

OBITUARIES



Charles Emerson Sanborn, 1877-1944

On July 5, 1944, Charles Emerson Sanborn died at his home in Stillwater, Oklahoma, ending 35 years of service to the state as a teacher and scientist in the field of biology. For 25 years, from 1909 to 1934, he was head of the Department of Entomology of the Oklahoma A. & M. College. During this period he served as Dean of the School of Agriculture, and Director of the Agricultural Experiment Station several times. He organized the graduate school and acted as its chairman for many years.

Professor Sanborn was born at La Plata, Missouri, April 16, 1877 and received the A.B. degree from Kansas University in 1903 and the A.M. degree in 1904. From 1905 to 1909 he was Co-operative Entomologists for the Texas Agricultural Experiment

Station and Acting State Entomologist in 1908. In 1909 he was employed by the U. S. Bureau of Entomology and was stationed in Illinois.

Sanborn's interest went beyond the field of entomology. He was intensely interested in wildlife conservation and the great out-of-doors. He was President of the Oklahoma Wildlife Federation from 1937 when it was organized, until his death. He was a Director of the National Izaak Walton League of America and a National Director of the Boy Scouts of America. He was one of the founders of the Oklahoma Academy of Science and was its president in 1924-25. He was a member of Phi Sigma, Phi Kappa Phi and Sigma Xi and the American Association of Economic Entomologists from 1909 to 1926.

Sanborn was one of the best liked faculty members of the Oklahoma A. & M. College. He was in great demand as a speaker at boy's camps, wildlife conservation meetings and at agricultural extension short courses. He was a very effective radio speaker and his programs received enthusiastic comments from listeners in the neighboring states as well as in Oklahoma.

Perhaps his best scientific accomplishment was the discovery that horse flies were important vectors of Anaplasmosis, a disease of cattle. Although much

criticism was directed at his findings, later work proved that he and his co-workers were right. He was especially interested in the Aphididae and his publication in 1904 on this family was a noteworthy contribution summarizing what was known at that time about this interesting and important group of insects.

In his passing, we all feel that a great and true friend of Oklahoma has gone. Among many tributes paid to him was a special broadcast made in his honor by KVOO in Tulsa.—F. A. FENTON.

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