
Albert Nelson Murray

1894-1961

Albert Nelson Murray came to Tulsa in September, 1928 to establish a department of geology at the University of Tulsa. From that date to the date of his death, 18 June 1961, he devoted his time and talent to the educational development of the University of Tulsa and the advancement of science in Oklahoma. Al was well known to Oklahoma Academy of Science members as a past president, a fellow, the leader of many field trips, and a member of many committees.

Born in Madison, Connecticut, 25 September 1894, he attended Worcester Polytechnical Institute in 1916-17 until his education was interrupted by the war. He served as a radio operator in the Army Air Corps, 31st Balloon Company. After discharge from the Army he continued his education at the University of Colorado earning the bachelor's degree in 1922, the master's in 1924. Going from Colorado to the University of Illinois for doctoral work, he graduated in 1928. He married Esther Utzig, a classmate, and moved to Tulsa where he began his long career with the University.

Al's fellow scientists knew him as a man of the most inflexible honesty, both personal and scientific. His department members recognized him as a leader of the highest order. Students found him a man always ready to listen to their problems, always willing to help, but impossible to mislead and intolerant of dishonesty and indolence. Many students will remember Al for his freely given assistance and kindly advice, just as many will remember smarting from caustic, well deserved, and well meant admonition.

Al leaves his wife Esther, a daughter Ann, and a son Frederick. The Academy extends its sympathy in their loss and our felicitations in their good fortune in having had this man for a husband and a father.

Harold E. Enlows