



**ASA ORRIN WEESE**  
**1885-1955**

## *A. O. Weese*

Professor A. O. Weese died of a heart attack early Sunday afternoon, November 20, 1955 at the Ellison Infirmary in Norman. He had been ill since November 15.

Dr. Weese, who had been Professor of Zoology at the University of Oklahoma since 1924, was born in Hutchinson, Minnesota, on November 7, 1885. He attended the University of Minnesota as an undergraduate and the University of Illinois as a graduate student, receiving his doctoral degree from the latter. From 1911 to 1922 he served as Professor of Biology at the University of New Mexico, then occupied a corresponding position at James Millikan University until 1924, when he came to the University of Oklahoma. In addition to his teaching duties at the University, Dr. Weese served as Acting Dean of the Graduate College for a year, as Ecologist for the Oklahoma Biological Survey, as Editor for the Survey publications, and as Research Associate in the Division of Zoology of the Stovall Museum. He had also been Professor of Ecology at the Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory (summers) since 1928, and president of its board since 1938.

Dr. Weese received many honors for his outstanding teaching, his research, and his leadership among scientists. At the University, he held a David Ross Boyd Professorship. He served as president of the Oklahoma Academy of Science in 1931, and as its Permanent Secretary (since 1946). He was a member of the National Research Council Committee on Ecology of Grasslands; president of the Grasslands Research Foundation; secretary, then president, of the Ecological Society of America; and president of the Ecologists' Union. He was an active member of many professional organizations (e. g., British Ecological Society, American Society of Zoologists, American Association for the Advancement of Science, Wildlife Society, Sigma Xi, Phi Kappa Phi, Phi Sigma), and author of numerous articles within his field.

Dr. Weese was a true scholar in every sense of the word. His breadth of knowledge never ceased to amaze his colleagues and students, and the wisdom which he shared with them will be sorely missed. For many years he was adviser to all graduate students in zoology and chairman of the departmental library committee. More than any one else, he was responsible for the acquisition of the many fine volumes in the departmental library.

Perhaps the most fitting tribute which can be paid to Dr. Weese is that without ever asking for or expecting the distinction, he was admired and looked upon as senior counselor, not only by members of his department, but also by biologists throughout the state. It was in the latter capacity that he served the Oklahoma Academy of Science as its permanent secretary. His influence was exerted quietly and with few words but the respect accorded him was absolute.