



## **Philip Hunter Timberlake (1883 -1981)**

Biographical Sketch by Hany Abdoun, Archives Intern

Philip Hunter Timberlake was born in Bethel, Maine on June 5, 1883. Timberlake attended Bowdoin College, in Brunswick, Maine and received his A.B. in the Liberal Arts in 1908. In 1910, he received his A.M. in Biology from Harvard University.

His career in entomology started in 1909 when he became an Assistant Agent and Expert in the Gypsy Moth Laboratory, United States Department of Agriculture, Melrose Highlands, Massachusetts. In 1910, he was transferred to the Bureau of Entomology, U.S.D.A., Whittier, California where he worked until 1912, when he transferred to the Bureau of Entomology in Salt Lake City, Utah. In 1914, he was an Associate Entomologist stationed in Honolulu with the Hawaiian Sugar Planters Experiment.

On November 26, 1917, Mr. Timberlake married Edith Milhous, (an aunt of former President Richard Milhous Nixon,) in Honolulu, Hawaii.

In 1924, Mr. Timberlake accepted the position of Associate Entomologist in the biological control program of the University of California at Riverside. As time permitted, Mr. Timberlake made several trips to the southwestern California desert region to collect insects. Upon completion of the collection, Mr. Timberlake and T.D.A. Cockerell deposited their collection in the California Academy of Sciences. In 1950, he began publishing his manuscripts on the taxonomy of the genus *Perdita*, a type of bee. Between 1954 and 1968, seven parts of this study were published along with several short papers on new species.

In the fall of 1961, Mr. Timberlake made a two-week trip to New Mexico with the idea of collecting bees. Nearly 10,000 specimens were collected on that trip. In 1979 the *Catalog of Hymenoptera in America North of Mexico* was published by Timberlake with more than 500 species listed.

Mr. Timberlake was a member of the American Entomological Society, Cambridge Entomological Club, Entomological Society of Washington, Hawaiian Entomological Society and the Pacific Coast Entomological Society.

On April 17, 1981, Philip Hunter Timberlake, Associate Entomologist Emeritus at U.C. Riverside, died at the age of 97.

### **Sources Consulted:**

*Pan-Pacific Entomologist*, January 1982.