

OBITUARY

DR. JUSTIN W. LEONARD

A short biography of J.W. LEONARD (born: Oct. 28, 1909, Moulton, Iowa, USA; deceased: May 26, 1975, Omaha, Iowa; aquatic entomologist, conservationist and ecologist; Professor of Natural Resources and Zoology and Research Scientist, Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan) is followed by an appreciation of his work and his odonatological bibliography (1934-1940).

At the memorial service for Dr. Justin W. Leonard, held June 6, 1975 in the Rackham Amphitheater on the campus of the University of Michigan, the last speaker concluded his eulogy with a remark that if "Doc" Leonard could have heard all the words of appreciation and the resumé of all his accomplishments, he might have remarked with his characteristic sense of humor, "Not bad for a poor Iowa farm boy."

JUSTIN W(ILKINSON) LEONARD was born on a farm near Moulton, Iowa, October 28, 1909. He received his early education from the country school nearest his home and at the Centerville (Iowa) High School. He graduated from Grinnel College (Ames, Iowa) in 1931 with an A.B. degree and a major in zoology and a minor in chemistry, and from the University of Michigan with an A.M. in 1932 and a Ph.D in 1937, majoring in Zoology and Entomology. He was a Hinsdale scholar, 1933-1934. In 1934 he joined the staff of the Institute for Fisheries of the Michigan Department of Conservation (now the State Department of Natural Resources) with headquarters in Ann Arbor. It was here that his illustrious career in conservation work



began. In May of 1936, he married FANNIE A. DIVELBLESS who was of great help to him in all phases of his career — including field work and his duties as a member and officer in several professional societies.

Dr. Leonard was with the State Department of Natural Resources for 30 years, serving first as a fisheries investigator (1934-1935), then assistant aquatic biologist (1936-1938) and associate aquatic biologist in charge of the Hunt Creek Experiment Station near Lewiston (1939-1942). His work in the conservation department was interrupted when he entered the Army in 1943 during World War II and served as malaria control officer in the Sanitary Corps for the Southwest Pacific war theater with headquarters in Guadalcanal. He was discharged in 1946 as a Major. He returned to the State Department of Natural Resources as associate fisheries biologist and assistant director of the Institute for Fisheries Research (1946-1948), Fisheries Biologist (1949-1950), and Assistant Deputy Director (1951-1964) in charge of research and development for the department, with headquarters in Lansing. While in Lansing, he was a special consultant for the U.S. Public Health Service (1958-1961), and lecturer at Michigan State University (1958-1964).

After retiring from the State Department of Natural Resources in 1964, he accepted a position at the University of Michigan as Professor in the School of Natural Resources and Professor of Zoology and Research Associate in the Museum of Zoology. He was chairman of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (1966-1967) and the Department of Resource Planning and Conservation (1967-1970).

Dr. Leonard was a fellow of the A.A.A.S.; honorary member and former editor of the American Fisheries Society; fellow of the Wildlife Society of America (president 1956); American Society of Ichthyology and Herpetology; American Society of Limnology and Oceanography (vice-president 1951); Society of Systematic Zoology; and a member and past president of the Michigan Academy of Science, Arts and Letters. In addition to his active participation in the above mentioned organizations, he served on the National Academy of Sciences committee on biology and renewable resources, on the governor's Committee on Control of Botulism, and on the board of directors of the Michigan Rehabilitation Corps. Because of his outstanding work, he was selected for inclusion in "Leaders in American Conservation".

Dr. Leonard is the author of 70 bulletins and articles of which eight are on Odonata or contain references to species in the order. His doctorate thesis, when published, will be the ninth. He was also co-author of three books: "Mayflies of Michigan Trout Streams" (with his wife Fannie), "Conserving Natural Resources" (with S.W. ALLEN), and "The Rampart Dam and Economic Development of Alaska" (with Dr. S. SPURR, former University of Michigan vice-president).

While Dr. and Mrs. Leonard were visiting relatives living near Logan, Iowa, he

had an apparent heart attack, was rushed to a hospital in Omaha, but died on the way there. So ended a noteworthy career on May 26, 1975.

Students, professors, administrators, relatives, and acquaintances came to the memorial service to honor him, not to express their grief as at a funeral but appreciation and gratitude for the privilege of having known him.

I first knew him as a tall and exceptionally handsome graduate student when he came to the Museum in 1932 to study Odonata. Of several genera suggested by Mr. E.B. WILLIAMSON as needing revision, and of which there was ample material in his collection, Leonard chose *Acanthagrion* for his doctorate thesis. He had only briefly the guidance of Mr. Williamson, who died in February 1933. Nevertheless, being a very capable student and artist, he wrote a thesis of high quality well illustrated with 163 beautiful and accurately drawn figures. In it, he described 14 new species. Because of insufficient funds at that time, it was not published by the Museum. During the years since then only two or perhaps three of these new species have been described by other authors. Because so few may be synonyms, the thesis has now been accepted for publication as a memorial number of the Miscellaneous Publications of the Museum, with only a minimum of minor changes and without attempting to update it or to include the hundreds of specimens of this genus now awaiting determination.

Dr. Leonard also had an unfinished manuscript containing the descriptions of two new species of *Nephepeltia*. If the conservation work had not wooed him away from dragonfly studies, I am confident, with the wealth of South American material in the Williamson Collection awaiting study, he would have become a great odonatologist.

After he accepted the position in 1934 with the Fisheries Institute, and I left the Museum in 1937, I saw and heard little of him or his accomplishments. It was at the memorial service and from the newspaper accounts after his death I learned how fully he had justified the faith F.M. GAIGE, then director of the Museum of Zoology, had for him as a graduate student, who early recognized his potential for a great career. Regardless of what he attempted to do, he always attained a degree of excellence that won respect and recognition.

Shortly before his death, the Awards Committee of the University of Michigan selected him as one of three professors to be honored in 1975 as outstanding teachers, an honor of which he had not yet been informed. At the Awards program in October the certificate of award was read by R.L. KENNEDY, vice-president for State Relations and secretary of the University, and presented to Mrs. Leonard by President R.W. FLEMING.

To become an internationally recognized aquatic entomologist, conservationist and ecologist, and one of the most respected and well liked professors at the University of Michigan, was indeed a phenomenal accomplishment for a "poor Iowa farm boy".

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