
Horace J. Harper**1896-1961**

Horace J. Harper, Oklahoma State University Professor of Soils Emeritus, died suddenly in Erzurum, Turkey on 8 November 1961. At the time of his death he was soils specialist in charge of teaching and research at Ataturk University, an institution established in 1957 in eastern Turkey patterned after land-grant agricultural colleges and universities. This latter work was conducted under a University of Nebraska contract with International Cooperation Administration.

He was born 14 February 1896 near Vinton, Benton County, Iowa. He received his B.S. at Iowa State University in 1918 in Agronomy. He was in the service of his country in 1918-19 in World War I. He was granted an M. S. degree in soils in 1920 at Iowa State University and the Ph.D. degree with a major in soil chemistry and minor in analytical chemistry at the University of Wisconsin in 1923.

He was a Soils Surveyor and assistant in field research work in soils and during 1923-25 was Associate Professor of Soils at Iowa State University. He joined the faculty of Oklahoma State University in December 1925 as Professor of Soils, which was his status at retirement this year. During the period of 1951-57 he was director of agricultural research of the Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation and assistant director of the Oklahoma Agricultural Experiment Station. He travelled in Africa and Europe in the interests of soil science, having attended the congresses of the International Society of Soil Science of which he was a member, in 1950 at Amsterdam and 1954 in the Belgian Congo. He served as an advisor in soil problems incident to the construction of the National Airport, Washington, D. C.

Dr. Harper was a very active member in several scientific organizations including American Society of Agronomy (Fellow), Soil Science Society of America (President in 1941-42), American Chemical Society, American Association for the Advancement of Science, Oklahoma Academy of Science (Fellow in 1928, President in 1936), and Soil Conservation Society of America. He was a member of several honorary societies including Sigma Xi (President of Oklahoma State Chapter in 1936), Phi Kappa Phi (President of Oklahoma State Chapter in 1929), Phi Sigma, Phi Lambda Upsilon, Alpha Zeta and others. He was a Mason and a recent member of the official board of the local Methodist Church.

Dr. Harper was a painstaking individual, an excellent teacher, and a careful and thorough research man. He wrote approximately 200 research papers. His passing removes from the rank of soils personnel an energetic and enthusiastic worker.

H. F. Murphy
