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In Memoriam: Nathan Graham Alcock; Harry Martin Blomquist; John Franklin Carlson; Charles C. Deam; Arthur Karr Gilkey

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IN MEMORIAM

Nathan Graham Alcock

1881-1953



Nathan Graham Alcock

Dr. Nathaniel Graham Alcock died December 10, 1953, at the age of 72. This marked the material passing away of one of our great colleagues in urology of the past three decades.

He was born in Platteville, Wisconsin, on January 18, 1881. He received his M.D. degree from Northwestern University in 1912 and came to the Iowa State University College of Medicine and the Division of Urology in 1915. In 1923 he was made full professor and director of the Department of Urology and was the creator of a great urological department, which is known all over the world particularly for its work in transurethral surgery. Dr. Alcock's pioneering work in the development of transurethral surgery will never be forgotten.

In 1949 he retired as head of the department, but maintained much interest in it and continued in the private practice of urology at Mercy Hospital in Iowa City until about nine months prior to his death.

Dr. Alcock was a member of the American Urological Association, the American Association of Genito-Urinary Surgeons, the Clinical Society of Genito-Urinary Surgeons, the International Urology Society, the Johnson County Medical Society, Sigma Chi, the Alpha Omega Alpha. He formerly served as president of the North Central Section of the American

Urological Association, the Johnson County Medical Society, the Iowa State Medical Society, and chairman of the section on urology of the American Medical Association. In 1950 he received the annual medal given by the Mississippi Valley Medical Society for distinguished service to the practice of medicine in that area.

His greatest service was to urology and medicine, particularly to the College of Medicine and the practice of urology in the state of Iowa and this country.

He was the first professor and head of the Department of Urology in the College of Medicine at the State University of Iowa, and under his guidance this department was organized and grew to a place of wide reputation. He was a great clinician and an ingenious and productive contributor to the field of clinical urology. He was a dynamic and persuasive teacher. His former students and residents have multiplied his influence, so that by the efforts of his labor life has been prolonged and suffering relieved for thousands of patients.

His outstanding quality was that of forceful courage. He was a fighter in the best sense of that word. He fought for improvements in the once discouraging field of prostatic surgery, for principles in medical teaching and education, and for principles in the relationships of medical practice and organized medicine.

He brought fame to the College of Medicine. He wore the badge of office and honor with humility. He spoke clearly and forcefully, and whether in unison or alone, with equal conviction and courage.

All of us who are interested in the welfare and progress of medicine and urology feel that we have lost a man of great attainments, a teacher, an advisor, a critic, and a friend. All those who have been associated with him through these many years treasure those contacts. His inspiration lives on in them to give dynamic impetus to better clinical and human understanding. His colleagues salute his spirit and his memory.

R. H. FLOCKS

Harry Martin Blomquist

1918-1953

Harry Martin Blomquist was born in Belle Plaine, Iowa on September 22, 1918. He attended school in Sac City and Sioux City and joined the U. S. Navy in 1937. He served in the Navy until 1941 and then entered the U. S. Coast Guard. Harry returned to civilian life in 1946 but retained the rank of Lieutenant Junior Grade in the Naval Reserve until his death.



Harry Martin Blomquist

Harry is survived by his wife, the former Elsa Grodt of Des Moines, whom he married in 1942, and three children; Karla (born March 1945), Kathie (born December 1949) and John Martin "Mike" (born July 1952).

Harry was graduated from Drake University in August, 1949, and received an appointment as Conservation Officer on the first of September of the same year. He served with distinction and was both admired and respected by the people of Fayette and Winneshiek counties. Harry was a true conservationist and lived by the rules he enforced. His untimely death, on the fourth anniversary of his appointment, was a loss to conservation as well as to his family and friends.

BILL TATE

John Franklin Carlson

1899-1954

John Franklin Carlson, Professor of Physics at Iowa State College, was born at Sherburn, Minnesota, March 2, 1899, and died in Ames, Iowa, April 5, 1954. His wife, Edith L. Carlson, and his daughter, Karen Louise, survive him.



John Franklin Carlson

Dr. Carlson received the degree Bachelor of Arts in 1928, Master of Arts in 1930, and Doctor of Philosophy in 1932, all at the University of California. His doctoral thesis, which was written under the direction of J. Robert Oppenheimer, was a quantum mechanical treatment of impacts of fast electrons and magnetic neutrons. After a year as a research associate at the University of California, he went to the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton, where he remained for three years. During this period he wrote, with Dr. Oppenheimer, an outstanding paper bearing the title "On Multiplicative Showers"; The Carlson-Oppenheimer theory of cosmic ray showers laid the foundation for extensive theoretical

investigations in this field. From this time forward Dr. Carlson was considered one of the prominent theoretical physicists of his generation.

