

NECROLOGY

FAY KENOYER DAILY, Butler University

OLIVER W. BROWN

Vermillion Grove, Illinois
June 25, 1873

Bloomington, Indiana
April 20, 1967

When Oliver W. Brown was 92 years old, he was the subject of a wonderful article in the *Indiana Alumni Magazine* (October, 1965), which paid tribute to his 70 years of work in chemical laboratories. He was still continuing his work at the time, and has been at Indiana University as student and professor longer than anyone else living. He retired from teaching in 1943 when he became Professor Emeritus.

He was born at Vermillion Grove, Illinois, June 25, 1873. His high school training was received at Kokomo, Indiana. He received a B.S. from Earlham College, an A.M. from Indiana University, 1896, and an honorary Doctor of Science degree from Huntington College in 1941.

His career was quite varied between industry and teaching because of his interest in electro-research. Prof. Brown taught at the Colorado School of Mines and Cornell University before joining the Indiana University faculty in 1899. He once served as Vice-President of the Smith-Brown Battery Co. and took a leave of absence from Indiana University in 1914 to become chief battery engineer at Presto Lite Co. when it opened in Speedway, Indiana. He was consultant for the Calco Chemical Division of the American Cyanamid Corp., chemist for the J. N. Hurty Lab. in Indianapolis, electro-chemist at the Muncie Pulp Co., and instructor of chemical engineering at the University of Wisconsin. He trained many of the country's battery engineers.

Prof. Brown had a summer home near Plainfield, Indiana, where he raised shorthorn cattle. He became interested in vitamin E and its value in treating a muscular disease in lambs and calves.

Two of his children, Edward T. S. Brown and Alice Pawelec, became chemists, and another son, Oliver W., Jr., became a minister.

Prof. Brown joined the Indiana Academy of Science in 1925, and was co-author of several papers presented at Academy meetings. These were concerned with a modified method for determining lead peroxide in red lead, chlorine in the lead storage battery and the catalytic activity of reduced vanadates of nickel, copper and lead. He was made a fellow in 1961 and was still an annual member at his death. He was also a charter member of the Epsilon Chapter of Alpha Chi Sigma, professional chemical fraternity, a member of Sigma XI and the Society of Friends. He is listed in *Who's Who in the Central States*, 1947.

After more than 67 years at Indiana University with a fine record

in teaching and research, Oliver W. Brown succumbed April 20, 1967, at 93 years of age.

ELIZABETH H. CRIDER

Horse Cave, Kentucky
October 15, 1920

Francesville, Indiana
September 24, 1967

Mrs. Crider, teacher at Washington High School for 12 years, was the victim of an automobile accident Sunday, September 24, 1967, in which one other person was killed and the driver of the automobile was critically injured.

The birthplace of Elizabeth Crider was Horse Cave, Kentucky, and her date of birth, October 15, 1920. She had lived in Indianapolis 40 years. She attended Hanover College from 1939 to 1941 and received a B.A. from Butler University in 1943 and an M.A. in 1951. She taught at Ben Davis High School, Ben Davis, Indiana, before going to Washington High School, Indianapolis, Indiana.

She joined the Indiana Academy of Science in 1954 and is known among members primarily for her active support of the Junior Academy of Science. She served on the Visiting Scientists Committee in 1961 and 1962, and on the Youth Activities Committee from 1963 to 1967. She was sponsor of the Washington High School Science Club and many students received outstanding awards through her efforts.

She was returning from a meeting of the Order of the Eastern Star at Gary, Indiana, when the accident occurred. Other society memberships included: the National Society of Biology Teachers; president of the biological section of the Indiana State Teachers Association; officer of the Indianapolis Educational Association; and National Science Teachers Association. She was associate biological editor of the *American Biology Teachers Journal* and co-author of *Biology Investigation*, a laboratory program used internationally. In 1962, she was the first to receive the honor of being named *Outstanding Biology Teacher* in Indiana and the Midwest District by the National Association of Biology Teachers. She was a member of Delta Kappa Gamma, teacher's honorary society.

She is survived by her husband, Robert, and three children.

