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In Memoriam - Frank E. Brown; Charles Harvey Brown; Samuel Wheeler Edgecombe; W. Merle Robinson; Bruce F. Stiles; John A. Schulz; Lester Yoder; Thomas W. Zbornik

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IN MEMORIAM

FRANK E. BROWN

1882-1959

Dr. Frank E. Brown, professor of chemistry at Iowa State University, died September 10, 1959. He had been a teacher for 60 years, starting in a



one-room school at Republic, Kansas, in 1899. He was successively superintendent at Portis, Kansas, and Hill City, Kansas, then joined the faculty of Kansas State Teachers College, Emporia. He was superintendent next at Collinsville, Oklahoma, teacher of physics and chemistry at YMCA and City night schools in Chicago, and teacher of chemistry at Fresno, California, Junior College. He joined the Iowa State staff in 1917, and for many years was in charge of General Chemistry. It is estimated that he taught about 40,000 undergraduates and approximately 500 graduate students during his career at Iowa State University. Born at Cuba, Kansas, he was graduated from Kansas State Teachers College in 1911, and received the B. S. (1913) and the Ph.D. (1918) degrees from the University of Chicago. Dr. Brown was a past president of the Iowa

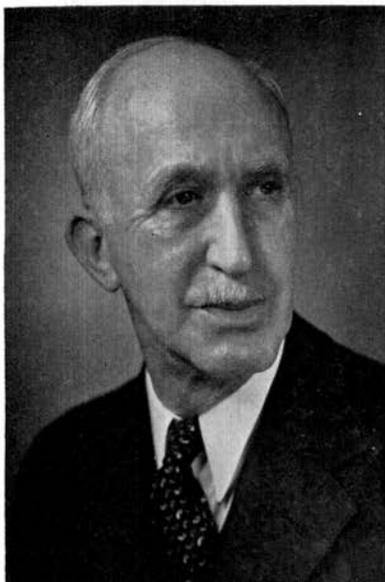
Academy of Science and of the Osborn Research Club. He was a fellow of the American Institute of Chemists and a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He was the moving force behind the annual Iowa Science Talent Search which annually seeks outstanding high school students in science. He served for many years as a member of the Board of Directors of the Iowa Academy of Science, and his enthusiasm and wisdom will be greatly missed by this group. In 1958 he received a citation and a \$1,000 cash award through the American Chemical Society for his outstanding teaching career.

CHARLES HARVEY BROWN

1875-1960

On January 19, 1960, death came to Charles Harvey Brown, distinguished librarian, scholar, and humanitarian. During the years 1922 to 1946, Dr.

Brown was Librarian at Iowa State University and in the years following his partial retirement served as Assistant Librarian and later, until the time of his death, as Bibliographer.



When Dr. Brown arrived at Iowa State, the Library had only 90,000 volumes. He instituted far-reaching changes in policies affecting all aspects of the library services. He conferred frequently with faculty members and was ever alert and active in obtaining publications needed in the research and teaching programs at Iowa State. At his retirement in 1946, the book collections totalled 365,000 volumes and the library ranked among the foremost in the country in terms of the main research fields represented at Iowa State.

In addition to his services at Iowa State, Dr. Brown taught for several summers at the School of Library Service, Columbia University, and during his partial retirement, was visiting professor at the University of Illinois and was on the staffs of Louisiana State University, Florida State University at Tallahassee and the University of Florida at Gainesville.

In 1947 and 1948 he was one of two members of a Library Mission to Japan, formed at the request of General MacArthur. This Mission made recommendations which became the basis of the National Diet Library Law and culminated in the establishment of the National Diet Library. General MacArthur and the Japanese press had high praise for the report submitted by Dr. Brown and his colleague.

Dr. Brown was interested in the work of the Iowa Academy of Science and served as its Librarian from 1935 until 1954. He wrote extensively on library problems. Probably his best-known work is his book, *Scientific Serials*, written in a field in which he was a well-known authority.

No mere summary of offices held or honors received gives a concept of Dr. Brown's humanitarianism. Always ready to give assistance when requested, he

gave unstintingly of his time and effort on the behalf of the library staff, faculty, and students. One of his special interests was in visitors and students who came from foreign countries. Opportunities for contacts with persons from other countries came to him in teaching a graduate course in Library Science, through correspondence in his direction of the Exchange Program carried on by the Library, and in his visits to foreign countries. Dr. Brown made a host of friends through his interest in people. He will be missed by his friends and associates. His precepts will live on in the hearts and minds of librarians and scientists throughout the world.

