

Proceedings of the Iowa Academy of Science

Volume 71 | Annual Issue

Article 7

1964

In Memoriam: Jesse W. Cavett; William A. Craft; Donald T. Davidson; William W. Farley III, Earl A. Hewitt; Harry Edwin Jaques; John N. Martin; William E. Medcalf; Robert E. Rundle

Let us know how access to this document benefits you

Copyright ©1964 Iowa Academy of Science, Inc.

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.uni.edu/pias>

Recommended Citation

(1964) "In Memoriam: Jesse W. Cavett; William A. Craft; Donald T. Davidson; William W. Farley III, Earl A. Hewitt; Harry Edwin Jaques; John N. Martin; William E. Medcalf; Robert E. Rundle," *Proceedings of the Iowa Academy of Science*, 71(1), 39-45.

Available at: <https://scholarworks.uni.edu/pias/vol71/iss1/7>

This General Interest Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Iowa Academy of Science at UNI ScholarWorks. It has been accepted for inclusion in Proceedings of the Iowa Academy of Science by an authorized editor of UNI ScholarWorks. For more information, please contact scholarworks@uni.edu.

IN MEMORIAM

JESSE W. CAVETT
1900-1963

Dr. Jesse W. Cavett died February 15, 1963, after devoting many years to the advancement of science. He was born on March 6, 1900, in Kent, Indiana. He attended a rural school and Hanover Academy, graduating in 1917. He received a B.A. degree in 1921 from Hanover College, Hanover, Indiana, majoring in mathematics. He taught high school science and mathematics for two years, then received a M.A. degree in chemistry from Indiana University in 1924, serving as a teaching assistant there. In 1924, he became Head of the Science Department at LaGrange College, LaGrange, Missouri, serving there until 1928. Dr. Cavett received his Ph.D. degree at the State University of Iowa in 1930, majoring in biochemistry. He instructed at the University of Minnesota until 1937. His research included protein studies, blood chemistry, and clinical chemistry methods.

At the time of his death, apparently caused by a heart attack, Dr. Cavett was Head of the Analytical Chemistry Department of Dr. Salisbury's Laboratories, Charles City, Iowa. He became associated with the Laboratories in May of 1937. Research accomplishments have been in blood chemistry, tissue analyses, Warburg studies, hatchery sanitation, developing production procedures for vaccines, also vacuum sealing of biological products, plus scores of project reports and technical memoranda. By himself or in collaboration with colleagues, several articles were contributed to scientific journals. He served as an Associate Referee of the Association of Official Agricultural Chemists to develop and test methods for determining drugs in feeds. Several of his methods have been reported and adopted by the Association.

In 1918, he served in the United States Army, Dr. Cavett was a member of the American Chemical Society, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the honorary chemical fraternity, Phi Lambda Upsilon. He was affiliated with Masonic Orders of his community and of the State of Iowa. Some of his Masonic activities included being a Past Master of St. Charles Lodge No. 141, Past High Priest of Almond Chapter No. 53, District Lecturer of the Blue Lodge, Past Grand Officer of the Grand Chapter of Iowa, and Past Patron of Eastern Star. At the time of his death, he was serving as an officer of Joppa Commandry No. 55.

In 1924, he married Myrtle Price in Coweta, Oklahoma. In addition to his wife and five grandchildren, he is survived by three children: Mrs. Dick Lindaman and Robert Cavett of Charles City, Iowa, and William Cavett of Phoenix, Arizona.

WILLIAM A. CRAFT
1894-1963

With the passing of Dr. William A. Craft on January 28, 1963, Iowa lost one of its outstanding teachers and noted animal scientists. He was

born September 9, 1894, near Jonesboro, Arkansas. After serving his country in World War I, he attended Iowa State where he received his B.S. degree in 1922 and his M.S. degree in 1923. He became a member of the animal husbandry faculty of Oklahoma State University in 1923. Except for leaves spent in advanced studies at the University of Wisconsin where he received his Ph.D. in 1932, he remained associated with Oklahoma State University for 13 years. Among the students he taught there, an unusually large number continued to do graduate work and achieved high stations in their chosen fields. In 1936 he left Oklahoma State to take charge of swine investigations for the U.S.D.A. When the Regional Swine Breeding Laboratory began in 1937 as a cooperative effort among the North Central States and the U.S.D.A., he became its first director with headquarters at Ames. He was placed on collaborator status with the Iowa State University staff in 1938 and was made professor of animal husbandry in 1943. In 1959 he retired at his own request much to the regret of his colleagues, but he maintained an office on the campus where he counseled with faculty members and students.

