

NECROLOGY

O. B. CHRISTY, Muncie

WILLIAM RAY ALLEN

Ossian, Indiana
March 8, 1885

Lexington, Kentucky
April 7, 1955

For an individual to retain his membership in the Indiana Academy of Science for forty years and to have lived practically the entire time out of state is quite unusual, yet that is what Dr. William Ray Allen has done. He became a member while a student at Indiana University and was an active member during the few following years while he remained in the state.

Dr. Allen was professor of zoology and curator of the Teaching Museum at the University of Kentucky at the time of his death, April 7, 1955. He was born at Ossian, Indiana, March 8, 1885. He attended the Ossian elementary school and graduated from the Decatur High School. After spending some time in newspaper and advertising work he attended Indiana University for one year, then served as principal of the Hartford City School. He received his A.B. and M.S. degrees at Indiana University and in 1920 was granted a doctorate.

Dr. Allen served as an instructor in zoology at Kansas State College for two years; assistant in biology at Cornell University; Fellow and instructor at Indiana University for two years. As Traveling Fellow at the University of Illinois, he participated in the Irwin Expedition to Peru, Bolivia and Chile. This was under the leadership of Dr. Carl Eigenmann. The purpose of the study was to report on the fishes in the waters of these countries. The year following the Irwin Expedition, Dr. Allen conducted the Indiana University Centennial Expedition to Peru to continue the study on fish.

After spending one year as assistant professor of zoology at Municipal University, Akron, Ohio, he was elected to assistant professor of zoology at the University of Kentucky. He was promoted to associate professor and later to professor. Under this title he served until his death.

Dr. Allen was primarily a teacher. He enjoyed his work and always made careful preparation before meeting his classes. However, his contributions to scientific literature is worthy of note. He was co-author with Dr. Eigenmann of *FISHES OF WESTERN SOUTH AMERICA*. He published *Laboratory Guide to Zoology* and *Nature Sketch Book* besides a number of scientific articles in various journals and proceedings.

While carrying a full professorial load, Dr. Allen found time to take an active part in numerous organizations. He was a charter member of Alpha, Phi Beta Kappa Chapter of Kentucky and served as its secretary

for ten years, then president from 1939-1940. He was one of the most faithful members of the Kentucky Academy of Science and served as its president in 1939-1940. He was treasurer, vice president, and president of the Kentucky Chapter of Sigma Xi. He was a member of A.A.A.S.; American Society of Zoologists; American Ecological Society; American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists; American Fishery Society, and American Society of Limnologists.

It is reported that Dr. Allen never lost interest in the Indiana Academy of Science and often regretted that duties at the University of Kentucky prevented his attendance at meetings.

Dr. Allen had a deep interest in photography and was an active member of the Lexington Camera Club until his impaired health forced him to give up active participation in the group.

To Kentucky, William Ray Allen has made a distinct contribution through his professional leadership and excellent teaching. To Indiana, he has brought distinction as a native son and we are proud to claim him as one of our beloved members of the Academy.

JOSEPH LEWIS HYATT

Benham, Indiana
June 18, 1888

Onida, South Dakota
June 23, 1955

Joseph Lewis Hyatt was born on a farm near Benham in Ripley County, Indiana on June 18, 1888. He attended the rural school of his community, but after finishing the eighth grade he found himself, like many young people of his generation, too far removed from a high school for further education. However, Moores Hill Seminary and College was located in an adjoining county. This seemed to afford the best opportunity for young Joe to continue his education.

After attending this academy for one term, he entered the mail service and delivered mail over a rural route for six years. He then returned to Moores Hill Seminary and completed his high school work and two years of college work before enlisting in the army for service in the First World War. He was sent to an officers training school where he received his commission in the field artillery.

After being discharged from service in 1919, Mr. Hyatt attended Illinois State Normal University and received a bachelor's degree in 1921. He next went to Illinois University as a student assistant in zoology where he received his master's degree in 1923. Later he went to Indiana University and spent several summers as a student in his chosen field, zoology.

