Henry J. Oosting 1903–1968
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Henry John Oosting—"Heinnie" or "The Chief" to all his many friends—was born in Holland, Michigan, on March 12, 1903. He was educated there by his parents and teachers in the old Dutch tradition of excellence, service, and hard work. Hope College, Michigan State University, and the University of Minnesota led him into botany, then to the new field of ecology and his Ph.D. degree under Professor William S. Cooper.

In a happy and fortunate circumstance, he came to Duke University in 1932 accepting the offer of Professor H.L. Blomquist to be the ecologist in the new Department of Botany. It is difficult to imagine what ecology at Duke would have been without him. With him, through his ideals of excellence, service, and work, Duke's ecology program developed through the years into one of the best—and one of the most enjoyable. As one of his first students, I was privileged to come under his influence and guidance and to learn some of his ways of achieving excellence in teaching, research and writing. His devotion to service for others and hard work produced a solid foundation for his ecological program. This program did not come into existence overnight. It took almost twenty years of great efforts on his part before the momentum began to be self-perpetuating. All during this time, he carried the burdens on his own shoulders. Serious illness in the early 1950's slowed down his field work but not his teaching, advising, editing, writing, and eventually administration. He was able to see his efforts rewarded as fine students trained by him went out into professional ecology at a time of environmental deterioration when they, too, could be of service.

One of Heinie's attributes as a great teacher was his natural sympathy for all students. We hear much today of some lack of communication between generations and often between professors and students. There never was lack of communication between Heinie and any of his students—dialogue went on throughout the day and night. He was always available to advise and help and he enjoyed it. Perhaps he gave his time and effort too much so for his own well-being but that availability of his sympathetic ear was one of the things that made him a great teacher and a wonderful human being. And it was not only the students who took advantage of his wise advice and counsel—his colleagues at Duke and in the Ecological Society did this many times through the years. He never isolated himself from people and people always gathered around the table with him at coffee breaks and lunch time. Much of his teaching was done in this informal way. We all learned much from him during spontaneous gatherings in the lab, in the field, and in Heinie and Cornelia Oosting's always-open home where the party was never over until the Chief gave the piano a good work-out.

What was the result of all of this teaching—formal and informal? It is impossible to measure or to know his total impact on the thousands of students from the new freshman to the doctoral candidate but one thing is certain: none ever forgot him or will, and that is some measure. Numbers in themselves are meaningless but 32 students finished
Arthur William Sampson 1884-1967

Arthur William Sampson was privileged to be associated with the beginning of a subject-matter discipline—range management. During 60 years devoted to teaching and research, his ideas and philosophies shaped that field. The accomplishments of his students attest the thoroughness of his teaching, and over 200 publications indicate the results of his research. To students and colleagues alike, he was affectionately known as “Sammy.” His death on February 7, 1967, of virus pneumonia marked the loss of a warm friend who was a constant source of encouragement to students and colleagues and had a remarkable zest for living.

Arthur W. Sampson was born in Oakland, Nebraska, March 27, 1884. He developed an early interest in the outdoors and pursued it in his study of botany and plant ecology at the University of Nebraska, where he received the B.S. degree in 1906 and the M.A. in 1907. He accepted immediately a position as Plant Ecologist with the U.S. Forest Service, his assignment being to determine the results of overgrazing in the Blue Mountains of Oregon. His keen observations and sound research ability were soon evident, as his first publication appeared in 1908. In the next few years his application of the research method of forest land-management problems resulted in clear and convincing evidence of the undesirable effects of improper grazing and led to many land-management recommendations that are used today. Between 1912 and 1922 he was the first Director of the Great Basin Forest Research Station in the Wasatch Mountains, Utah. Much of his time from 1914 to 1917, however, was spent in graduate work, first at Johns Hopkins University and later at George Washington University, where he received the Ph.D. degree in 1917.

Professor Sampson’s association with the University of California began with a lectureship in 1922. In 1923 he was promoted to Associate Professor, in 1936 to Professor, and upon retirement in 1951 he was granted Emeritus status. He organized and strengthened the program of graduate study in Forestry, and his four textbooks in range management plus many research publications have had far-reaching influence. Of perhaps greater importance was the pains-