

RESOLUTION OF RESPECT

ANGUS M. WOODBURY

1886-1964

Dr. Angus Munn Woodbury and his charming wife, Grace Atkin Woodbury, were killed in an automobile accident August 1, 1964, near Loveland, Colorado.

Grandson of two 1847 pioneers, Angus Munn Woodbury was born at St. George, Utah, a quarter century after settlement on July 11, 1886, when many of the original pioneers were still living. Following the pioneering spirit, he throughout his life explored new fields of knowledge in ecology and other sciences.

He received his elementary and high school education in Salt Lake City, St. George, and Brigham Young University. As a young man of 17, he assisted with government land surveys in the Uinta Basin preparatory to opening the former Uinta Indian Reservation to white settlement. In 1908 at age 22, he entered the U. S. Forest Service and during the next 12 years assisted in establishing forest boundaries and organizing planned management of grazing and timbering on the Dixie and other National Forests in Utah.

After leaving the Forest Service, he attended Dixie College and obtained his B. S. degree at Brigham Young University in 1927, M. S. at University of Utah in 1928, Ph. D. at University of California in Berkeley in 1931 and post-doctoral studies at Wisconsin, Minnesota and Duke Universities in 1940.

In the summer of 1925, he began pioneering naturalist work in Zion National Park and in succeeding summers worked out plans for guided trail trips, museum displays, camp fire talks and formal lectures. In the winters, he taught at Dixie College for two years, then moved in 1927 to the University of Utah where he was employed until his death.

During 25 years of teaching in the field of biology at the University, he pioneered the specialized science of general ecology and developed a college text book used in many parts of the world. In 1948, he became head of the Department of Vertebrate Zoology. In research, he specialized in studies on reptiles and birds, emphasizing the wintering aggregations of tortoises and snakes, and the habitats of birds. These studies were reported in many scientific papers.

At retirement in 1952, he negotiated a contract with the U. S. Army through the University to study the dissemination of local diseases among native animals. This pioneer work,

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using an ecological approach, culminated in a symposium on Ecology of Disease Transmission in Native Animals, attended by about 100 scientists from the United States and Canada.

During the years 1957–1962, he directed studies and made reports of the plants and animals living in the areas to be covered by the storage waters of Glen Canyon, Flaming Gorge, Navajo, and Curecanti reservoirs in the Upper Colorado River Basin. At age 78, he was still engaged in research and teaching.

In 1909, he was married to Grace Atkin of Dixie pioneer ancestry. The couple had six children, four sons and two daughters, all graduates of the University of Utah. The four sons and two sons-in-law all have Ph.D. degrees.