

Maurice Edgar Taylor (1915-2003)

Maurice "Maurie" Taylor died 9 April 2003 at the age of 87 in Saskatoon. Maurice was born on the family farm near Truax Saskatchewan on 31 October 1915. He obtained his primary education at the local schoolhouse and highschool through correspondence courses. He continued to farm with his father during the "dirty thirties" and worked on a dairy farm in B.C. for a year (1936-37). In 1938, he enrolled in the School of Agriculture, University of Saskatchewan and graduated in 1940. Maurice joined the R.C.A.F in 1941, and trained as a wireless and electrical mechanic and served in several Air Observers Schools in Canada. In 1944, he married Doris Irwin, whom he had met during his R.C.A.F service in Montreal. Maurie was discharged from the service in 1945, and returned to the University of Saskatchewan and the College of Agriculture in 1946, from which he graduated in 1950.



In 1947, he worked as a summer student in Entomology at the Dominion Entomology Laboratory in Saskatoon assisting Howard Macdonald with the investigations on pale western and red-backed cutworms. He became a permanent staff member of the Saskatoon laboratory in 1950, and continued research on cutworms and on control of bertha armyworm and diamondback moth. Maurice was appointed as the Station's first Scientific Information Officer in 1959, and served in this capacity until his retirement in 1980. He had a vast knowledge of insect pests in general, and was able to cooperate with other scientists to answer a wide range of farmer's questions on agriculture problems. His diplomatic and conscientious approach made him a great asset to the Station.

Maurie was a founding member of the Entomological Society of Saskatchewan and President in 1963. He was also a charter member of the Saskatchewan Institute of Agrologists and received a Distinguished Graduate Award in Agriculture from the University of Saskatchewan in 1986 on the occasion of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the College of Agriculture.

After his retirement his activities included volunteering at the Western Development Museum where his help was recognized when he was named as an Honorary Life Member of the "Boomtown" Volunteers. Also, he was active in charities such as "Meals on Wheels" and in service to his church. He is survived by his loving wife Doris, three children and nine grandchildren and was a great fan and supporter of all their endeavors and accomplishments.

— John Doane, Saskatoon