

Dr. Thomas J. Headlee

Dr. Headlee came to New Jersey from Indiana.

Dr. Thomas J. Headlee succeeded John B. Smith as New Jersey State Entomologist. In 1912 he also was the entomologist at the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station at Cook College. Under his supervision, mosquito control in New Jersey advanced in legislation, organization, engineering and gathering of scientific data.

Dr. Headlee moved to Dayton. Dayton is close to Cook College. He and his family lived in what is now known as Headlee house. His house is located on Ridge Road next to Fresh Ponds Village.

Dr. Headlee did research on ways to control mosquitoes. He is most known for cutting ditches into swamp land to keep water flowing. Mosquito larvae cannot survive in flowing water. He studied many ways to get rid of mosquitoes.

Dr. Headlee started two mosquito control organizations. Both still exist. In 1913, he formed the New Jersey Mosquito Extermination Association. It is now called the New Jersey Mosquito Control Association. The organization helped mosquito commissioners, mosquito commission staff and interested citizens learn more about mosquito control. The Association continues to meet annually and keeps a printed record of each meeting. Dr. Headlee served many, many years as the Association secretary.

In 1921, Dr. Headlee formed the Associated Executives of Mosquito Control in New Jersey. This organization was established to give the technical workers in mosquito control opportunity for more frequent conferences. The monthly

meeting encouraged the county executives to exchange information regularly. The organization also allowed Experiment Station personnel to meet directly with people working on mosquito control. The group continues to meet monthly and exchange information about mosquito control work in each county. Their goal is to improve



DR. THOMAS J. HEADLEE, SEATED, WITH DESK AND CHAIR PRESENTED TO HIM BY ASSOCIATES IN MOSQUITO CONTROL WORK, WITH ROBERT F. ENGLE, CHAIRMAN OF PRESENTATION COMMITTEE, AND DR. JACOB G. LIPMAN (RIGHT) DIRECTOR, N. J. AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION.

professionalism in mosquito control operations.

Dr. Headlee was honored by his colleagues for efforts to control mosquitoes (see the photo, Figure 1). They held a birthday party for him. They wrote new words to songs and collected cartoons about him.