GRACE OBERHEIM

FRANCES WARNER

SAMUEL WHEELER EDGECOMBE

1908-1959

Dr. Samuel Wheeler Edgcombe, Dean of the School of Agriculture, American University at Beirut, Lebanon, died of a heart attack on February 5, 1959, at the age of 51. He was buried in the Anglo-American Cemetery at Furn esh-Shebbak, a suburb of Beirut.

Dr. Edgcombe, known in both personal and professional circles as "Sam," was born in Decatur, Illinois. While he was still an infant, his parents moved to Manitoba, Canada, where they engaged in farming. Sam was educated in the Manitoba public schools and later graduated in agriculture from the University of Manitoba, where he was gold medalist, in 1930. Dr. Edgcombe came to Iowa State University on a fellowship in the Department of Horticulture that fall and completed work for the degree of Master of Science in 1931. He received the Ph.D. degree with a notable thesis on variations in the chromosome structure of different varieties of apples.

Dr. Edgcombe's academic connections, up to his acceptance of the deanship at Beirut, included an associate professorship at Iowa State University in the Department of Horticulture from 1936 to 1942, and professorships, first at the University of Manitoba, and later at Utah State University, where he headed his department.

Dr. Edgcombe was a strong man physically, and he used his unusual energy in the performance of his varied and demanding tasks and in the preparation of the 30 or more papers of scientific and semi-scientific character which he contributed to various journals in his and related fields. He was one of the pioneers of scientific research in the field of fine turf culture in Iowa. On approximately 100 farms in that state he instituted practical demonstrations of the value of grafting desirable varieties of apples on hardy stocks, a practice whose value has been proved in the Agricultural Experiment Station research program.

While with Iowa State University Dr. Edgcombe joined the Iowa Academy of Science, in which he maintained membership to the time of his death. He was a member of various honorary societies including Sigma Xi, Gamma Sigma Delta, and Phi Kappa Phi. His professional connections included memberships

in the American Society for Horticulture Science, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and others. He is also listed in *Who's Who in America*.

The crowning achievement of Dr. Edgecombe's career was the organization of the School of Agriculture in the American University in Beirut, where he became dean in 1952. During his tenure the modern and well-equipped agricultural buildings were completed and a farm of 250 acres was purchased, on which 20 service and dormitory buildings were constructed and equipped for teaching, research and other services. In a very considerable measure Edgecombe raised the money for these projects by personal contacts. For about two years, in 1957 and 1958, when the University was without a president, Sam was acting provost, an instructional post next to that of the president.

The writer lived three years in Syria and Lebanon and has unique knowledge of the agriculture and the people of the area. It is his considered judgment that Dr. Edgecombe contributed more to the useful life of the Middle East and to a favorable understanding of American culture than any other American during the decade of the '50's.

Dr. Edgecombe is survived by his wife, Mrs. Winnie Slusser Edgecombe, of the American University in Beirut, and two daughters, Mrs. Richard Johnson of Las Cruces, New Mexico, and Mrs. Steven Shadle of Iowa City, Iowa.

B. S. PICKETT
Naperville, Illinois

W. MERLE ROBINSON

1905-1960

The Academy records with regret the untimely death of William Merle Robinson, killed in a traffic accident near his home in Mount Pleasant, Iowa, January 11, 1960. Mr. Robinson was born in Montezuma, Iowa, November 30, 1905, and received his education in Iowa public schools and at Iowa State University. In addition to the Academy of Science, which he joined in 1943, he was a member of the American Chemical Society and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

BRUCE F. STILES

1897-1959

Bruce F. Stiles served as Director of the State Conservation Commission from August, 1948, until he passed away at 7:15 a.m., July 17, 1959, at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Des Moines.



Born June 23, 1897, at Decorah, Iowa, he devoted the last 21 years of his life as an official in the State Conservation Commission. Appointed as a conservation officer in 1938, he subsequently advanced to Chief of the Fish and Game division in 1942, Assistant Director in 1946, and Director of the Commission in August of 1948. In addition to his official duties he was very active in state, national, and international conservation and wildlife organizations. Among his honors and offices were: president of the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners, president of the Midwest Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners, president of the Midwest Association of Game, Fish and Law Enforcement Officers, chairman of the Mississippi Migratory Water-

fowl Flyway Council, president of the Iowa Ornithological Union, fellow of the Iowa Academy of Science, member of the National Waterfowl Flyway Council, member of the National Advisory Committee to the Secretary of the Interior on Migratory Waterfowl, and representative at President Eisenhower's conference in 1956 on the fitness of American youth at the Annapolis Naval Academy. He received an original etching from the Wildlife Management Institute for services performed and his portrait has been placed in the Deane Collection of Portraits of American Ornithologists in the National Library of Congress.