In 1923 Mr. Hyatt was invited to be an instructor in biology at New York University. This position was held for two years before going to Lincoln Institute of Kentucky as head of the biology department. After three years at this institution, he returned to Indiana to become head of the biology department at Hanover College. He remained head of this department until it was divided into botany and zoology. He then became head of the zoology department and remained in this position until his retirement in 1953.

"Uncle Joe," as he was affectionately known by the students and his colleagues at Hanover College, was considered a good teacher and inspired many students to continue into graduate work in zoology. He especially enjoyed field work and was always happy in conducting field trips or hiking over the hills around Hanover. He was a good photographer and took hundreds of outdoor pictures of plants and animals. These were often presented to clubs and meetings of various kinds.

A few months before his death, Professor Hyatt and Mrs. Hyatt moved from Hanover to Onida, South Dakota, where their daughter lived. He died from a heart attack while fishing near his home. His body was returned to his native community of Benham for funeral service and burial.

After returning to his native state, Professor Hyatt was a regular attendant at the meetings of the Indiana Academy and was elected a Fellow in 1953.

WILLIAM A. MYERS

Hamilton County, Indiana
 _____, 1869

Indianapolis, Indiana
 February 20, 1955

William A. Myers, a native Hoosier, was born near Fortville, Indiana, in 1869 and died in Indianapolis, Indiana, February 20, 1955. He received his early education in the public schools of his native county. As a young man he was attracted to the profession of teaching and spent several years teaching in his home community of Hamilton County. He entered Indiana University in March, 1892 and received his B.A. degree in 1896 and an M.A. degree in 1899 with majors in history.

Mr. Myers served as superintendent of schools at Fortville, Hartford City, and Bloomington. After serving as teacher and administrator in various school systems in Indiana, he established a teachers agency in Indianapolis. In this capacity he was able to further serve his profession by placing many teachers in positions through his wide acquaintance with school officials throughout the state.

One of the outstanding characteristics of Mr. Myers was his kindly interest in any movement which was for the good and general welfare of the community.

He was a member of the Indiana Historical Society. For many years he maintained an active interest in the Indiana Nature Study Society and was its president during the years 1931 and 1932. He early became a member of the Indiana Audubon Society and served as its trustee and necrologist. Mr. Myers contributed much of his time and energy to the Indianapolis Welfare Department and for many years was a trustworthy servant in the Central Avenue Methodist Church of Indianapolis where he conducted a Sunday School class until a few weeks before his death.

He was a fifty year member of Mystic Tie Masonic Lodge and belonged to the Scottish Rite.

Few have had a keener appreciation of the beauties and wonders of nature. To him these were the handiwork of the Creator. During his long and busy life he was always able to find time to go to the woods

and fields where he was able to identify many of the flowers, birds, shrubs, and trees.

As trustee of the endowment fund of the State Audubon Society, Mr. Myers was much interested in the development of the Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary near Connersville. His help and advice was always appreciated by its official board and the director. He gave a considerable sum from his meager wealth to build a pond in the Sanctuary which was dedicated and named the "Nora Raymer Myers Pond" in honor of his beloved wife.

It has been a privilege for me, who has known Mr. Myers for a third of a century, to testify to his splendid character as an educator, naturalist, and a fine Christian gentleman.

JOHN E. POTZGER

Presque Isle, Michigan

Indianapolis, Indiana

July 31, 1886

September 18, 1955

With the sudden and untimely death of John E. Potzger on September 18, Indiana has lost one of its good scientists and Butler University has lost an inspiring and beloved teacher.

Dr. Potzger was born in Presque Isle County, Michigan, on July 31, 1886. He was one of five children of a Lutheran minister, the Rev. Bruno Potzger, and his wife Augusta. The childhood associations and early training in that small German-American community, the free outdoor life in what was then a beautiful wilderness region, left an indelible impress on his thoughts and attitudes. After a course of training in the Teachers Seminary at Addison, Illinois, he taught for more than twenty years in the Emmaus Lutheran School in Indianapolis and was an active leader of the young people's organization of the church. During this time he also studied music and gave piano lessons in his own studio. Two summers of piano and organ study were spent at the Ithaca Conservatory of Music. In later years after entering the field of science, he still played occasionally for groups of friends and students.

