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NECROLOGY REPORT OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY AND ENTOMOLOGY ALUMNI,
BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY, 1955

VASCO M. TANNER¹

During the past year, three alumni of the Brigham Young University Department of Zoology and Entomology have died. One of these members, Andrew T. Rasmussen, was 72 years old, while the other two were 36 and 37 years of age—too young to be cut short from their very promising careers. These two young scientists may well be listed as casualties of World War II. Staff members of the Brigham Young University have been built up and grown because of their association with these outstanding students in the field of biology, but saddened because of their untimely departure.

ANDREW T. RASMUSSEN
1883-1955

Andrew T. Rasmussen was born in Spring City, Sanpete County, Utah, August 10, 1883. He died at his newly established home in La Canada, California, on October 15, 1955.

He received the degree of Bachelor of Arts from the Brigham Young University in 1909. Because of his outstanding accomplishments in this field, he was made assistant professor and then head of the Department of Biology of the University. He served in this capacity until the autumn of 1913, when he became instructor and graduate assistant in the Department of Physiology at Cornell University, from which institution he received the degree of doctor of philosophy in Anatomy and Physiology in 1916. This same year, Dr. Rasmussen was appointed instructor of anatomy at the University of Minnesota. Here he made rapid advancement in his chosen field, being advanced to the rank of Professor in 1925. He held this position until his retirement in June, 1952.

Dr. Rasmussen was an efficient, hard working scientist. While at Brigham Young University, he spent from 12 to 15 hours per day in the laboratory, producing many anatomical charts and thousands of histological slides. These well established habits of work characterized him through the remainder of his life. His books and scientific articles were enhanced by his accurate drawings and illustrations. His "Laboratory Directions in Neuro-Anatomy" is now in the third edition, while his "Outline of Neuro-Anatomy" has gone through the

1. Contribution No. 150 from the Department of Zoology and Entomology, Brigham Young University.

eighth printing of the third edition. One of the most widely used textbooks in the medical schools of the United States in neuro anatomy is his "The Principle Nervous Pathways." He also published many articles in scientific and medical journals. His little book, "Some Trends in Neuroanatomy," published by Wm. C. Brown Company, 1947, is a very complete and useful history of this subject.

As a teacher, Andrew T. Rasmussen was unsurpassed. During his thirty-five years of teaching at the University of Minnesota, between four and five thousand medical and postgraduate students sat in his classes. One graduate student said: "Of all medical courses I have taken anywhere, his was the best remembered and the one most actively participated in by the students." His demonstrations of well chosen specimens, which were gathered during his long teaching career, greatly enlivened his classes and made a lasting impression on his students.

Dr. Rasmussen had the companionship of Gertrude Brown, whom he married in 1911. She was the daughter of Professor James L. Brown of the Department of Education at Brigham Young University. From her early childhood, she was interested in nature study and loved the out-of-doors; this enabled her to be a great support and helper in all of her husband's biological activities. They are the parents of four children, all of whom are college graduates. When Dr. Rasmussen retired in 1952, the couple came west and made their home in La Canada, California. He accepted a visiting professorship with the Department of Investigation of Medicine, University of California at Los Angeles, which position he held until his death.

In June, 1953, at the 78th annual commencement of Brigham Young University, Dr. Rasmussen was honored with the distinguished service award. He also held membership in many of the learned societies of this country.

Andrew T. Rasmussen, whose grandparents and parents were sturdy Danish converts and members of the Latter-day Saint Church, made a most enviable local and national record for himself. His name is written near the top of the scroll of distinguished alumni of Brigham Young University.

LOWELL STORRS MILLER

1919-1955

Lowell S. Miller died December 12, 1955, in the St. Mary's Hospital at Rochester, Minnesota. He was born March 9, 1919, in Lehi, Utah, the son of Elmer and Rosella Storrs Miller. He made his home in Provo, where his father is head of the Department of Economics at Brigham Young University.

As a youth, Lowell was interested in entomology. During his high school years, he spent much time at the University learning the rudiments of collecting and preparing insects for a collection. He entered Brigham Young University as a freshman in 1936, pursuing a course in the natural sciences. In the spring of 1940, he volunteered

for military service and was sent to the Philippine Islands to serve with the U. S. Army weather service. He was captured on Bataan April 9, 1942, was a member of the ill fated "death march" and spent forty-one months as a Japanese prisoner of war. It was here he contracted the illness and underwent the hardship from which he never fully recovered.²



Lowell Storrs Miller

Upon being discharged, he returned to Provo and on December 1, 1945, married Blanche Thomas, daughter of John E. Thomas of Malad, Idaho. Lowell and Blanche are the parents of a son, Sheldon, and a daughter, Maryanne.

In the autumn of 1945, Lowell reentered the Brigham Young University, receiving a bachelor of arts degree in 1946 and a master of arts degree in 1947. He then did graduate work at the Stanford University Marine Station, the University of Illinois, and the University of Iowa. He

was working on his thesis for a doctor of philosophy degree at the time of his death. Lowell Miller was an assistant professor of zoology at Parsons College, Fairfield, Iowa in 1948 and in 1949. He was a member of the University of Illinois Museum Expedition to Venezuela in 1950 and had served as ranger naturalist for the National Parks Service during the summer of 1951, prior to going to Davenport. He was appointed director of the Davenport Museum in 1951, which position he held until January of 1955, when he accepted the appointment as director of the Marathon County Historical Society and curator of the museum of Yawkey Home, at Wausau, Wisconsin.

