

Dr. Carl Hubbs receives Fellows Medal

November 3, 1966

A world-renowned San Diego authority on fishes who rode in a 1914 Ford on his first ichthyological expedition - to the Bonneville, Utah, Basin in 1915 - has been named the third recipient of the Fellows Medal of the California Academy of Sciences.

He is Dr. Carl L. Hubbs, professor of biology emeritus at the University of California, San Diego's Scripps Institution of Oceanography.

Dr. Hubbs is the third scientist - and the second San Diegan - to receive the Medal. It was awarded him on November 2 by the 113-year-old Academy "in recognition of his outstanding contributions in ichthyology and oceanography."

The 1965 Medal recipient was Laurence M. Klauber, world-famed herpetologist, of San Diego. The first Fellows Medal was awarded to Dr. Ira L. Wiggins, retired botanist, of Stanford University, in 1964.

In presenting the Fellows Medal to Dr. Hubbs, Dr. J. Wyatt Durham, president of the Academy's board of trustees, told an audience at the Academy's annual dinner in San Francisco that Dr. Hubbs' "voluminous works have profoundly affected the ichthyography of North America, and they have also embraced the fields of oceanography, physiography, climatology, herpetology, ornithology, marine mammalogy, and human ecology.

"As long ago as 1938, during the Berkeley meetings of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, Dr. Joseph Grinnell remarked of him that he was at the very top of the ichthyological profession.

"Today, a member of the National Academy of Sciences, he is regarded as one of the great zoologists."

Dr. Durham recalled that it was in 1915, while young Hubbs was a student at Stanford, he was drafted by Dr. Walter K. Fisher to make a collection of invertebrates for the newly established Department of Invertebrate Zoology of the Academy.

"Later that summer, he initiated his extensive ichthyological field work by accompanying Prof. John Otterbein Snyder on an expedition to the Bonneville Basin in a 1914 Ford.

"At Stanford, he was the last of the long line of students and ichthyological associates of David Starr Jordan.

"Since those early days, he has become the personification of Theodore Roosevelt's idea of 'The Strenuous Life.' His visits to scientific institutions have left behind him many an exhausted colleague."

Dr. Durham added: "His manifest generosity impels him to respond to innumerable requests from colleagues, students, and even fishermen, for information and advice. Nowhere has this generosity been so apparent as in his continual guidance of the Academy's Department of Ichthyology."

A native of Williams, Ariz., Dr. Hubbs spent his early days in San Diego.

After attending Stanford and the University of Chicago he went on to the University of Michigan, which awarded him the Ph.D. in zoology in 1927.

He conducted research and taught at Michigan until 1944, the year he joined Scripps Institution as professor of biology.

He has published hundreds of scientific papers and is an active member of many scientific societies, an honorary fellow of several, and past president of five.

He has been a member of the San Diego Zoological Society for many years.

His interests lie in the taxonomy, distribution, ecology, variation, life history, and evolution of fishes; in fishery biology, conservation, marine birds and mammals, physiography, oceanography, climatology, and human ecology.

Parents of three grown children, Dr. and Mrs. Hubbs, who works alongside him in their laboratory and office at Scripps, live in La Jolla. Gardening is their hobby.

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