Dr. Craft was a genius at coordinating his far-flung program, yet maintaining an atmosphere of freedom for individual and state initiative. His work in promoting de-centralized yet coordinated research was so successful that similar cooperative programs among the states have followed this policy in many other fields of research, such as breeding of dairy cattle, beef cattle, and sheep. Dr. Craft had a rare talent in catalyzing research workers.

Dr. Craft was a leader in his field. During his lifetime he published over fifty bulletins and journal articles relating to breeding, inheritance of characteristics in various classes of farm animals, sex ratio in mammalian hybrids, consequences of inbreeding, and crossing in swine. Besides these publications, he was editor for many years of the "Animal Production" section of *Biology Abstracts*. As an indication of his ability, he served in 1939 as a delegate to the International Genetics Congress in Edinburgh, Scotland. In recognition of his long service, the U.S.D.A. in 1947 presented him with the Superior Service Award. In 1952, he again served in an extra capacity in an important survey on animal husbandry in the Virgin Islands.

Dr. Craft was a vice-president and President of the American Society of Animal Producers. He belonged to many professional, educational, and scientific societies, among them were: Phi Sigma, Alpha Gamma Rho, Sigma Xi, Alpha Zeta, Genetics Society of America, the Iowa Academy of Science, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Dr. Craft's achievements are shining examples of the ideals for which he stood.

DONALD T. DAVIDSON 1919-1963

Dr. Donald T. Davidson, civil engineer, died at a fairly young age of 44, but the work he did for the state of Iowa will be long remembered. He was born January 15, 1919 at Concord, N.H. He received his B.S. degree from New Hampshire University in 1940, his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from Iowa State University in 1942 and 1948 in soil mechanics.

He first joined the Iowa State staff in 1940 and was a graduate research assistant at the Iowa Engineering Experiment Station for two years. He became instructor of civil engineering in 1948, and after receiving his Ph.D., he was promoted to assistant professor. Dr. Davidson's proposal to make a detailed study of Iowa soil properties relative to soil stabilization methods led to the establishment of the Soil Research Laboratory in 1950 by the Iowa Highway Commission. This laboratory was made a major adjunct to the ISU Experiment Station, and Dr. Davidson became its director which position he held until his death. The research carried on under his direction made significant contributions, primarily in soil stabilization applicable to the improvement of the Iowa roads. He became associate professor in 1950 at the time the Lab was established, and professor in 1955. Dr. Davidson was an authority in soil engineering, and was a prolific writer with more than 70 articles appearing in various technical journals.

During World War II, he was a major in the Coast Artillery Corps serving in England, France, Belgium, Holland, and Germany. He was awarded the Bronze Star and the Presidential Unit Citation.

Dr. Davidson was a member of Phi Kappa Phi, Sigma Xi, the American Society of Civil Engineers, the American Society for Engineering Education, the American Society for Testing Materials, the Road Building Association, and the Iowa Academy of Science. He was listed in the "American Men of Science" and in "Who's Who in Engineering." He served as associate member of the Iowa Highway Research Board for 17 years, and consultant engineer to the Testing Service of Iowa for several years.

His work in soil stabilization has helped make our Iowa highways more modern and much safer.

WILLIAM W. FARLEY III **1911-1963**

William W. Farley III was actively engaged in research most of his busy life. Among the vital areas to which he contributed were nuclear radiation, radar designs, the training of scientific personnel, the design of cyclotrons, and electron countermeasures and missile guidances.

