

THE GEORGE MERCER AWARD FOR 1965



The George Mercer Award for 1965 was awarded to Dr. Kenneth F. Norris, Associate Professor of Zoology, University of California at Los Angeles for his paper entitled "Functions of Temperature in the Ecology of the Percoid Fish *Girella Nigricans* (Ayres)" in *ECOLOGICAL MONOGRAPHS* 33(1):23-62. This award was announced at the Annual Banquet of the Society in Urbana, Illinois on August 17, 1965. A check for \$100.00 that accompanied this award was presented to Dr. Norris by University of California Chancellor Franklin D. Murphy (left) as shown above.

Dr. Norris' professional career has been associated with the far western part of the United States. His biological training was mainly accomplished at the University of California, Los Angeles where he received his undergraduate degree, MS, and doctorate—the work for which he did in conjunction with the Scripps Institution of Oceanography. Since 1958 he has been on the faculty of the Zoology Department and his studies and interests have been quite broad. These include the problem of salt excretion in desert reptiles, behavior of reptiles, radiotelemetry of physiological data from large lizards, color phenomena in reptiles, handling of trained porpoises in the open sea, diving and locomotion studies

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with three swimming porpoises, discrimination studies with blindfolded porpoises, and sound pathway studies in porpoises. He is editor of the International Symposium of Cetacean Research, which appeared this autumn as a book entitled "Whales, Dolphins and Porpoises." Dr. Norris is active in conservation efforts, particularly in the establishment of a system of research reserves in California.

The George Mercer Award was established in 1948 by a member of the Ecological Society of America in honor of a young naturalist and ecologist who was killed in World War I. Its purpose is "to encourage others to publish papers comparable with those it is reasonable to suppose he would have published if he had lived." The award is made each year to a young man, who in the previous 2 years, has published an outstanding paper in ecology.
