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A-ALL PEST TERMITE EXTERMINATORS, INC.
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The Party Animal News

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The Good Ole Days

It was in January over forty years ago that, somehow, my parents allowed me to fly by myself to West Lafayette, IN to check out one of the colleges that had accepted me into their entomology program. I remember walking in snow over a curb and slipping, and almost falling, to get onto the sidewalk outside the entomology building, the second oldest building on the Purdue campus.

I was fortunate to grace the creaky stairs and unairconditioned classrooms of this old prestigious building. Sadly, the building was gutted, sandblasted, and renovated in the 2000s with the title of Entomology Hall removed and the department kicked to Smith Hall next door. A doleful end to a proud era. What is left are stories and remembrances.

The Urban and Industrial Pest Control degree was started there in 1946 under the guidance of the Chief Entomologist at the time, J.J. Davis. Since the late 1920s, J.J. had spearheaded extension services that are now commonplace at most universities today. He was the sole academic in the U.S. who engaged with commonplace pest control operators (it might partially be because they liked to party and my impression is that J.J. liked to party, too). In general, there was a lot of prejudice between the two groups – academic entomologists and exterminators.

Luckily, I was doing a video recording project before the renovation and I recorded individuals talking about students and the building. I can picture Brehm and Gilbert running down the stairs to tell their advisor, John Osmun (pictured below with me and my sons), some idea they had in the 1950s. If you look at the stainless steel hand sprayer most pest control operators use today, it will have a B&G on it. These two were part of the first class to graduate with a Purdue pest control degree and they designed this sprayer at Purdue and went on to build a pest control equipment company known worldwide.

John taught my pesticide chemistry class at Purdue. He was asked by J.J. to design the Purdue pest control degree. In the 1930s, J.J. began an annual Purdue Pest Control Conference in January when students were on break. It had close to 1000 attendees in its heyday while I attended the university. For a few years, I received scholarships at the banquets attended by over 500 people. Ann even worked at some of these conferences with me.

Austin Frishman received the first PhD in pest control in the 1960s at Purdue. I remember hearing him give a pest control talk in Dallas while I was in high school, because my parents had me go to some of the local pest control meetings since I had an interest in the industry and had worked for my dad every summer since I was 15. Even as a teenager, I was impressed with his ability to keep an audiences' attention.

Due to the nature of the courses, my undergraduate classes at Purdue actually included Masters and PhD students and I was blessed with a variety of friends. My friends Jeff Hill and Dan Traeger went on to start a company in Austin. Some of you know Russ Smith, now retired from A-All. He worked for these friends in Austin before he moved to Dallas and began to work with us.

Stoy Hedges was good friends with Jeff and Dan. He was in several classes with me as well. He was the most successful BS recipient who graduated out of our group from those last days of the old entomology hall. He was successful at writing articles and books. His talent landed him as editor of the *Handbook of Pest Control*, a book that has been rewritten ever 10 years since the 1940s. A few years back, I was surprised that Stoy honored me by asking me to contribute to the book and reedit a chapter. This type of writing was out of my comfort zone for sure. He did accept my rewritten version of the chapter, to my relief. The pandemic occurred, caused publishing delays and then at the beginning of last year, Stoy was told he needed a new heart. After waiting a year he finally had his surgery, but the outcome we all hoped and prayed for did not occur.

I hope that you keep Stoy's wife Kathy in your prayers. Stoy was 64 years old. He is part of a long list of very successful pest control operators from Purdue who will be missed because of their knowledge and talents. - David



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Football or....?

In Texas football is sacred. And while I never missed a Purdue football game while I attended the University, this photo showing a group of Entomologists heading to a football game in the 1990's from Entomology Hall demonstrates that others were not quite so concerned about when we arrived. With no great desire spurring them to arrive early to enjoy the pregame activities, they could get easily sidetracked by finding an interesting insect. Yes, my kind is weird, but it's like being a part of a family. You still accept them, quirks and all.

Please note we will be closed Nov 22-27 for the Thanksgiving Holiday. Enjoy your time with your friends & family!