He was born April 21, 1911, at Bellevue, Ohio. He received his B.A. degree from Miami University (Ohio) in 1932, and his M.S. degree from the University of Chicago in 1934. He started his career as a seismologist for the Shell Petroleum Corporation. From 1938 to 1941 he was an assistant in the Radiation Laboratory at the University of California. In 1941 he served as physicist in the United States Navy and helped with vital research in the Radiation Laboratory at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. From 1942 to 1945 he was a research physicist in the Radio Research Laboratory at Harvard University. In 1945 he became assistant director of the research division at Collins Radio Company in Cedar Rapids, which position he held for 7 years. He then went to the Link-Belt Company as coordinator of activities in their research laboratory. In 1953 he transferred his services to the Sylvania Electrical Products,

Inc. of Mountain View, California as Head of the Electronic Defense Laboratory, which was engaged in research on missile guidance systems, and he remained with Sylvania Products until his death on November 27, 1963.

William W. Farley III was a member of the American Physical Society, the Institute of Radio Engineers, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the Iowa Academy of Science.

EARL A. HEWITT 1891-1963

Dr. Earl A. Hewitt, professor of veterinary medicine and pharmacology at Iowa State University, was born September 29, 1891, at Bronson, Michigan. He received the bachelor of arts degree from Des Moines College, Des Moines, Iowa in 1914; the bachelor of science degree from Iowa State in 1915; the doctor of veterinary medicine degree from Iowa State in 1918; the master of science degree from the University of Minnesota in 1929, and the Ph.D. degree from the University of Minnesota in 1931.

He went to Iowa State in 1914 as a student, was a fellow in Anatomy and histology from 1915 to 1917 and an instructor in histology 1917-19. In 1919 Hewitt went to the University of Minnesota as an instructor in veterinary medicine and was promoted to assistant professor in 1923. He returned to Iowa State in 1929 as an associate professor of veterinary physiology and pharmacology. Dr. Hewitt was promoted to professor in 1943 and became the head of veterinary physiology and pharmacology in 1952. In 1957 he retired from administrative duties to devote full time to teaching.

Dr. Hewitt was a member of Phi Kappa Phi, a scholarship honorary, Sigma Xi, and Phi Zeta, a national honorary society for veterinary medicine juniors and seniors. He was also a member of the American Veterinary Medical Association, American Physiological Society, Society of Experimental Biology and Medicine, American Association for the Advancement of Science, Iowa State Veterinary Medical Association, and the Iowa Academy of Science.

Dr. Hewitt's main field of interest was blood analysis and digestion in the fowl. He did research in the reaction digestive tract of fowls, blood of normal and cholera infected swine, and the temperature variations in bovine.

He published a number of articles and a *Laboratory Manual in Experimental Physiology*. He also wrote Chapter I of *Physiology Domestic Animals*, Chapter I of *Diseases of Poultry*, and Chapter II of *Canine Surgery*. He was a member of the Kiwanis Club, and served as chairman of the Osborn Research Club.

After 35 years of service at Iowa State University, this distinguished teacher and scientist died on December 29, 1963, at his home in Ames. He is survived by his wife and a daughter, Mrs. Yvonne Margaret Charlavd.

HARRY EDWIN JAQUES
1880-1963

Dr. Harry E. Jaques, a native Iowan, had a long career in Iowa higher education. He was born July 24, 1880 at Danville, Iowa. He received his B.S. degree from Iowa Wesleyan College and his M.A. degree from Ohio State University in 1917. In 1931 he was awarded an honorary Sc.D. degree by his alma mater, Iowa Wesleyan College. Dr. Jaques taught biology and was Head of the department at Iowa Wesleyan College from 1912 to his retirement in 1947 except for time spent in graduate study.

Dr. Jaques was distinguished for his knowledge of nature identification. He was particularly interested in the distribution of Iowa insects, trees, and flowering plants. He was the editor of the "*Picture-Key Nature Books.*" He also served the United States Department of Agriculture as a field entomologist and collaborator on plant quarantine in 1918.

Iowa scientists will long remember this outstanding teacher and scholar.

JOHN N. MARTIN
1875-1964

Dr. John N. Martin, 89, professor of botany and plant pathology, died April 15, 1964 in Ames. He was born in Bowling Green, Indiana in 1875. He received a bachelor's degree in education from Indiana State Normal in 1903, the B.S. degree from Indiana University in 1907, and the Ph.D. degree, cum laude, from the University of Chicago in 1913.

