

BENCHMARKS !!

June Crowe Member of WAML, Tucson, Arizona, has been appointed Librarian for the City of Tucson's Planning Dept. She had recently worked at the University of Arizona's Office of Arid Land Studies as a training coordinator for Yemeni students to obtain training as library technicians.

IN MEMORIAM

EDWIN H. BRYAN JR. -- died July 24, 1985 at age 87 in Honolulu.

Ed was one of the twenty-nine founding members of WAML in 1967 and remained a member until the 1978/79 membership year, at which time he "retired", passing along to Lee Motteler some of the responsibilities that he had maintained at the Bernice Bishop Museum in Honolulu for over six decades.

Christened Edwin Horace Bryan III, he was born on April 13, 1898, in Philadelphia. He grew up in California. On the invitation of his uncle, Bryan moved to Honolulu on July 4, 1916. He enrolled in the College of Hawaii and studied botany and entomology. In the summer of 1919 he was hired as an assistant in entomology at the Bishop Museum. This began a career that included service as Map Librarian, as well as Curator of the Museum, and culminated only at death - an unparalleled career of sixty-six years that was interrupted only by military service during World War II.

His geographical interests included the publication of Captain Bryan's Pacific War Atlas during the war years. In 1942 he began a title that is still being published: Bryan's Sectional Maps of O'ahu - a popular street guide. In 1960 he founded the Pacific Scientific Information Center at the Bishop Museum. It is a clearing house for a wide range of geographical and scientific information and materials.

When Ed first joined WAML, I recall reading his letter in which he described his saving from the incinerator a truckload or more of captured Japanese maps of Pacific islands. What was surplus to the military was valuable cartographic treasure to Ed Bryan and he had the military trucks redirected to the Bishop Museum. Included in this salvaged material is a collection of aerial photographs which today are being preserved under the guidance of Larry Cruse at UC San Diego and the WAML microform consortium (see WAML IB June 1985, pg. 344).

Ed Bryan's knowledge of the Pacific islands was encyclopedic, and his personal contact with researchers throughout the world made him one of the most respected and beloved men in the circum-Pacific. In addition to the lengthy obituary that appeared in The Honolulu Advertiser on July 26th, the Honolulu Star-Bulletin of July 27 carried the following tribute to him as an editorial:

Edwin H. Bryan Jr.

"Edwin H. Bryan Jr., who died Wednesday at age 87, was one of Hawaii's outstanding scientists and a fixture at the Bishop Museum since 1919. He was also well known for his Oahu street guide, published since 1942.

Born in Philadelphia, he grew up in California and moved to Honolulu in 1916, where he enrolled in the College of Hawaii (later the University of Hawaii) and studied botany and entomology.

He became curator of collections at the museum in 1927. In 1960 he founded the Pacific Scientific Information center, a clearing house for Pacific geography. He used royalties from his street guide and his pension to help finance the information center.

Mr. Bryan's contributions to science and to Hawaii were immeasurable. The community, and in particular the Bishop Museum, have lost a major figure."

Ed's death occurred while I was on family vacation on the Hawaiian Islands. I seized the opportunity to fly into Honolulu for the Memorial on August 3d. Held in the Hawaiian Courtyard at the Bishop Museum, about seventy-five of us sat through the occasional rain showers to hear several friends and colleagues eulogize Ed Bryan for his humanity and his dedication to the many professions that he for so long served. In addition to his interests in botany, entomology, and geography, he founded the Honolulu astronomical observatory (including the creation of star charts for the Pacific skies that are still in use).

During the Memorial, the Director of the Bishop Museum announced plans for a permanent memorial to be incorporated in construction plans for new Museum buildings.

In addition to letters of condolence read during the Memorial from Hawaii's Governor, as well as from Senator Spark Matsunaga, the Regents of The University of Hawaii issued a Proclamation in honor of Ed Bryan.

[Stan Stevens]