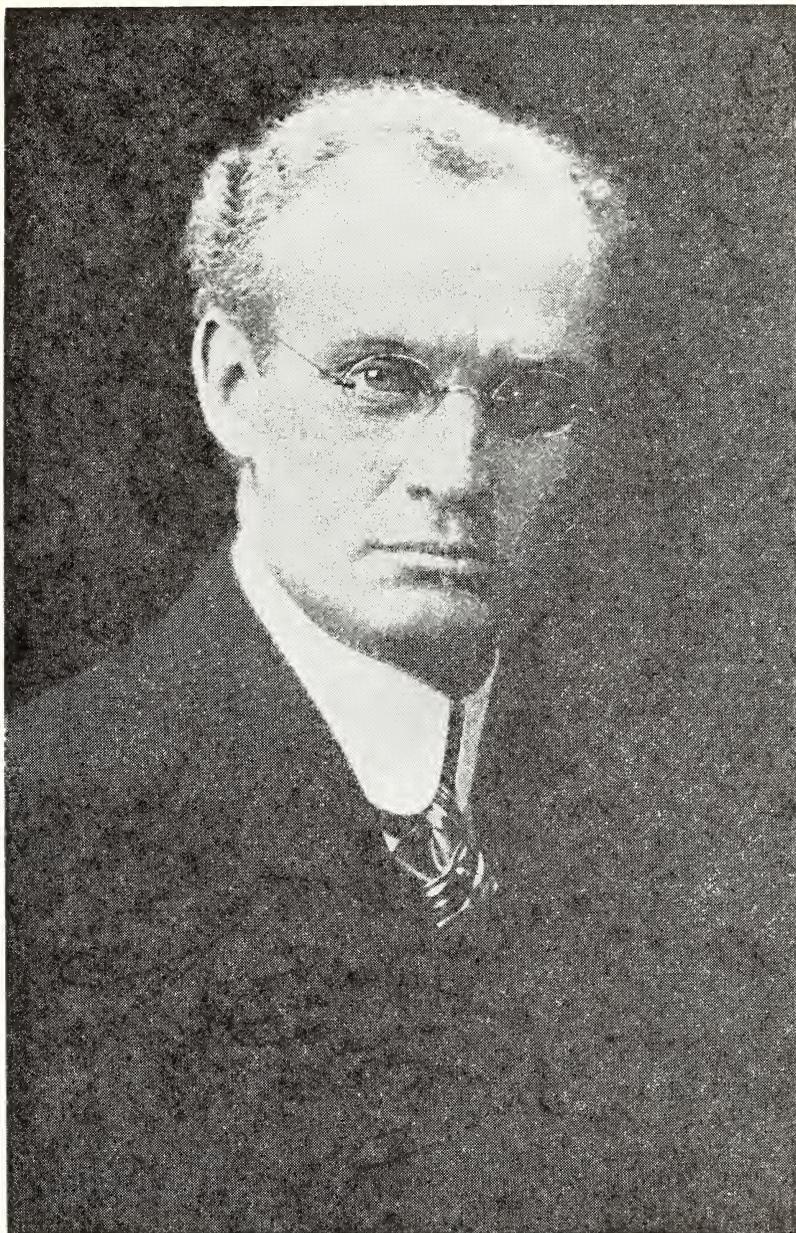
Elizabeth Crider had a dynamic, engaging personality and a zeal for biology teaching. Indianapolis lost an outstanding teacher when she died, September 24, 1967.

EDGAR ROSCOE CUMINGS

North Madison, Ohio
February 20, 1874

Arlington, Virginia
August 1, 1967

Dr. Edgar Roscoe Cumings was a member of the Indiana Academy of Science for 67 years, a record seldom equaled. He became a Fellow in 1906 and President of the Indiana Academy of Science in 1925. He presented many papers on geological formations, stratigraphy and paleontology at Academy meetings and served on a number of committees. He became an Emeritus Member in 1946.



EDGAR R. CUMINGS
1874-1967

Born on a farm at North Madison, Ohio, February 20, 1874, Dr. Cumings was educated at Union College, N. Y., where he received an A.B. in 1897; Cornell University, 1897 to 1898; and at Yale, 1901 to 1903, where he received a Ph.D. degree. He received an Honorary Sc.D. from Union College in 1942. He taught in a country school a short time before coming to Indiana University in 1898. He was Instructor in Paleontology, Assistant Professor of Geology, Associate Professor, Professor and Head of the Department of Geology at Indiana University. The latter position was held from 1903 to 1942. He was Acting Dean of the Graduate School from 1914 to 1919 and 1923. He became Professor Emeritus in 1944.