Dr. Martin joined the Iowa State University staff in 1911. He specialized in plant morphology and cytology, and established the "Iowa State Herbaceous Garden" in which rare native Iowa plants were assembled from throughout the state by faculty and students. He was closely associated with Dr. L. H. Pammel in establishing many of the early state parks of Iowa, and the Wildlife School at McGregor. He was very active in his field. Besides his regular teaching duties, he published two textbooks on botany and its agricultural applications both of which have been widely used. Dr. Martin served as vice-president of the Iowa Academy of Science in 1938, and another year was chairman of the botany section.

Dr. Martin was a member of the American Botanical Society, Phi Kappa Phi, Sigma Xi, Iowa Academy of Science, American Association for the Advancement of Science, and Gamma Sigma Delta. He was a charter member of the Collegiate Methodist Church of Ames, serving on its building committee. He was the church's first Sunday School superintendent and taught an adult Bible class for many years.

Dr. Martin was interested in the physiology of pollen and seed setting, and the comparative morphology of Leguminosae.

WILLIAM E. MEDCALF
1903-1963

After 20 years in private research, William E. Medcalf returned to academic work the last year of his life. He was born September 14, 1903

at Bloomfield, Missouri. Upon graduating from Southeastern Missouri State College, he went to the State University of Iowa where he received his M.S. degree in 1936. After teaching chemistry at North Georgia State in Dahlonoga and Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, he went into industrial research work for Eagle-Picher chemical division in Joplin, Mo. where he remained for 12 years. In 1954 he was made director of research for the Mining and Smelting Division of Eagle-Picher located at Miami, Oklahoma. In 1962, he joined the faculty of Dubuque University as associate professor because the administrative work kept him out of the lab, and he also desired to train future scientists. He was taking additional graduate work at Arizona State University during the summer of 1963 when he was hospitalized, and death came three weeks later.

Professor Medcalf was noted for his research on semi-conductors, especially germanium, silicon, cadmium sulfide, boron, and gallium-arsenide. He also worked on solar cells. He wrote numerous scientific articles and was one of 50 world scientists who contributed articles to a book on compound semi-conductors. His article dealt with the purification of boron and was the result of his research with Eagle-Picher.

He served as a member of the National Guard from 1921 to 1925. He was a member of the American Chemical Society, the Electrochemical Society, and the Iowa Academy of Science.

Professor Medcalf is survived by his wife and two married daughters.

ROBERT E. RUNDLE

1915-1963

With the passing of Dr. Robert E. Rundle at the age of 47, Iowa lost an internationally-known chemist and crystallographer. He was born Dec. 13, 1915 at Orleans, Nebraska. He received his B.S. and M.S. degree from the University of Nebraska in 1937 and 1938, and his Ph.D. degree in chemistry from the California Institute of Technology in 1941.

Dr. Rundle joined the staff at Iowa State University in 1941 as an assistant professor. In 1945 he became associate professor in textile chemistry at the Textile Foundation Inc, Princeton, but in 1946 he returned to Iowa State University as professor of chemistry, which position he held until his untimely stroke. In 1958-59, he studied at the Clarendon Laboratories in Oxford as a senior postdoctoral fellow sponsored by the National Science Foundation, and in 1960-61, he was a Fulbright Lecturer at Osaka City University and Osaka University in Japan. Dr. Rundle served as a United States delegate to the international scientific conferences in Sweden and England. The June before his death he was named Distinguished Professor in the College of Sciences and Humanities at Iowa State University in honor of his teaching excellence and research achievements.

Dr. Rundle was noted for his work on the structure of starches, uranium and other heavy elements, and for research leading to a better understanding of chemical bonding. He was a senior chemist in the Atomic Energy Commission's Ames Laboratory at Iowa State. Over his career, he published over 100 scientific articles.

Dr. Rundle was a member of the American Crystallographic Association,

American Chemical Society, American Physical Society, American Association of University Professors, Iowa Academy of Science, and the USA National Committee for Crystallography. In 1959 he was the national president of the American Crystallographic Association, and the recipient of the Iowa Medal presented by the Iowa section of the American Chemical Society.

Survivors include his widow, Lois Henselmeier Rundle, and three sons; David, John, and James.