

and from the unwashed to the over-scrubbed.

He was a kindly, generous-hearted man who liked people, adored children and was fond of animals. He was a devoted husband to his wife Alice, loving father to his daughter Ann, and proud grandfather to his three grandchildren, and all respond-

ed with warm affection. Throughout his hours of greatest trial, Mrs. Spencer remained steadfastly and reassuringly by his side.

Professor Spencer will long be remembered.

K. GRAHAM
October 11, 1966

GEORGE AUSTIN HARDY (1888-1966)

The all-round naturalist of a generation ago was a very special type of person. He was one who was well-versed in all phases of the out-of-doors and at the same time was an authority in one or two special fields. He could name almost every tree, shrub or flower in the area that he roamed and could identify every bird and insect that came to notice. At the same time he could interpret the patterns of life that flowed by in terms of rocks, soil and climate that made up the physical world around him.

Such a person was George Austin Hardy. Stimulated by direct contact with a countryside rich in living things he developed a keen interest in nature as a youth in the Glasgow area where he was brought up. In those days, more than 60 years ago, formal training in natural science was not easy to come by but this lack was offset by living in an area relatively unspoiled by settlement and by association with naturalists who were willing to offer help and encouragement.

After receiving some training as a taxidermist and having taken some courses in biology at Glasgow Technical School Hardy emigrated to Canada where he maintained his interest in natural history while homesteading in Alberta. In time he returned to Britain and worked for a period as a taxidermist, first in London and then at the Essex Museum. But Canada still had an appeal so he returned to the old homestead in Alberta where he made extensive collections of plants, birds and mammals for the

Essex Museum.

Eventually he moved to the Coast and after trying his hand at several jobs he joined the staff of the Provincial Museum in 1924 as Assistant Biologist, a post he occupied for 4 years. After an interlude spent partly in Alberta and partly on Vancouver Island he rejoined the Museum staff in 1941 as Botanist. There followed his most productive period until his retirement in 1953.

No matter where he was located George was fascinated by the whole gamut of nature. The plant association characteristic of the various biotic areas of the province were a constant source of delight and a topic of study, and the communities of living creatures along the sea-shore regularly intrigued him.

He was particularly interested in insects and a great part of his life was devoted to their study. For many years he assiduously collected and worked over the Cerambycidae of the province and eventually became an authority on this particular group of wood-boring beetles. They remained his first love and continued to interest him through the years.

While most of his time at the Museum was taken up with herbarium work he also took care of the entomological needs of the institution and devoted most of his spare time to collecting and studying insects around his home in Saanich.

Field work in various parts of the province gave him opportunity to widen his scope and his lanky frame clad in short pants and armed with a butterfly net and a vasculum star-

tled the natives in many out-of-the-way places.

As the possibility of making new discoveries among the wood-borers lessened he became engrossed with studying the life histories of our less well-known moths and over the years he produced a series of papers on these insects, particularly during his retirement period.

To further these studies he became expert in photographing his subjects. A fine lot of colour pictures and a most extensive collection of exquisitely mounted insects, now in the Museum collection, attest his skill and patience.

Naturally a shy man he tended to avoid meetings and other social gatherings but he became a faithful mem-

ber of the Victoria Natural History Society and served as President from 1949 to 1950. He was elected an Honorary Life Member in 1961.

During his time he published more than 80 articles, reports, scientific papers or popular accounts dealing with a great variety of topics. Foremost among his subjects were insects and many of his life history accounts have appeared in the Proceedings of the Entomological Society of British Columbia. Much of his popular writing had to do with fungi and native plants and his last publication, co-authored with his wife, Winifred, featured wild-flowers of the Pacific Northwest, a part of the world he knew so well.

—G. CLIFFORD CARL.

