. 31(4): 169-170.

Grape downy mildew in Illinois in 1947. Ibid. 31(10): 391.

1948

Bacterial canker of cowpea in Illinois. Ibid. 32(6): 275.

1949

Late season incidence of Stewart's disease on sweet corn and winter temperatures in Illinois, 1944-1948. Ibid. 33(4): 192-194.

Bacterial stalk rot of corn in Illinois. Ibid. 33(9): 342-343.

Rosen's bacterial stalk rot vs. Elliott's pythium stalk rot of corn. Ibid. 33(11): 441.

1950

Stewart's disease prospect for 1950. Ibid. 34(5): 155.

1952

Stewart's disease prospects in Illinois for 1952. Ibid. 36(6): 238.

1953

Stewart's disease prospects for 1953. Ibid. 37(5): 311-312.

Early season disease of grain crops and alfalfa present an unusual picture in southern Illinois. Ibid. 37(7): 411-412.

1954

Stewart's disease prospects in Illinois for 1954. Ibid. 38(6): 388.

Sycamore anthracnose severe in Illinois (with R. J. Campana and I. R. Schneider). Ibid. 38(8): 597-598.

1955

Stewart's disease prospects for 1955 in Illinois. Ibid. 39(5): 384-385.

1956

Stewart's disease prospects for 1956. Ibid. 40(5): 367-368.

1957

New diseases for Illinois (with W. L. Klarman). Ibid. 41(10): 904.

Causes of corn stalk rot in Illinois (with Benjamin Koehler). Ibid. 41(6): 501-504

1958

Downy mildew on cucurbits in Illinois in 1957. Ibid. 42(4): 544.

Losses caused by crown rust of oats in 1956 and 1957 (with R. M. Endo). Ibid. 42(10): 1126-1128.

1960

Stewart's disease: expected development in Illinois in 1960. Ibid. 44(5): 372.

Diseases of wheat, oats, barley, and rye. Ill. Nat. Hist. Surv. Circ. 48. 157 p.

1961

A new species of Cercospora on Acer saccharinum (with Anthony E. Liberta). Mycologia 52(2): 345-347.

Stewart's disease: expected development on corn in Illinois in 1961. Plant Disease Reporter 45(5): 393.

1963

Contributions from Illinois (with C. M. Brown and H. Jedlinski). 1962 Oats Newsletter 13: 37-39.

Host plants of charcoal rot disease in Illinois. Plant Disease Reporter 47(8): 753-755.

1964

Some plant diseases new to Illinois. Ibid. 48(11): 866-870.

Manuscript received January 25, 1971