

Charles “Charlie” Edward Lilly (1920-2001)

Charlie Lilly, a native Albertan, was born in Edmonton and grew up in Wainwright. Charlie was a veteran of World War II, serving from June 1941 to December 1945. He was with the Royal Canadian Signal Corps, in Special Wireless and attached to the Intelligence Corps. His job was to intercept and decipher enemy communications.

In March 1944 Charlie married Anne Bengtson. After the war he attended the University of Alberta where he obtained a BSc degree in Entomology and Plant Pathology in 1949, and a MSc in 1951. After graduation in 1949 Charlie joined the Entomology Division of Agriculture Canada at Lethbridge, Alberta, and retired in 1982 after 33 years as a Research Scientist. Charlie worked with Gordon Hobbs on pollination studies of alfalfa in Alberta. Their studies on ecology of species of *Megachile Latreille* and other pollinators of alfalfa in Alberta, and the biology, ecology and control of the alfalfa pests, provided a basis for the very successful alfalfa seed business in Western Canada and parts of the United States.

Charlie was involved in studies of sugar beet insects and wireworms. He discovered a sex attractant in the females of the sugar beet wireworm, *LimoniUS californicus* (Mann.) and was able to identify the attractant in collaboration with Martin Jacobson of the USDA. This was the first recorded isolation and identification of a sex attractant from click beetles. Charlie also discovered a sex attractant in the females of the 10-lined June beetle, *Polyphylla decemlineata* (Say) and the beet webworm, *Loxostege sticticalis* (L.). He was also involved in studies of attractants in the early cutworm, *Euxoa tristica* (Morrison) and the two striped cutworm, *Euxoa tessellata* (Harris). Charlie and Anne lost their only son, Robert, who was a banker, to Hodgkins disease when he was 22. Nine years later their daughter-in-law remarried and when she and her husband had children they made Charlie and Anne honorary grandparents. They both took a real interest in their honorary grandchildren and Charlie often took them for walks to introduce them to the sights and sounds of nature.

Charlie was a very good naturalist and really enjoyed nature. He had lots of patience when studying insects in the field and made careful observations. He was also an avid bird watcher and spent a lot of time at his hobby. One of Charlie's great interests was his church. He taught Sunday School for children and Bible Classes for adults. He was a Life Member of the Gideon Society and also a Life Member of his church.

Charlie was an active ball and hockey player when younger and also fished. In his retirement he took up golf and thoroughly enjoyed it. After retiring Charlie traveled in Canada, USA, and Britain. He is greatly missed by his wife, Anne, and his honorary grandchildren Todd and Jackie.

— Submitted by Alex Harper