Dr. Cumings was not only associated with teaching and administration at Indiana University, but contributed substantially to the research program of the state geological survey. This relationship was discussed by Wilton N. Melhorn in "A century and a half of Geology in Indiana" (*Proceedings of the Indiana Academy of Science*, v. 76). Dr. Cumings was shown to favor removal of the State Geologist from electoral office and reinstitution of a system of appointment by a commission responsible to the governor. With the arrangement, the State Geologist became a member of the faculty at Indiana University and members of the geology faculty of Indiana University held non-paid appointments with the State Geological Survey. Thus under the State Geologist, Dr. William N. Logan, "some of the greatest documentaries of Hoosier geology" were published. These included Cumings and Shrock, *Geology of the Silurian rocks of Northern Indiana* (1928) and a section on stratigraphy in the *Handbook of Indiana Geology* (1922) by Dr. Cumings.

Prof. Cumings was not only honored by the Academy in becoming a Fellow but also by the A.A.A.S. (1901), Geology Society of America, and Paleontological Society. He was Vice-president of the Geological Society of America and President of the Paleontological Society in 1931. He is listed in *American Men of Science* and *Indiana Scientists*.

Dr. Cumings had lived at the Mar Salle Home in Washington D.C., since 1965 and died there August 1, 1967, at 93 years of age. His long life of service to Indiana University, the state and academy are remarkable records!

JOHN R. KUEBLER

Evansville, Indiana
July 8, 1890

Indianapolis, Indiana
June 17, 1967

Mr. John R. Kuebler, chemist and fraternity executive, died June 17. He was known as "Mr. Alpha Chi Sigma" and was recognized for his great service to that fraternity in 1961 by the establishment of an annual award in his name. He held numerous positions in Alpha Chi Sigma and was honorary president in 1960.

Mr. Kuebler was a native of Evansville, Indiana, born July 8, 1890. He received a B.A. degree in chemistry in 1912 and an M.A. degree in 1915 from Indiana University. He was Instructor in physics and chemistry at Butler University from 1912 to 1914 and taught chemistry at Shortridge High School at Indianapolis, Ind., from 1915

until 1942 except for two years served in the army. He was Sergeant First Class in the Research Division of the Chemical Warfare, U. S. Army, 1917-1919.

John Kuebler joined the Indiana Academy of Science in 1931. He was also a member of the American Chemical Society, chairman of the Indiana section 1944 to 1945 and represented the section on the national council of the society 1944, 1945-1946, 1950-1952. He belonged to the A.A.A.S. and Indiana Chemical Society (president 1945 to 1946).

He was an able teacher at Shortridge High School and is remembered fondly by his students. He also encouraged participation in sports and revived the bowling league. His writing ability was recognized by Alpha Chi Sigma when he was made special feature editor of the official publication, *The Hexagon*, from 1919 until 1920, assistant editor from 1920 to 1922 and Grand Editor from 1922 to 1926. Alpha Chi Sigma is a national professional fraternity for chemists and chemical engineers.

John R. Kuebler was 76 when he died June 17, 1967, leaving a record of service and devotion to his profession.

CHARLES L(YMAN) PORTER

Mackinaw, Illinois
February 22, 1889

Spring Valley, Illinois
December 24, 1966

Contributions to the industrial applications of the study of fungi occupied much of Dr. C. L. Porter's time and effort. The ecological relations exhibited by fungi were of considerable research interest to him. As a professor at Purdue University, many students destined for both teaching and industrial employment came under his able guidance and sometimes novel teaching methods. He directed the Purdue Micro-



CHARLES L. PORTER
1889-1966

biological Summer Institute for instruction of industrial microbiologists for twelve years before he retired.

His academic training included a B.S. from Illinois Wesleyan in 1911, A.B. from the University of Illinois in 1913, A.M. in 1921 and Ph.D. in 1923. He was an Instructor of Biology at Parson's College from 1914 to 1916; Head of the Department of Biology, Fairmount College from 1916 to 1919; Botany Assistant, University of Illinois from 1919 to 1921; botanist for the State Natural History Survey of Illinois in 1922; Assistant Professor of Botany, Purdue University, from 1923 to 1928; Associate Professor in Plant Sciences from 1928 to 1934; and Professor from 1934 to 1959 when he became Professor Emeritus. He served in the U. S. Army in 1917.

Dr. Porter belonged to a number of scientific societies including the Phytopathology Society; Mycological Society; Industrial Microbiological Society of which he was secretary-treasurer from 1950 to 1957, secretary from 1957 and 1958, president from 1958 to 1959; Society of American Bacteriologists; and the Academy of Microbiology. His son, John, has also served as president of S.I.M.

