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## Vasco M. Tanner—colleague and friend

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## VASCO M. TANNER — COLLEAGUE AND FRIEND

George H. Hansen<sup>1</sup>

The Vasco M. Tanner and George H. Hansen families first became acquainted at Brigham Young University in the fall of 1927. At that time, several academic departments were one- and two-person teaching departments and were housed on lower campus. Zoology, Botany, and Geology were in that category.

Dr. Tanner was not only a good teacher, but he also found time to keep very busy collecting life specimens in the Great Basin area. Regional ecology was a part of his interest then, and it remains so today.

His small-group field trips made a lasting impression on all students who took advantage of them. These field trips somehow impressed us with a great truism in nature. The story of the rocks of the area and the life stories of plants and animals seemed to unfold into a master plan of creation still in operation. These stories seemed to be related to the processes that hold all life sciences together. Vasco has a good background in basic geology and botany; hence, the biology and geology groups planned joint field trips into southern and western Utah. Dr. Walter P. Cottam, then chairman of the Botany Department, was also a dynamic student of plant ecology at that time and still is a super teacher of Great Basin area problems.

Both the Tanner and Hansen families spent each summer for fifteen years at the Aspen Grove summer camp, and our children sort of grew up together. This camp life stimulated our family's thinking about nature's problems and the great out-of-doors. A trip with students to the skyline crest of Timpanogos was always an instructional climb, and Vasco Tanner was in the midst of it with all his heart and soul.

When his daughter, Carmella, toured Europe with a BYU student group, Vasco, by letter, reminded her of the many interesting places she was visiting and briefed her on the historical significance connected with those places.

Dr. Tanner was, and still is, meticulous and precise in all that he does. This serves as an object lesson for all of us who know him best. His enthusiasm is catching, and many students in many parts of the world are carrying on where he is leaving off.

Our families are widely scattered, and they in turn have their own new families, who, as a second generation, are privileged to know something of their heritage in this great mountain land on a wonderful spinning planet.

To Vasco and Annie and their children's children we say, "God bless."—George and Afton.

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