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Noted Cornell Fruit Entomologist Edward H. Glass Remembered
By Joe Ogrodnick

GENEVA, NY: Cornell emeritus professor Edward H. Glass, 87, died on Thursday, January 6 at Geneva General Hospital’s Living Center in Geneva, NY. He specialized in the biology and control of fruit insect pests, and was instrumental in developing the use of sex pheromones for orchard insect monitoring and control.

Over the course of a career that spanned more than six decades, he saw the goals of crop protection transition from conquest to sustainability.

Glass played a major role in this transition by serving as the first project leader (1975-1980) for the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program at Cornell, which now is considered one of the best programs of its kind in the world. He served on many national and international committees that focused on issues of pesticide resistance and IPM. He was very active in the Entomological Society of America and served as the national president in 1978. Having a great interest in international agriculture, he reviewed crop protection research organizations and programs in eleven European countries in 1955/56, and was a visiting professor of entomology at the University of the Philippines in 1966/67.

"Beyond the love and devotion that Dr. Glass had for his family and friends and the commitment he gave to the Geneva Community, he was highly dedicated to the field of entomology, even during the two decades of his retirement," said Wendell Roelofs, chair of the entomology department at the Experiment Station. "Whether in Geneva or on one of his numerous international missions, he was always viewed as a gentleman and a wonderful human being. He put others and the department above his own needs and had many friends. The bottom line is that he lived his life in dignity."

Glass was born in Lexington, Massachusetts in 1917 and was raised on the family farm. He received his bachelor’s degree in 1938 from the University of Massachusetts, his master’s degree in 1940 from the Virginia Polytechnic Institute, and his Ph.D. in 1943 from Ohio State University.

Glass worked as an entomologist at the American Cyanamid Company for five years, and came to the Geneva Experiment Station as an associate professor in 1948. He was promoted to full professor in 1955, and served as chairman of the entomology department from 1969 to 1982, after which he retired as an emeritus professor. He published 134 scientific papers over the course of his distinguished career. Glass was the recipient of the L. O. Howard Distinguished Achievement Award in 1977, the ARPE distinguished achievement award in 1984 and was elected to the Entomological Society of America as an honorary member in 1985 and as a Fellow in 1992.

During his retirement he completed a book begun by Dr. Paul Chapman on the history of the NYS Agricultural Experiment Station, and served as executive director for the Consortium for International Crop Protection.

Glass was active in the Geneva Presbyterian Church, Geneva Community Chest, Geneva Concerts, Geneva General Hospital, Seneca Yacht Club, Rotary, the Geneva Historical Society, Planned Parenthood of the Finger Lakes, and the Finger Lakes Forum.

He is survived by his wife Nell; a son Edward H. (Debra) Glass Jr.; two grandsons Edward H. and Samuel Glass; son-in-law, Terry Acree; a brother, Charles Glass; a niece Carolyn Glass and a nephew Ronald Glass. He was predeceased by his daughter, Anne Acree.

Memorial contributions can be made to:

The Paul J. Chapman Graduate Fellowship Fund
c/o Michael Riley
Office of Alumni Affairs
274 Roberts Hall
Cornell University
Ithaca, NY 14853