



Frederick Paul Keen

1890-1980

Frederick Paul Keen, successful forest entomologist and prodigious writer in his field, held a variety of increasingly significant positions throughout his long career.

Keen was born on November 20, 1890, in San Diego County, California. He was graduated from San Diego High School and then went on to the University of California, where he earned his Bachelor of Science Degree in Agriculture in 1914. He was a charter member and president of the Forestry Club, which had a part in establishing the School of Forestry at the University of California.

His professional career began in Ashland, Oregon, in 1914, where he started work with the Bureau of Entomology, U.S. Department of Agriculture, as Entomological Ranger. In July 1917, he joined the Oregon National Guard, in preparation for World War I. He was discharged as a Second Lieutenant on

April 26, 1919. He returned to the Bureau of Entomology as a Scientific Assistant in Forest Insect Investigations. On July 20, 1922, he was placed in charge of entomological supervision of the Southern Oregon-Northern California Pine Beetle Control Project at Klamath Falls, Oregon, and was elected to the office of Chairman of the Board of Control.

Among his accomplishments, he was in charge of the Portland and Berkeley Forest Insect Laboratories of the Division of Forest Insect Investigations, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, U.S. Department of Agriculture, from 1925 to 1952. In 1952 he was appointed as Special Assistant to the Chief of the division of Forest Insect Investigations, to coordinate forest insect research, survey, and control in western states.

Under Keen's supervision and leadership, outstanding progress in insect control was made. Keen was innovative and diligent in

his research and a respected scholar in subjects relating to forestry and forest insects, leaving a legacy of over forty scientific publications. To determine trees most susceptible to the bark beetle, Keen developed a tree classification for ponderosa pine, now the principal guideline for silviculture marking of ponderosa pine for harvesting, which results in “insect-proofing” the residual stands. He authored Insect Enemies of Western Forests in 1938 that was the bible on western forest insects for forty years.

Keen had the distinction of having five insects named in his honor: *Orothrips keeni*, *Erythrothrips keeni*, *Myeloborus keeni*, *pseudohylesinus keeni* and *Phloessinus keeni*. Also among his honors was the Superior Service Award from the U.S. Department of Agriculture; Western Forestry and Conservation Association’s Western Forestry Award for “distinguished services in the field of forestry;” the American Forestry Association’s Distinguished Service Award; and he was granted Honorary Life Membership in the California Alumni Foresters.

He was active in the Society of American Foresters from 1925 until 1980, served two terms on its National Council and was elected a Fellow in 1955. Keen was a member of the American Forestry Association; American Association for the Advancement of Science, where he was a Fellow; the Ecological Society; the Entomological Society of America; and the Pacific Coast Entomological Society, of which he was president in 1946.

He was one of the founders and charter members of the Western Forest Pest Committee of the Western Forestry and

Conservation Association that coordinated activities of the Forest Pest Action Councils throughout the West.

On December 20, 1953, all forest insect activities and personnel were transferred from the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine to the U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture. Keen retired from the U.S. Forest Service after nearly forty years of outstanding entomological service, on December 31, 1955.

Frederick Paul Keen died on February 27, 1980, in Contra Costa, California, the county of his residence.