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ANGUS MUNN WOODBURY  
1886-1964

Vasco M. Tanner<sup>1</sup>

Angus Munn Woodbury, Professor of Biology, Emeritus, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, and his wife, Grace Atkin Woodbury, were killed in a two-car head-on collision Saturday, August 1, 1964, a mile north of Loveland, Colorado, on U.S. Highway 287. Dr. Woodbury was employed, at the time of his death, as a lecturer at the BSCS Institute at the State University of Colorado, Fort Collins.

Angus M. Woodbury was born in Saint George, Utah on July 11, 1886. His parents, John Taylor Woodbury and Mary Evans Woodbury, were early settlers in St. George. They were highly respected members of this isolated pioneer settlement. Dr. Woodbury early took advantage of educational opportunities. He attended the Brigham Young University in 1906, after which he became assistant Forest Ranger in 1908. He retired from the forest service in 1920, having advanced to that of deputy supervisor. From 1920 to 1926 he was engaged in agricultural work and was teaching assistant at Dixie Junior College. In 1926 he again attended Brigham Young University, graduating in 1927 with a Bachelor of Science degree, with a major in zoology.

In the fall of 1927 Dr. Woodbury began his graduate work in zoology at the University of Utah. He was granted a Master of Science Degree in the spring of 1928. After serving as an instructor in 1929 he made preparations to continue his training in zoology at the University of California, Berkeley, from which institution he graduated with a Doctor of Philosophy Degree in 1931. In 1925 he was appointed Park Naturalist at Zion National Park which position he held during the summers until 1933. It was while serving as a pioneer naturalist that he became interested in ecology which resulted in his two major contributions in this field: *Biotic Relationships of Zion Canyon, Utah with Special Reference to Succession*, 1933, and *Principles of General Ecology*, 1953.

In 1931 Woodbury attained the rank of Assistant Professor at the University of Utah, and advanced to Associate Professor in 1939, and Professor in 1942. He was made head of the Department of Vertebrate Zoology in 1948 and retired as Emeritus professor in 1952.

Retirement had no deterring effects on Woodbury's activities since he served as director of Ecological Research at Dugway Proving Grounds from 1952 to 1956. In 1957 he was made director of Ecological Research on the Colorado River Project which position he held until 1964. His ability to organize and direct research work on the Ecology of Disease Transmission in native animals at Dugway met with great favor by the Army Chemical Corps. The monographic reports on the flora and fauna of the Upper Colorado River Basin carried out in connection with several collaborators, laid the founda-

1. Professor of Zoology and Entomology, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah.



Angus M. Woodbury, general ecologist, biologist:  
University of Utah, 1928-1964.

tion for future work on the ecology of this new recreational waterway, Lake Powell. One of the convincing arguments made in support of the protection of Rainbow Bridge without building a dam on Aztec Creek, was made by Dr. Woodbury—*Science*, 1961, 133(3464): 1572-1583.

His accomplishments were many. One that stood out was his teaching ability. He was a devoted leader of his students. His quiet, kindly manners endeared him to his students and friends. His lectures were well organized and frequently interspaced with clever, meaningful jokes followed by a "whisper-soft laugh". He drew from his scholarly background and wide field experience many clinching examples to buttress his reasoning.

Professor Woodbury's publications, which include several books, number over 100 and cover a wide range of subject matter. He was greatly interested in the history of Utah, as evidenced by his several papers including: *The Route of Jedediah S. Smith in 1826 from the Great Salt Lake*; and *A History of Southern Utah and its National Parks*. He was well informed on Utah birds. As a senior co-author with Clarence Cottam and John Sugden, a sizeable manuscript on the birds of Utah awaits publication. These three authors did, however, publish in 1949: *An Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Utah*. In 1945 Woodbury and Henry N. Russell published: *Birds of the Navajo Country*, 158 pages. Woodbury's interest in the reptiles of Utah resulted in two published reports: *Catalogue of the Reptiles of Utah* and *Studies of the Desert Tortoise, Gopherus agassizii* (with Ross Hardy), which will long be useful references when dealing with this class of Utah animals. A complete list of all of Dr. Woodbury's published papers is included as a part of this paper.

Professor Woodbury was an active and enthusiastic supporter of a number of professional organizations. He was punctilious as to his attendance and participation in society meetings, even though it necessitated his traveling long distances outside of Utah. Some of the scientific organizations of which he was a member and his rank follow: Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science; Fellow of the American Ornithological Union and a member of the council of this organization; Fellow of the Herpetological League; Fellow, Utah Academy, Science, Arts and Letters; Member, Population Reference Bureau; Member, American Society Ichthyologists and Herpetologists; Member, Ecological Society of America; Member, Cooper Ornithological Society; Member, Biological Society of Washington; Member, Nature Conservancy; and Member, American Museum Natural History. He was active in the Audubon Society Program in Utah.

Angus M. Woodbury and Grace Atkin were married on January 15, 1909. They are survived by their four sons and two daughters: Lowell Angus; Marian (Mrs. A. Herbert Gold); Max Atkin; Edith Rae (Mrs. Robert C. Pendelton); Dixon Miles; and John Walter. The sons all have Ph.D. degrees in the biological sciences, having followed in their father's footsteps. The daughters did not depart

from the field of biology since they are married to Ph.D. biologists.

I have never known a more devoted couple than Angus and Grace Woodbury. After marriage their ontogony was such that their lives, home life and research activities resulted in an integrated family life. They traveled together in field study activities and made their home a haven for biology students. Mrs. Woodbury once said, "I early learned to live in peaceful coexistence with a scientist."

Few native sons of Utah have risen to such prominence in the field of biology as did Angus M. Woodbury. His untimely death came as a great shock to his family, colleagues, and host of friends. At the time of his death he was actively engaged in several research projects. His accomplishments and influence as a teacher will live on in the enrichment of the lives of others.

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- f. Ecological studies of tularemia in Utah. In symposium on ecology of disease transmission in native animals. Army Chemical Corps, Dugway, Utah, 81-87.

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