

OBITUARY

Edward Sturtevant Hathaway
1886-1984EDWARD STURTEVANT HATHAWAY, 1945¹

Dr. Edward Sturtevant Hathaway, known as the "Father of Louisiana Mosquito Control" died in Denton, Texas in his 98th year.

Born of "Ohio people" in Maryville, Tennessee, October 17, 1886, Dr. Hathaway began his education in Cincinnati grade schools and attended Woodward High School. He received an A. B. in 1909 from the University of Cincinnati where he studied Classics. Academic employment was not immediately possible after graduation and so Dr. Hathaway sold aluminum cookware and took postgraduate courses at U.C. in biology (1910) until his appointment as Professor of Natural Sciences at Tusculum College, Greenville, Tennessee in 1911. There, Dr. Hathaway taught many courses including biology, physics, chemistry, astronomy and Bible. His tenure at Tusculum was interrupted by WWI when he served as a stateside Infantry Captain (1917-19). Upon his return to Tusculum, he married Emma Gahagen in 1919, resumed teaching duties, and after summer sessions at the University of Wisconsin, received his M.A. in Field Zoology in 1922. Soon after, Dr. Hathaway received a teaching fellowship at the University of Wisconsin (Madison), and after exacting ecological training with Professors A. S. Pearse and C. Juday, he received his Ph.D. in 1925. The degree was for studies in Zoology (Ichthyology/Herpetology) and the ponderous dissertation written by Dr. Hathaway was entitled "Quantitative Study of the Changes Produced by Acclimatization in the Tolerance of High Temperature by Fishes and Amphibians."

Dr. Hathaway was appointed Associate Professor of Zoology at Tulane University of Louisiana in 1925. He rose to the rank of full Professor in 1927 and was appointed Chairman of the Zoology Department the same year. During his command of the Department at Tulane, Dr. Hathaway taught several formidable courses, one of which was Mosquito Control Biology. He enjoyed thoroughly training his students and they elected him an honorary member of their biology fraternity, Beta Mu. His research specialty was studying Louisiana marshland and factors influencing mosquito breeding. Despite his claim that he "was never one who could teach, do research and keep up with committee assignments simultaneously," he published some important articles. An

¹ Courtesy of Tulane University of Louisiana.

example of an outstanding pioneer work is the monograph "Plant Communities in the Marshlands of Southeastern Louisiana," which he coauthored in 1938 with Dr. W. Penfound. Dr. Hathaway armed himself with an ample supply of candy bars for energy to do the necessary field work which was in unexplored Louisiana wetlands. He believed "there is little gain in repeating work done by earlier research."

The major thrust of Dr. Hathaway's teaching was directed at premedical and preprofessional biology students. He was their taskmaster and a stickler regarding academic honesty. A perfectionist, his zoology courses were unavoidable and incredibly rigorous. Individualized outlines directed the student agenda. Serving as their principal premedical advisor, Dr. Hathaway insisted that potential medical and biology preprofessionals have "savvy" (original thought) and were never to create a "smoke screen" (pretend knowledge they did not have). Misrepresentation was a perfidy ("dreadful as sin"). When preprofessionals left his tutelage, they had the necessary knowledge (and fortitude) or they didn't go to medical or graduate school. Some of his outstanding students who serve as a tribute to his success as a professor are Drs. C. Burch (Cardiologist), H. Buechner (Chest Diseases), M. DeBakey (Heart Surgeon), R. Jung (Tropical Medicine), C. Read (Parasitologist), E. Lambremont (Entomologist). Dr. Hathaway took much inspiration in training such individuals from his colleague and contemporary, Dr. H. Cummins, Tulane University Medical School Anatomy Professor.

Dr. Hathaway retired from his chairmanship at Tulane (his first career) in 1952 after 26 years of service to that University. For several years at Tulane he held the W. R. Irby Chair in Zoology and in 1953 was appointed Professor Emeritus. During his long chairmanship, the Zoology Department remained small and stable, emphasizing teaching.