Mr. Stiles is survived by his wife, Alice, and son, James F., who is a medical student at the University of Iowa.

After high school graduation, Bruce's education was mostly self-acquired. He pursued courses in biology and ornithology under Dr. T. C. Stephens at Morningside College in Sioux City. Endowed with a brilliant intellect he was a constant reader and was well informed on all subjects relating to conservation as well as history, philosophy and literature. His writings on conservation and ornithology were widely published. He believed in the Supreme Being

as Creator and Coordinator of all natural phenomena. He was uncompromising in pursuit of his belief that conservation as practiced must be for the good of all of Iowa and not for a favored group.

In his obituary, written for the magazine, *Iowa Bird Life*, his great friends, Dr. and Mrs. Harold R. Peasley, said of him, "He has undoubtedly fulfilled well the purpose of his life, and we hope the State of Iowa will be given more men with the stature of Bruce Fleming Stiles. This great conservationist was totally honest and consequently his acts were the result of profound conviction rather than sentiment or expediency."

JOHN A. SCHULZ

1894-1959

John A. Schulz, assistant professor of chemistry at Iowa State University, died January 31, 1959. He was born October 15, 1894, at Elmwood, Illinois, and



received the B.S. degree from the University of Illinois in 1917 and the M.S. degree from Iowa State College in 1928. He was a research chemist with the Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station at Wooster, Ohio, from 1917 to 1921, when he joined the Iowa State College staff. A victim of illness since 1942, he had in recent years been unable to carry on active teaching and research activities. He was a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Chemical Society, and a fellow of the Iowa Academy of Science.

LESTER YODER

1882-1959

Lester Yoder was born June 27, 1892, in Stuttgart, Arkansas. He received his B.S. degree in chemistry from Purdue University, and in 1917 he received his M.S. degree from the same institution.



He worked as an analyst for Swift and Company in Chicago, and then received an appointment as assistant chemist at Iowa State University in 1917, which he held until 1920. During part of the year 1918 he was in the Army at the Army Ordnance School, Carney's Point, New Jersey. From 1920 until 1923 he was assistant research chemist, Parke, Davis and Company, Detroit, Michigan. Except for about two years spent farming in Michigan, he worked as chemist and research chemist at Iowa State University until his retirement in July of 1957. During his years as a research chemist he authored or co-authored forty-three scientific articles. His main scientific interest was in sterol chemistry and Vitamin D. The Iowa State University Research Foundation was granted several patents as

a result of this work.

After his retirement he moved to Florida and was employed as a chemist for the Mease Clinic, Dunedin, Florida. Here his knowledge of chemistry was used in research on treatments for arthritis. Memberships in professional societies included the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Chemical Society, and the Iowa Academy of Science.

Mr. Yoder died in Dunedin, Florida, on April 18, 1959. He is survived by his wife, Helen; two sons, Dr. James T. Yoder, Des Moines, Iowa, and Dr. Wayne D. Yoder, Ames, Iowa, and a daughter, Mrs. C. R. McKinney, Jr., Garden Grove, California.

THOMAS W. ZBORNIK

1913-1959

Thomas W. Zbornik was born March 7, 1913, in Cresco, Iowa. His death occurred on October 2, 1959, in Charles City, Iowa.



He secured a B.S. degree in chemical engineering from Iowa State University in 1937. Honors while in college included Phi Lambda Upsilon, Tau Beta Pi, and Phi Kappa Phi. In 1942 he married Frances L. Salsbury.

Mr. Zbornik held positions with Calco Chemical Company, American Agricultural Chemical Company, DuPont, and the Tennessee Valley Authority before joining Dr. Salsbury's Laboratories of Charles City in 1944. He expanded and headed the research program of Dr. Salsbury's Laboratories and was also responsible for the design and operation of the firm's chemical production plant.

He contributed immeasurably in the development of new products and processes for the firm and was the author of numerous patents in the chemical and biological fields.

Mr. Zbornik was a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, American Chemical Society, American Institute of Chemical Engineers, and the Iowa Academy of Science.

He is survived by his widow and three children, Jim Joseph, Tiena Joy, and Thomas Edward. His father, one brother, and two sisters also survive.

Mr. Zbornik will be remembered for his relentless energy and overt enthusiasm in driving to completion any project that he undertook.

JOHN G. SALSURY