Further academic study, much of it in evening classes, awakened an interest in botany, and led to the bachelor's and master's degrees from Butler University and eventually to the doctorate conferred by Indiana University in 1932. Additional graduate work was taken at the University of Michigan Biological Station at Douglas Lake, and at Ohio State University. Dr. Potzger returned to Butler as an instructor in botany, he was promoted to associate professor in 1939, and to professorship in 1948. Upon the death of Dr. Ray Friesner in 1952 Dr. Potzger was elected head of the Botany Department and served in this position until his death.

It was under the untiring influence and work of these two great scientists that Butler University enjoyed a wide recognition among the institutions of higher learning for its leadership in the field of botany. Publications in scientific and educational journals were frequent and both men became known for their scientific research as well for being excellent teachers and leaders.

Summer vacations were utilized by Dr. Potzger for investigations in taxonomy—especially of the grasses—forest sociology, and ecology, with a special interest in microclimate. In 1940 he was field biologist at the University of Wisconsin Biological Station at Trout Lake. Taxonomic studies of mosses were made at the Grout laboratory in Vermont. A study of the vegetation of Mackinac Island included a plant collection which was on display for a period of years at Old Fort Mackinac. A four-day field trip to Mackinac, with overnight stops in the dunes area and at the University of Michigan Biological Station at Douglas Lake, became a regular feature of Dr. Potzger's ecology course at Butler University, never to be forgotten by students who participated. With Dr. Ira T. Wilson he made studies of sediments obtained by line transect borings in a number of Indiana, Michigan and Minnesota lakes and in Sandusky Bay. For several successive summers he was ecology lecturer at the Purdue University Conservation Camp held in Versailles State Park. Field data obtained under his direction by these conservation students, many of them teachers in Indiana schools, were utilized for publication in the Butler Botanical Studies.

In 1947 Dr. Potzger was married to Dr. Margaret Esther Whitney, a graduate in Zoology of the University of Michigan. She collaborated with him in a number of research and other educational publications.

As a contribution to the elementary teaching field, in which he always retained a sympathetic interest, Dr. Potzger prepared a series of text-activity books on trees, birds (with Mrs. R. C. Friesner as co-author) and insects (with Mrs. Potzger as co-author).

One phase of forest study in which Dr. Potzger became keenly interested was that based on the early land surveys. In collaboration with Mrs. Potzger and a number of Butler botany majors and graduate students, he assembled data from the original Indiana survey in the early 1800's, showing the associations of tree species in the primeval forest as it existed in Indiana. A number of papers using portions of this data were published in the Butler Botanical Studies.

International recognition was accorded Dr. Potzger for his work in paleobotany. For 22 years he studied the postglacial period by making careful borings into bogs and swamps of eastern North America with intense work in the Middle West while extending his research in the United States from Texas on the south, eastward to southern Maine and New Jersey, and northward to the Keweenaw Peninsula and Isle Royale. This study led him to the conclusion that Canadian spruce once covered this area. It was through the study of the preserved pollen grains obtained from these borings that he was able to establish definite tree successions as well as changes in climate since the retreat of the continental ice sheet. A number of research grants in support of these studies were received from the Indiana Academy of Science and from the American Philosophical Society.

In 1949 Dr. Potzger was given the J. I. Holcomb award for making the greatest educational contribution to Butler University during that year. The same year he was requested by the President's Committee on the Quetico-Superior Forest to make a study of that region in connection

with the Committee's project of creating there an international wilderness park. Dr. Potzger published the results of the study in the *Journal of Forestry* and also prepared a special bulletin in semipopular style—*Bogs of the Quetico-Superior Region Tell Its Forest History*—which was published and widely distributed by the President's Committee.