Dr. Carlson joined the staff of Purdue University as instructor in 1937 and was appointed assistant professor the following year. In 1942 he was called to the Radiation Laboratory at Massachusetts Institute of Technology to work on radar research. At the Radiation Laboratory he was in the Theory Group and contributed greatly to the understanding of the properties of waveguides containing obstacles. At the close of the war he became a contributor to the MIT Radiation Laboratory Series and played a large role in the writing of the "Waveguide Handbook" of that series. He also became the co-author of two papers on the scattering of electromagnetic radiation by an infinite array of metallic plates. These papers have been quoted extensively.

Dr. Carlson came to Iowa State College in the spring of 1946 as Associate Professor of Physics in the Institute for Atomic Research and the Division of Science. He became Professor of Physics and Senior Physicist with the Ames Laboratory of the Atomic Energy Commission in 1948. As part of his duties he gave graduate courses and directed graduate study

in the fields of vibration and sound and quantum theory. He was particularly interested in the use of variational methods in the treatment of problems of theoretical physics. During the last three years of his life he directed a very successful research program on quantum mechanical problems involving collision of very low energy particles.

Dr. Carlson was a member of a number of learned organizations, including Phi Beta Kappa, Sigma Xi, Iowa Academy of Science, and the American Association of University Professors. He was a Fellow of the American Physical Society.

Dr. Carlson was very active in the work of the Ames Unitarian Fellowship and served as its president for the period 1950-1951. He was one of the directors of the Iowa-Nebraska Unitarian Association. He was the president of the Ames Resettlement Committee up until the time of his death.

John Franklin Carlson was an exceedingly gifted scholar. He had a great understanding of theoretical physics and unusual ability in the methods of mathematical physics. His vast knowledge was reflected in the high quality of his teaching. He was a sympathetic teacher. His students received inspiration leading to an appreciation of scholarly activity at the highest possible level of achievement. His colleagues are forever indebted to him for direct assistance in their researches, for the high standards on which he always insisted, and for the friendly companionship which was characteristic of all his relationships. He was a quiet, modest man with a deep interest in philosophy. He read widely in fields related to the philosophy and history of science and was vitally interested in the relation of physical science to other fields of learning. He participated actively in the Social Science Seminar. In keeping with these interests, it is most satisfying that his friends and colleagues have established the "John Franklin Carlson Lecture Fund" for the purpose of bringing to Iowa State College each year an outstanding scholar to give what will be known as the "John Franklin Carlson Lecture" on some aspect of physical science, its philosophical implications, and its relation to human affairs.

GORDON C. DANIELSON
JULIAN K. KNIPP

Charles C. Deam

1865-1953

With the death of Dr. Charles C. Deam at his home in Bluffton, Indiana, on May 29, 1953, there ended one of the most fruitful and



Charles C. Deam

colorful careers in the history of botany in the Middle West. Indeed, it may be said that, during the latter part of his life, Mr. Deam was one of the best known and most highly regarded floristic taxonomists in the entire country.

Born on a farm near Bluffton on August 30, 1865, he grew up in much the same way as other boys in the vicinity of a small town in Indiana. After a brief sojourn in college, where he felt much impatience at the leisurely gait of the educational process and at what he regarded as the lack of serious purpose on the part of the students, he returned to Bluffton, purchased an interest in a drug store, and embarked on a business career which was to continue to the end of his life.

His interest in botany had a fortuitous beginning. Close application to his business and long

hours spent in his store had undermined his health to the point where he was advised to get more exercise and spend more time in the open air. Not temperamentally fitted for idleness or for exercise for its own sake, he looked about for some way of turning adversity to profit. What was more natural than for him to try to learn something about the plants which grew along the railroad and the highways where he walked! And so he began to collect plants, to learn their names, and to make herbarium specimens of them. He was still engaged in this work a month before his death.

A strong stimulus for his botanical work came in 1909 with his appointment as State Forester, a position which he held until his retirement in 1940, except for a period of four years when he was a victim of political change. Early in his tenure of this office he began a series of experimental forest plantings which have since played a prominent part in pointing the way toward a program of reforestation of worn-out farm lands. He will probably be remembered longer, however, for the by-product of his activities in the office. One of his routine duties was to inspect forest lands for tax exemption, and this called for extensive

travel. With a Model-T Ford, equipped with a special truck body and facilities for living in the field, he traveled an estimated quarter of a million miles, and his "weed wagon", as it came to be known by the farmers, was seen, sooner or later in every one of the 1016 townships of the state. In many where the botanizing was good it came to be quite well known. Indiana has no constitutional provision for a state botanist, but it had a state botanist none the less. A series of benevolent state administrations, recognizing the value of the work, winked at the irregularity and charged the activity to forestry. In 1928 a professionally trained forester was appointed, and Deam's title was changed to Research Forester.

