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OBITUARY
GEORGE W. WHARTON

25 January 1914 - 4 April 1990

In Tyler A. WOOLLEY's 1974 address at the 4th International Congress of Acarology entitled "OF MITES AND MEN—THE DEANS OF AMERICAN ACAROLGY", Nathan BANKS, Henry E. EWING, Arthur P. JACOT, E. W. BAKER and G. W. WHARTON made up the list of 'deanly personalities'. WOOLLEY, in the use of the word 'dean', went on to define it as implying men 'of a certain elevation above other men, or a level of competence or achievement that deserves more than ordinary recognition or status... individuals who were led by curiosity to investigate these minute creatures, who encouraged and excited themselves and their colleagues, who stimulated and directed their students. These are the individuals who produced the intellectual soil from which the tree of acarological beginnings sprouted in the United States.'

There can be no better eulogy to the ideals and life of the man and scientist, George Willard WHARTON.

At Duke University, where he was an Associate Professor in the Department of Zoology, his students soon became aware that if Dr. WHARTON made an appointment to see them on a certain subject they better have had subject well in hand and ready to defend, for he did not suffer fools gladly. A sight that has lingered with his students over these many years, is Dr. WHARTON on any one of those many, intolerably hot, muggy, summer, southern days sitting at his desk, in gentlemanly attire, with tie knotted, and suit buttoned, completely oblivious to the outside environment and apparently several degrees cooler than any one else! If you were one of Dr. WHARTON's students he insisted that field work in all its aspects, be an important part of a students' training.

Acarologia, t. XXXII, fasc. 2, 1991.



At the time of Dr. WOOLLEY's address, Dr. WHARTON was still actively pursuing his many interests. His first Acarology Course had begun in the summer of 1951 at Duke University with ten students (BROWN, CAMIN, DONOHOE, FARRIER, GOODWIN, GORIROSSI, HANSENS, HYLAND, SIKEE, STONE, VIGGIANO) coming from Alabama, Georgia, Missouri, New Jersey, North Carolina and South Dakota (CAMIN). There were 70 names on the list of working Acarologists he handed out. From this beginning would evolve the Summer Acarology Program, and eventually, the Institute of Acarology at the University of Maryland. The Institute followed Dr. WHARTON in 1961 when he moved to Ohio State University, in Columbus, but not before he had received the Outstanding Faculty Teaching Award from the University of Maryland in recognition of his abilities after eight years of service.

His great love for Acarology was readily commu-

nicated and his Acarology Program at Ohio State University, where he served as director of the Laboratory until his retirement in 1976, is ready testimony to this.

As his numerous publications indicate, Dr. WHARTON had many fields of interests from such diverse subjects as the house dust mite, evolutionary and biophysical implications of water relations of arthropods, Mesostigmatid mites parasitic on vertebrates, systematics, etc. The two treasures, AN INTRODUCTION TO ACAROLGY with E. C.

BAKER and A MANUAL OF CHIGGERS with H. S. FULLER, would suffice to place him among the greats of the field.

His honors are many, but we would like to honor him not only for the degree of scholarship and excellence that he demanded from himself and those around him, but also for his enormous capacity for work, for the way he listened, and for his ability to laugh at himself. He was a dedicated Acarologist, an outstanding scientist and a constant inspiration to those of us, his students.

Alex FAIN Participant to the teaching program at the Acarology Institute, University of Maryland, July, 1961

Flora BOURDEAU-GORIOSSI student of Dr. G. WHARTON, Duke University (1950-1954); Staff, 1954, Institute of Acarology, U. of Maryland

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