In 1952 Dr. Potzger was invited by Mr. Albert Courtemanche, director of the Service de Biogéographie of the University of Montréal, to come to Quebec as the guest of the University and the provincial government to direct pollen research at the Biological Station in Mont Tremblant Park, and make analyses of bogs in that part of the Laurentian Shield. This invitation was accepted and each successive summer since then Dr. Potzger returned to continue these studies. He was most enthusiastic about the royal reception given him and the liberal help furnished such as pontoon-equipped plane transportation and other conveniences which greatly facilitated his work and made it possible to extend the studies northward to the Hudson Bay region. In discussing the work with me last year he seemed very anxious to complete the study as rapidly as possible and it was for this reason that he declined an invitation to serve as chairman of an important committee in the Academy.

While still carrying on the Quebec work, Dr. Potzger also engaged in a joint study with Dr. James Zumberge of the Department of Geology of the University of Michigan on an unusual deposit near South Haven, Michigan, exposed by the recent high water stage of the Great Lakes. Here 32 inches of compressed peat, with pollen content representing the entire post-glacial forest history, afforded a unique opportunity of correlating geological aspects with vegetational and climatic history as indicated from pollen analysis.

In connection with both the Canadian and the South Haven studies, as well as a Lake Cicott, Indiana, study with Dr. Edward S. Deevey of Yale, Dr. Potzger and his collaborators were able to secure a number of radiocarbon datings which showed interesting correlations with his own time estimates based on pollen profiles.

Dr. Potzger became a member of the Indiana Academy in 1926 and was elected a fellow in 1932. He held chairmanships in both the botany and taxonomy sections. He was author and co-author of over thirty articles in the Proceedings, and presented many papers in such scientific journals as *Ecology*, *Ohio Journal of Science*, *American Midland Naturalist*, besides a wealth of material contributed to the *Butler University Botanical Studies*. A part of his Quebec studies have appeared in the *Canadian Journal of Botany*.

He was a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and of the Wisconsin Academy of Science. He edited the *School Science and Mathematics Journal* in 1940, also the *Yearbook of the Central Association of Science and Mathematics Teachers* from 1940 to 1945. He was elected vice-president of this organization in 1947 and honored with the presidency in 1948. He was an active member of the *Ecological Society of America* and in September, 1955 completed his term as president of that organization. He delivered his presidential address on "*Pollen profiles as records of lake filling and bog formation*"

at the annual dinner meeting of the society held during the sessions of the American Institute of Biological Sciences at Michigan State College.

All who knew Dr. Potzger admired him for his boundless enthusiasm, his appealing good nature and his lofty ideals of good citizenship. He has added much to the store of human knowledge. The world is much better and wiser for his having lived. We shall miss him greatly, for truly he was a representative of the highest rank of science as well as good citizenship at its best.

ROLLA ROY RAMSEY

Morning Sun, Ohio
April 11, 1872

Bloomington, Indiana
June 11, 1955

Rolla Roy Ramsey, an electronic pioneer and retired professor of physics at Indiana University, died in his Bloomington home on June 11, at the age of 83.



He was born of Scotch-Irish ancestry at Morning Sun, Ohio, April 11, 1872. While attending Oxford High School he enrolled for a course in physics. From the inspiration gained in this course and an inspiring teacher, and through the study of "Steele's Fourteen Weeks in Physics" he began a career in science which lasted throughout his life. After graduating from Oxford High School he attended Miami University for two years, then transferred to Indiana University where he received his bachelor and master degrees. Later he went to Cornell University and was granted his doctorate in 1901. These degrees were received with honor and distinction.

Before joining the faculty at Indiana University in 1903, Dr. Ramsey taught in the Decatur High School, Westminster College and Missouri University. He was a great teacher who was patient but exacting and inspiring. Recently a former student said to him, "Dr. Ramsey, you never got mad at us if we couldn't understand." Another wrote him to say that, aside from what he learned from lectures, he got something that would always help him over hard places. These were great compliments and well deserved. He was always interested in any accomplishments of his former students and was especially proud of Herbert Hazel,

who settled the long standing scientific Helmholtz-Koenig controversy by showing that "both sides were right, experimentally, and that both sides were wrong, in that they did not recognize that there is an underlying *fundamental* principle of wave motion in the experiments."

