



DR. F. W. ALBERTSON

1892 - 1961

F. W. Albertson, Professor of Botany and past chairman of the Division of Biological Sciences at Fort Hays Kansas State College, Vice-President of the Ecological Society in 1951, died after a brief illness at Hays, Kansas, on June 8, 1961, at the age of 69.

Dr. Albertson was born in Hill City, Kansas, received his B. S. degree at Fort Hays Kansas State College, his M.S. at the University of Missouri, and his Ph. D. at the University of Nebraska. At Nebraska, he studied under Dr. J. E. Weaver and later co-authored many papers and books with Dr. Weaver. In 1917, he married Ruby Mullen and had two children, Dr. Maurice Albertson and Mrs. Walter Newport.

He joined the staff at Fort Hays in 1918 and remained there until his death. He was recognized and world-renowned as a grassland ecologist. He was an unquestioned authority on drought and grazing, two of the most important problems of the Central Great Plains. He published 34 articles on these subjects and co-authored a book entitled "Grasslands of the Great Plains". His work has been widely used by technicians in the field and has been very important in the establishment of better range management practices throughout the Great Plains. In 1956 to 1958 he and Mrs. Albertson spent two years in India helping the Indian people find ways to improve their grasslands.

He was tireless and ambitious, more for his school and his students than for himself. His greatest satisfaction was in having successful students. Dr. Albertson's students are scattered all over the face of the globe, actively teaching about, doing research on, and

managing grasslands. His students are all proud to be mentioned as "one of Dr. Albertson's boys".

His teaching was not limited to technical information about grassland ecology but was permeated by his philosophy of living. He was such a good, kind, sincere, and selfless man that all who knew him could not help but be better because of it. Listening to Dr. Albertson lecture, one felt a greater respect for the man, an appreciation of our great country, and a peacefulness that seemed to emanate from him. He had the ability to talk simply and clearly about the importance of grass, soil, water, and other natural resources in a personal, practical way. He was a great teacher, a great Christian, an inspiration for learning, and instilled in his students a devotion to knowledge as it benefits mankind.

Although he loved his work and worked at it tirelessly, he still had time to visit the sick at hospitals several times a week and to be active in his church and in community affairs. For he was a man who truly walked with God and appreciated the great wondrous natural beauty of God's earthly kingdom. He was a reverent and intelligent man who had made his peace with God and the world. He never grew old because he thought young thoughts, actively absorbing new knowledge and planning for the future. His plans went beyond his lifetime so that the work he had started would be continued after he had gone. He will be missed by all who knew him, not only for his good humor, insatiable curiosity, meticulous preparation for teaching and research, but also for the integrity of his professional judgment. (Prepared by Dr. G. W. Tomanek and F. E. Kinsinger at the request of the Resolutions Committee.)

Source: Bulletin of the Ecological Society of America, Vol. 42, No. 4 (Dec., 1961), pp. 171-172. Courtesy of JSTOR.