At the time of his retirement, Dr. Hathaway belonged to many scientific societies including the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Ecological Society of America, American Society of Limnology and Oceanography, Society of Experimental Biology and Medicine, Society of Systematic Zoology, Entomological Society of America, Association of Southeastern Biologists, Louisiana Academy of Sciences (President 1953-54) and Society of Sigma XI (1923). His favorite membership, however, was in the American Mosquito Control Association. Thus in 1952, he began his second career to organize the Louisiana Mosquito Control Association as an adjunct to the AMCA. From an ecological standpoint, Dr. Hathaway wished to follow the precept of Percy Viosca, one-time Chief Biologist for the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, to "keep the wetlands wet and the dry lands dry." Dr. Hathaway's studies in Plaquemines Parish in the 1940s, funded by the Freeport Sulphur Company, had given him insight into the need for an organized mosquito control effort in Louisiana. After a methodical and monumental effort, lasting five years, A. B. Ritter and Dr. Hathaway, enlisting the most competent support of a combination of mosquito control experts (many of whom Dr. Hathaway had trained) and political protagonists (self-trained), established the LMCA as a legal entity on December 2, 1957. No doubt his early experience as a salesman came in handy in canvassing for the creation of the LMCA. Dr. Hathaway fostered the initial success of the LMCA, stimulating interest by sending reams of letters and information on mosquito control (multi-copied on an old A.B. Dick hectograph) to its constituents. Throughout, Dr. Hathaway and supporters of the LMCA believed that mosquito control needs required scientific verification. After 1957, funds were again at hand from the Freeport Sulphur Company to sustain studies to justify the need for the formation of mosquito control districts. The U.S.D.A. also contributed to the financial and research effort, as did the State of Louisiana and individual parishes. Dr. Hathaway's important publication in 1959 entitled "What Louisianians Need to Know about Mosquitoes" was issued by the LMCA to educate the public of the need for the formation of mosquito control districts.

By 1971, when Dr. Hathaway retired from this second career, five heavily populated parishes in Louisiana had professional mosquito control districts. During his relationship with the LMCA, Dr. Hathaway served on its Board of Directors (1957-60), as Vice-President (1959-60), and as its Executive Director (1961-70). With his encouragement and blessing "Le Marougouin" (Cajun-French for Mosquito), the first LMCA Newsletter, was issued in 1970. He served as an LMCA consultant in 1971. Perhaps his greatest legacy to the organization is the professional men and women he boldly nurtured and trained who now hold key positions of leadership in mosquito control agencies in Louisiana. They serve the dream he never let die that something could be done to "improve the living conditions of man and domestic animals" by scientific mosquito control in Louisiana.

From 1970-78, Dr. Hathaway lived peacefully retired in his uptown homestead in New Orleans, a stone's throw from Tulane. There he enjoyed the company of his loving wife Emma, sharing with her the fruits of retirement. This time for him was a period of recollection when as a younger man he played the mandolin or violin and entertained students, friends and fellow scientists. Gardening became an important pastime as he thoughtfully continued to plant and tend Louisiana Iris, tropical ginger and, his wife's favorite, nasturtiums.

Upon his wife's death in 1978, Dr. Hathaway moved to Denton, Texas to be in the care of his family. He was introspective in his very last years, but still produced an occasional song for his visitors. He died on February 10, 1984.

During his life, Dr. Hathaway was honored many times for his scientific achievement. He was, of course, honored by high awards from the AMCA and the LMCA, and the Hathaway-Ritter Award of the LMCA that is given to Louisiana scientists for research excellence in mosquito control is a tribute to him. But as a freshwater zoologist, perhaps he felt most honored (and amused) when a Louisiana crayfish, *Orconectes difficilis hathawayi* (Penn) 1952, was named for him. As its namesake was so fond of doing, this quick little "crawd" is found dabbling in the riffles of Louisiana creeks questing for and menacing the immature stages of many species of dipterans. Dr. Hathaway was also proud of the fact that his "Key for the Recognition of Louisiana Mosquitoes (Females) with Naked Eye and Hand Lens" developed in 1959 was used in Louisiana universities to train

entomologists. In fact, it is still used as a practical teaching aid by the staff of the Tulane University, Department of Tropical Medicine, for the introductory course in Medical Entomology. The key is clear, concise and accurate in its presentation, somewhat like the teaching style of its creator.

The life of a man needs definition and purpose. Dr. Hathaway's life was defined by dedication: to his family, his students, his friends, the citizenry of Louisiana and to science. His purpose was first to train students to develop analytical minds and then later to establish, with others, an organization aimed at controlling mosquitoes by ecologically sound methods. He succeeded in both undertakings during his long life.

Dr. Hathaway is survived by his daughter, Mrs. Marcia Hathaway Henderson and his grandchildren, Mr. Peyton Henderson and Miss Ashley Henderson.

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