He joined the Indiana Academy of Science in 1923, serving in many ways. He was a member of various committees including membership, invitations, resolutions, Junior Academy of Science, Indiana Talent Search, Research Grants and was chairman of the Botany and History of Science Divisions. He contributed many papers to the sectional programs. He was Vice-President of the Indiana Academy of Science in 1943 and president in 1949. In his presidential address on the "Responsibilities of a Mycologist," Dr. Porter outlined three objectives of every science including mycology. They were (a) self improvement, which can be accomplished only by investigation and research; (b) a better and more closely integrated relationship with other, and more particularly, closely allied sciences; (c) a recognized responsibility to the public and to society generally. His discussion reveals a great understanding and appreciation of the various types of research in Mycology and the desirability of promoting all of them. His assessment of the role of these various disciplines sometimes applies to all botany as well.

He was honored by election to Fellow of the Indiana Academy of Science in 1928 and received an award for outstanding service from the Industrial Microbiological Society in 1959. He is listed in *American Men of Science* and *Indiana Scientists*.

This enthusiastic, capable man died after a short illness on December 24, 1966.

JEROME POTTER SEATON

Glen Carlin, Virginia
July 17, 1896

Lafayette, Indiana
January 24, 1967

Prof. Jerome P. Seaton was the son of Charles H. Seaton, who for many years was editor for the Bureau of Soils of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Jerome Seaton was born in a small rural com-

munity near Washington, D. C., July 17, 1896. With this background, his interest in soils and growing things developed at an early age.

Prof. Seaton attended public school in the Washington, D. C., area and graduated from a Washington High School in 1914. His college education was interrupted by active military service in the field artillery during World War I in which he became a first lieutenant. He resumed his education after the armistice, obtaining a B.S. degree in 1920 from Pennsylvania College. He became the first teacher of forest soils at Purdue University at Lafayette, Indiana, in March, 1920, where he continued his own education, receiving an M.S. degree in 1932. He found teaching at Purdue challenging, interesting and enjoyable during a long career. In an article in the *Purdue Agriculturist* (v. 53, no. 7), April, 1962, announcing that Prof. Seaton had become faculty advisor to the *Agriculturist*, it was stated that he had taught all the undergraduate courses in soils at Purdue since 1920. During that period about 12,000 students had attended his classes, among them some very prominent people. Another article in the same journal (Nov., 1957) mentioned that he enjoyed following the careers of former students and instructing their sons and grandsons. He enjoyed painting with water colors and loved to sing. He sang tenor and high baritone with quartets around the university. He appreciated the quiet and beauty of nature when fishing and as an outdoorsman. For many years he was an instructor of forest soils in the annual summer camp for forestry students. He also enjoyed gardening, bowling and spectator sports. He played an important role working with the Indiana High School soil judging project in 4-H and FFA in its promotion and organization, which was a great source of pleasure.

From 1917 to 1942, summer months were spent in cereals research at the United States Department of Agriculture Arlington Farm in Virginia. He worked with G. O. Mott for nine years studying pasture fertility and eight years with J. C. Callahan studying forest soil fertility. He published a number of papers and co-authored bulletins and laboratory manuals of soils.

He was elected to membership in Alpha Zeta and Ceres. He belonged to the American Association of University Professors, American Society of Agronomy, Soil Science Society of America, and joined the Indiana Academy of Science in 1924. He is sketched in *Who's Who in the Midwest* for 1958.

Professor Seaton's service to Purdue University was summed up by a colleague at the time of his retirement in 1965: "I have never known anyone to do such a fine job of working young men into an organization, tutoring them, helping them and handing to them responsibility and a chance to earn reputation and acclaim as you have done. This extremely unselfish and generous action on your part bespeaks of your warm heart and exceptionally kind and generous spirit."

Jerome P. Seaton had been in failing health four years and in the hospital four weeks before he died January 24, 1967. He had dedicated 45 rewarding years to teaching at Purdue.

STEPHEN SARGENT VISHER

Chicago, Illinois
December 15, 1887

Bloomington, Indiana
October 25, 1967

One of the nation's outstanding geographers, Dr. Stephen S. Visser was a prolific writer. He was the author of *Climatic Atlas of the United States*, *Climate of Indiana*, an excellent section on Geography in the *Handbook of Indiana Geology* (1922), as well as many other books, articles and newspaper items. He searched for a key to the success of outstanding persons with reference to their environment and geographic origins. He considered the basis for achievement in an article (Indianapolis Star, 1951) in which the amount of work one accomplishes was stated to be dependant upon: "(1) having things one



STEPHEN S. VISHER
1887-1967

wishes to do which he has the qualification to do, (2) time to do them, and (3) conviction that the doing of them will be beneficial." Some of his work reflects the expressed desire to be helpful to others in the reorganization of records for selected usage.