The most direct result of this activity was the collection of more than 70,000 carefully selected, well pressed, and beautifully mounted specimens. It also laid the framework of a more extensive project and stimulated many other workers to join forces in an effort which has made the flora of Indiana probably better known than that of any other area of similar size in the entire country.

Deam did more than collect plants, find their names, and make herbarium specimens. He watched new plants come into the state along the highways and transcontinental railroads and noted their frequency from year to year as they became established or disappeared. Hundreds of plants from various parts of the state were transplanted to his grounds along the Wabash River in the edge of Bluffton and studied from year to year to note their behavior and determine which differences were due to environment and which were inherited. He knew little about chromosomes and found mass collections irritating, but he recognized fully the problems of the new era in taxonomy which is now unfolding.

Beginning with a book on the *Trees of Indiana*, in 1911, he treated in a similar way the shrubs and the grasses. The demand for the tree book and the shrub book was such that revised editions appeared in due time. The third edition of the tree book was in press at the time of his death. His crowning achievement, toward which most of his effort was directed for 20 years, was his *Flora of Indiana*, published in 1940. This is a record of the vascular plants of the state, with distribution maps and keys and descriptions adequate for the identification and location of the 2140 established species and nearly 400 named varieties and forms. An important additional feature of the book is the wealth of notes on the ecology, economic significance, and striking characteristics of many of the species.

Although Mr. Deam did not remain in college long enough to complete a curriculum, he was later honored with degrees from Wabash College, DePauw University, and Indiana University. It is particularly significant, also, that on two occasions his home town honored him with special ceremonies as one of its most distinguished citizens.

An account of Mr. Deam's life and work would be singularly incomplete if it did not include a word about Mrs. Deam. From the time of their marriage in 1893 until her final illness, which resulted in her death in April, 1953, her main concern was to guard his health and surround him with the conditions best for his taxonomic work. One room of their house had been especially built for the herbarium, and the library overflowed into other rooms and ultimately into the attic. Much of the fine

technique which went into the preparation and mounting of the specimens represented the work of her hands. She had an appreciation of the wild species which filled their arboretum but also derived great pleasure from garden club activities and from the curious and interesting horticultural plants with which the house was surrounded.

Deam's whole life was one of order and system. There was a place for everything, and everything was expected to be in its proper place. Even the numerous guests who visited his home through the years were classified as casual visitors or as botanists, which usually meant plant taxonomists. The latter were further subdivided as to personal habits, idiosyncracies, and attitudes—smokers and non-smokers, Republicans and Democrats, those who liked or disliked this food or that, etc. After his death his papers yielded carefully prepared lists of new species and varieties of plants which he had discovered, species and varieties named after him, and problems needing further attention. There was also an interesting collection of nails, screws, pieces of wire, etc., which had been the cause of tire punctures—a part of the saga of the 125,000-mile collecting journey. Many of these specimens were carefully labeled with date, place, and attendant circumstances.

The Deam herbarium and library have been purchased by Indiana University, and places for them are being provided in the new life science building now nearing completion. His desk and microscope and some of the many portraits of botanists which he had will be placed in the herbarium workroom. Plans are also under way for the University and the Indiana Academy of Science to serve as a clearing house for additional data on the state flora.

PAUL WEATHERWAX

Arthur Karr Gilkey

1926-1953

In the tragic passing of Arthur Karr Gilkey on August 10, 1953, the field of geology and the Iowa Academy of Science lost a young and enthusiastic scientist of great promise. Many lost a truly fine friend, his parents a son of whom they might be justly proud.



Arthur Karr Gilkey

Arthur was born in Boulder, Colorado, on September 25, 1926. Perhaps it was this picturesque setting which inspired in him at an early age his love for mountains, a love which was eventually to cut short his life. His parents, Professor and Mrs. Herbert J. Gilkey, moved to Ames in 1931 where the youthful scientist received his grade and high school education. Arthur's love for and interest in the out-of-doors was with him all through these years. He was active in Boy Scout work. In the early years of World War II while still in high school he was an instructor in first-aid in the Civil Air Patrol Program.

During the war he served for 22 months in radio work in the navy. This was an experience which he enjoyed very much and in which he made some fine friends. In 1946 he entered Iowa State College as a student in the Division of Science. He chose geology as a major, seeing in it the possibility of combining the pleasures of hard work and love for mountains. Part of the summer of 1948 was spent as a student of the Princeton University Geology Camp at Red Lodge, Montana, where he acted as a student assistant to Mr. Roger Swanson of the U. S. Geological Survey. With Mr. Swanson he worked most of the summer on a geological study of part of the Absaroka Range. During the summer of 1948 and part of the summer of 1949 he served as a guide in the Teton Mountains, making many ascents of the inspiring and majestic Grand Teton. He had earlier, in 1947, made one of the first half-dozen ascents of the Devils Tower in Wyoming.

