
Thomas Chauncy Carter 1879-1962

Dr. Thomas Chauncy Carter, a member of Northwestern State College faculty for forty-three years was born in Bethany, Missouri, September 15, 1879. At the time of the opening of the Cherokee Strip, he moved with his family to a farm near Jefferson, Oklahoma. While studying for his degree at Northwestern State College, he assisted Dr. G. W. Stevens in the biology department. He received his M. S. degree from Colorado State College and studied at the University of Chicago. He was granted his Ph.D degree in parasitology from the University of Wisconsin in 1930. He became head of the department of biology at Northwestern State College in 1914 and was dean of the faculty from 1942 until his retirement in 1952.

Attesting to the significance of his years of work at Northwestern was the action of the Oklahoma Board of Regents in 1953 to name Carter Hall in his honor. The T. C. Carter Museum of Natural History speaks of his unselfish and fruitful work through his long years at the college. His breadth of knowledge extended over many fields, paleontology, zoology, and botany.

He was a charter member of the Oklahoma Academy of Science, chairman of Section A and was elected a Fellow in 1930. He was made an honorary member in 1960. Many Oklahoma Academy members will remember him as a most faithful attendant at spring meetings. For many years, he never failed to arrive at the meeting site, no matter how far from Alva, in a chartered bus loaded with Northwestern State College students and staff. Dr. Carter often served as leader on the early morning bird walks.

His name and achievements are listed in "World Notables" an international biographical dictionary, "Who's Who in American Science" and "Who's Who" in American education. He was a member of Sigma Xi and Kappa Delta Pi. Dr. Carter was an elder in the Presbyterian church and a teacher of the adult Sunday School class.

Dr. Carter's wise guidance and inspiration encouraged countless students and fellow faculty members. He will long be remembered for his warmth of spirit and keen sense of humor. Dr. Carter passed away in Tonkawa, Oklahoma, on June 27, 1962.

Anna B. Fisher