Lowell Miller was affiliated with a number of professional and civic organizations, among which were memberships in the American Association of Museums, American Society of Systematic Zoology, the Iowa, Illinois and Wisconsin Academies of Science, and the American Society of Mammalogists.

2. He was closely associated with Harry P. Chandler, Harry Thomas, Ray Snow and James W. Bee, who were high school and boy scout friends and college companions. These five enthusiastic nature lovers majored in Zoology and Entomology. When World War II began, Miller, Snow and Thomas volunteered to serve their country. Miller and Snow were sent to the Philippine Islands and both became prisoners of war of the Japanese. Ray Snow died on the "death march" and was hastily buried by his buddy and companion, Lowell Miller, Harry Thomas was killed in war activities in Italy. Thus, today James W. Bee is the sole survivor of the five energetic devotees of scouting, hiking and learning first-hand about the nature lore of Utah Valley. James Bee is now a graduate student in Zoology at the University of Kansas.

Lowell earned the respect of those with whom he associated as well as people of the community. He was among the most promising of the alumni members from the Department of Zoology and Entomology. Staff members of the Department are saddened at his untimely passing. We extend our sincere sympathy to his wife, children and parents.

We are pleased to include the fine tribute paid to Lowell by the board members of the Marathon County Historical Society.

"Lowell S. Miller came to Wisconsin last year as first director of Marathon County Historical Society. It was a crucial time: The Yawkey Home had just been acquired; successful establishment of a museum demanded increased membership, keen community and county interest.

Miller possessed a tremendous vitality and wide professional experience. His knowledge had an amazing breadth, spanned from biology to photography, included conservation, natural history, archaeology. He came to Marathon County from Iowa where he had headed the Davenport Museum for three years, doubling membership and expanding program in the process. Miller had studied at Brigham Young, Stanford, Illinois and Iowa and he had spent 41 long months in World War II as prisoner of the Japanese.

In Marathon County, Miller plunged wholeheartedly into every phase of community life. Under his leadership, the county historical society's year was one of continual success. At his death, Society members, and acquaintances up and down the county and throughout the state mourned the loss of an able leader and associate."

HARRY PHYLANDER CHANDLER

1917-1955

Entomologist and assistant Fisheries Biologist with the Trout Management Study of the Inland Fisheries Branch, California Fish and Game.

Harry P. Chandler died on April 16, 1955, after an illness of more than a year. He was born July 10, 1917, in Oregon. When Harry was a small boy, his mother moved to Provo. After completing high school, he entered the Brigham Young University in the fall of 1935.

Harry graduated with a bachelor of arts degree in 1939 and a master of arts degree in 1941 from the Department of Zoology and Entomology of Brigham Young University.

He continued his academic work by entering the graduate school of the University of California in the fall of 1941. Here his study activities were interrupted for the next four years, during which time he served in the navy, attaining the rank of Lieutenant J.G. He was a gunnery and torpedo officer on a destroyer in the Pacific field of operations. When he was released from the service, he again entered the University of California, where he continued his work in entomology. He left the University in 1947 to join the Department of Fish and Game.

Harry Chandler was one of the most ambitious and capable students of the Coleoptera that we have had at the Brigham Young

University. He was a good collector and observer of the aquatic beetles. At the time of his death, he was also making progress in studying the Trichoptera of California. Harry's insect collection has been contributed to the California Academy of Sciences.

He is survived by his wife, La June Chandler and four children, who live at Red Bluff, California; also his mother and a sister who reside at Richmond.

Mr. Joseph H. Wales, a colleague of Harry Chandler's in the Inland Fisheries work, paid him the following tribute:

" . . . By training and by aptitude, Harry was one of the most proficient biologists the Inland Fisheries Branch has ever had. His particular ability was aquatic entomology and he soon became a national authority in this field. In 1946-47, he worked at the University of California on a research fellowship collecting and classifying aquatic insects. He assisted Dr. R. L. Usinger of the Entomology Department in writing a syllabus for the first course on the Biology of Aquatic and Littoral Insects to be given in that Department, and later taught the laboratory portion of the course. Among the other scientific publications by Chandler are description of a new genus and five new species of aquatic insects. Several important scientific works were left unfinished when death cut short this promising career at the age of 37 years."

California Department of Fish and Game, Vol. 41, No. 3, p. 348, 1955.

Among the scientific papers published by Mr. Chandler are the following:

- 1941 New species of Coleoptera from Utah (Omophronidae and Dytiscidae). *The Great Basin Naturalist*, Vol. II, No. 2, pp. 99-104.
- 1954a Four new species of Dobsonflies from California. *Pan-Pacific Entomologist*, Vol. XXX, No. 2, pp. 105-111.
- 1954b New Genera and species of Elmidae (Coleoptera) from California. *Pan-Pacific Entomologist*, Vol. XXX, No. 2, pp. 125-131.