

Robert Stratton**1883-1961**

Friday 10 February 1961, marked the passing of Professor Robert Stratton, one of Oklahoma State University's most colorful professors. He was born 18 November 1883, at Georgetown, Ohio, received his B. A. degree from Miami University in Ohio, his M. A. from Ohio State University and did advanced work at the University of Wisconsin, Cornell University, and the Missouri Botanical Garden at St. Louis.

He was assistant botanist at Cornell 1915-16; instructor at Miami University (Ohio) 1916-17; professor of biology at Westminster College (Mo.) 1917-18; and assistant professor of botany at Alabama Polytechnic Institute 1918-20. He joined the Department of Botany and Plant Pathology at Oklahoma State University in 1920 as assistant professor and was advanced to associate in 1930. In 1937 he was made curator of the herbarium in addition to his teaching and research work on legumes. He retired in 1949 and has devoted most of his time to his hobbies, fishing and stamp collecting, and looking after his properties.

Mr. Stratton was a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (fellow, 1930), Botanical Society of America, American Phytopathological Society, the Society of Plant Taxonomists, Nature Association, American Genetic Society, Forestry Association, Torrey Botanical Club, and the Oklahoma Academy of Science of which he was a fellow (1928).

Among his publications are:

The vitamin content of wild greens; Fairy rings of *Lepiota Morgani* in Oklahoma; The origin of cotyledons in legumes; The significance of stipule in legumes; Some Oklahoma aquatic vascular plants; Fimenteriales of Ohio; Edible wild greens and salads of Oklahoma.

He was a member of Phi Beta Kappa and Phi Kappa Phi (Vice-President, 1940) the two highest honorary scholastic fraternities.

In 1925 he organized a botanical club in the Department of Botany and Plant Pathology at Oklahoma State University known as Alpha Beta Kappa which later (1930) served as the foundation for the organization for Phi Sigma, national honorary biological fraternity.

He was one of the alumni members of Sigma Alpha Epsilon instrumental in creating Mu chapter on the Oklahoma State University campus. He was a 32nd degree Mason and a member of the Order of Odd Fellows. He was a devout Presbyterian and has a son, Earl, who is a Presbyterian minister.

Department of Botany and Plant Pathology