Dr. Visher, born December 15, 1887, was the son of a minister and native of Chicago, Illinois. His childhood was spent in South Dakota where he became a rural schoolteacher at the age of 17. He received a B.S. and M.S. degree from the University of Chicago in 1909 and 1910, respectively, was a fellow 1913 to 1915, and received a Ph.D. degree in 1914. He obtained an M.A. from the University of South Dakota in 1912. He is survived by his wife, Halene Hatcher Visher, also a geographer, whom he married in 1951.

Stephen S. Visher was Assistant State Geologist of South Dakota 1908 and from 1910 to 1915; Scientist at the Carnegie Desert Laboratory, Arizona, in 1909; Instructor at the University of South Dakota from 1910 to 1913; Professor of Geography and Geology at Minnesota State Normal School, Moorhead, Minnesota, 1915-1917; land classifier with the U. S. Geological Survey, 1918; Scientist with the Bureau of Soils, U. S. Department of Agriculture, 1918; Huntington Fellow at Yale from 1920 to 1921; Bishop Museum Fellow from 1921 to 1922; Acting Geographer of the U. S. Department of State from 1931 to 1932; collaborator on a soil conservation survey with the U. S. Department of Agriculture, 1936; from Assistant Professor to Professor of Geography at Indiana University from 1919 to 1958, and Emeritus Professor from 1958 to 1967. Geography was given in association with the Department of Geology at Indiana University until 1946 when a Department of Geography was formed. He also held visiting professorships at the University of Colorado, Cornell University, University of Pennsylvania and University of British Columbia.

His investigations included study in the West Indies in 1915; Spain, Italy and Britain in 1920; the Yale expedition to the South Seas, Australia and Far East from 1921 to 1922.

For his achievements, several honors were awarded. He received a Distinguished Alumnus Citation at the University of Chicago in 1943; an award for Distinguished Service to Geography from the National Council of Geography Teachers in 1948; an Outstanding Achievement Award from the Association of American Geographers, 1959; and honorary life membership in the National Geographic Society, 1945. He belonged to the Geological Society of America (fellow), American Association for the Advancement of Science, American Meteorological Society, Royal Meteorological Society (fellow), Royal Geographical Society of Great Britain (fellow), Ecological Society of America, Soil Conservation Society, Association of American Geographers (vice-president), National Educational Society, and Geophysical Union. He is listed in *Who's Who in America*, *Who's Who in the Midwest*, *American Men of Science*, *Indiana Scientists* and *International Who's Who*.

Dr. Visher joined the Indiana Academy of Science in 1919 and became a fellow in 1924. He contributed papers to the annual meetings averaging more than one a year. The range of subjects included Indi-

ana's weather, nobelists, National Academy members, boundaries, size, water supply, soils, human resources etc. He discussed regional contrasts with respect to kinds of disease, death rate, temperature and precipitation, soil erosion and causative agents, corn yield, richness or poorness and yield of prominent persons. He wrote *Indiana Scientists*, a biographical directory and analysis with sections by other scientists, published by the Indiana Academy of Science in 1951. He contributed "A Brief History of Geography in Indiana" to the *Proceedings* of the Academy (V. 76), an invited paper in a symposium arranged by the Sesquicentennial Committee of the Academy. This article includes some good bibliographic material for Dr. Visher's contributions to Indiana geography. He was Vice-President of the Indiana Academy of Science in 1940 and 1949 and president in 1950. He served on many committees and was Chairman of the History of Science Section. His interest in the society did not wane when failing health kept him from meetings. An exchange of letters to keep him informed usually followed election of officers or transaction of business in which he was particularly interested. One contribution to the Academy made by Dr. Visher has been a well-kept secret according to his wishes. He gave the money to provide annual awards for several years for distinguished papers published in the *Proceedings*. These awards were named for outstanding Academy members. He was elected to Emeritus Member in 1965.

The Academy lost a great friend and benefactor when Dr. Visher died after a massive stroke and prolonged illness, October 25, 1967. That his efforts were appreciated widely can be seen by publication of a memorial editorial in the *Indianapolis Star*, October 27, 1967, which concluded, "The public owes much to such dedicated scientists as Dr. Visher."