As a student at Iowa State College, Arthur showed great aptitude and made many friends. His record, as a major in geology and with minors in mathematics and physics, was an excellent one. Following his graduation in 1949 he received a scholarship at Columbia University where he became a student of Dr. Walter H. Bucher, a structural

geologist of world-wide reputation and interest. In 1951 he completed his work for the M.S. degree. His thesis was based upon studies he had made in Alaska as a member of the American Geographical Society Juneau Icefield Research Project in the summer of 1950. Work with Dr. Bucher was just what appealed to Arthur. Bucher's great interest has always been in the origin of tectonic mountains, those that are primarily related to horizontal compression of the earth's crust. In this environment Arthur elected to continue his studies in structural geology under Bucher.

His Ph.D. problem was a study of the Zuni Uplift in New Mexico. This was on contract from the Atomic Energy Commission. The area is one in which deposits of uranium-containing rocks are found, and the study had a bearing upon the occurrence and origin of these deposits. The thesis was completed and the results were presented to the geological world by Professor Bucher at the 66th annual meeting of the Geological Society of America held in Toronto, Ontario, in November 1953, under the title "Fracture pattern and uranium ore of the Zuni uplift, New Mexico." Professor Bucher's praise for the work of Gilkey was high indeed.

With his great interest in earth tectonics it was only natural that Arthur should have thought many times of the heights of the mountain ranges of central Asia. In brief, "What put them there?" It was partly with this question in mind and with his great ambition to scale the inaccessible heights that he should have sought an opportunity to study them at first hand. This opportunity came when he was chosen as a member of Third American Alpine Club Karakoram Expedition, engaged in attempted ascent of K 2, Mount Godwin Austin, over 28,000 feet in elevation, lying in a remote section of Pakistan.

The expedition fared well at first. Quoting from a letter from the leader of the expedition Dr. Charles S. Houston to Arthur's father. "Beginning the latter half of July our weather deteriorated, but we pushed on and reached Camp Eight (approximately 25,500 feet) on August 1. Art pioneered the route and found the site for Camp Eight, one of the best bits of climbing done on the mountain. All eight of us were established there with supplies for 10 days or more. Art was selected for the summit try on the first good day. But the weather never cleared, we had continued wind and snow, more severe and continuous than any of us had ever experienced or believed possible."

On August 5 Art developed thrombophlebitis in his leg. Complications soon followed and it was decided that in the hope of saving his life a retreat must be made. The storms continued but in desperation the forced descent was finally started on August 10. The blizzard, avalanches and frost bite made progress slow and nearly impossible. Throughout all this, though suffering severely, Art retained his cheerfulness until, following a fall by the entire party, an avalanche swept him from the slope where he had been anchored temporarily. Art was evidently buried deeply in the snow some 5000 feet down the mountain, and no trace of his body was found. A high cairn was erected at the Base Camp, with Art's ice axe on top.

With his fine physique, his industry, his great aptitude, his interest in the face of the earth, Arthur Gilkey was destined to go far, had it not been for this unfortunate accident. The Iowa Academy has lost a

sterling member, his friends by the score will miss him.

It is fitting indeed that Alaskan associates should have recommended to the National Board on Geographic Names the naming for him of a large and beautiful glacier. The 15-mile long glacier, heretofore unnamed, drains the northwestern side of the Juneau Ice Field and was one that Arthur had visited in 1952. At latest report favorable action seemed probable.

At the instigation of New York and other mountain climbing friends, the American Alpine Club is sponsoring cooperatively with the National Park Service, a memorial shelter cabin or hut in the Tetons. The hut, to be built by subscription and maintained by the Service, is virtually assured. This too is appropriate, for Arthur loved the Tetons.

Arthur is survived by his parents Professor and Mrs. Herbert J. Gilkey of Ames where Professor Gilkey is head of the Department of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics at Iowa State College. He also leaves a brother Herbert Talbot Gilkey of the Mechanical Engineering Staff at the University of Illinois, and favorite nieces and nephews to whom he was devotedly attached.

Professor Gilkey has recalled lines from the Burial of Moses, often quoted by Arthur's grandfather.

*"By Nebo's lonely mountain,
On this side of Jordan's wave
In a vale in the land of Moab,
There lies a lonely grave;
But no man built that sepulchre,
And no man saw it e're;
For the angels of God upturned the sod,
And laid the dead man there."*

C. S. GWYNNE