It has been said that if students needed a course, not listed in the catalog, in order to bring them up-to-date he would offer it and say, "You may not get any University credit but we will work it out together."

Dr. Ramsey was especially proud of any outstanding athlete who took a hard course in physics and succeeded. He was also interested in the farm boys—he was one himself. He observed they were not afraid to work.

During the long service which Dr. Ramsey gave to Indiana University he was closely associated with three other noted physicists. Dr. A. L. Foley, Dr. J. B. Dutcher and Dr. Mason E. Hufford. These men were recognized as scholars in their field and did much to promote interest and research in modern physics. Their influence attracted capable students to their department and many of them have made exceptional advancement in both teaching and experimental work.

During the early development of the radio Dr. Ramsey was considered an authority in this field and did considerable research and pioneering work. He was the author of two books, *Experimental Radio* and *Fundamentals of Radio*. Long before most of us ever heard of television he predicted its development and then lived to witness its reality and to enjoy its benefits.

He was the inventor of the model of the atom which has since become standard equipment in the teaching of chemistry and physics and is still manufactured by the Welch Manufacturing Company of Chicago.

Dr. Ramsey was always interested in sports and was honored by the "I" Men's Association in '47. He attended football games regularly until bad weather and his failing health kept him away.

As an undergraduate student he played center on the Miami and Indiana University football teams. His strong physique and strong determination no doubt made him a valuable member to serve as the "point man" in the famous flying wedge, before this formation was outlawed as being too rough.

During his recent illness, while discussing the present method of playing football, Dr. Ramsey lamented the fact that there was little chance for a college boy these days to play football just for the fun of it. Too much emphasis, thought he, is placed upon the winning team. He thought little of commercialized, subsidized athletics.

It was during the late stage of World War II that the government decided to train men in the fundamentals and use of radio. The plan was for the army to carry on this undertaking at College Park, Maryland. Here there was practically no equipment and insufficient trained personnel. Dr. Ramsey visited the training center at College Park and observed the inadequate conditions under which the training was being done and immediately recommended that the responsibility for this training be given to the universities. This recommendation was accepted and

shortly three hundred students were in training on the I. U. campus. Others would have been forthcoming had not the November 11th Armistice ended the program.

During World War II, Dr. Ramsey was called from retirement and performed a patriotic service in teaching physics for the Navy in the V-12 program.

Dr. Ramsey was truly a great American and believed in its fundamental principles of government. However, he was concerned deeply about its future and the welfare of the world. He had no Social Security number and did not believe in the possibility of true security under "cradle to the grave" paternalism in government.

Dr. Ramsey was an unusually modest individual and coveted no honors but many were bestowed upon him. He was a fellow in the American Advancement of Science, the American Physics Society and the Indiana Academy of Science. He was a member of the Institute of Radio Engineering and a former radioactivity specialist with the United States Bureau of Standards. He is listed in American Men of Science and in Who's Who 1925. In 1930 he was elected president of the Indiana Academy of Science and served with distinction. The Proceedings of the Academy contain over forty of his titles besides other scientific journals contained articles from his studies and research. One of his last contributions was a well prepared history of the early physics in Indiana. This covered the period prior to 1900 and was published in Vol. 58. This article combined with his presidential address, "Physics, Past and Present," published in Vol. 40, constitutes an excellent record in the growth and development of his chosen field of science.

Dr. Ramsey was a Phi Beta Kappa and a member of Sigma Xi honorary fraternities. He was a member of the Bloomington Kiwanis Club and an elder in the Bloomington United Presbyterian Church where he was always a deeply religious and a conscientious worker.

Survivors include the widow, Mrs. Clara Ethel Smith Ramsey, a son, Dr. Hugh S. Ramsey of Bloomington, one sister and one brother.

In Dr. Rolla Roy Ramsey, the Academy has lost one of its good scientists and the church its devout Christian gentleman. We are highly honored for his splendid record and his inspiration to his fellow man.