
Henry Fred Murphy

1897-1967

H. F. (Pat) Murphy was born 3 December 1897, at Kellogg, Iowa, and died at Stillwater, Oklahoma, 24 October 1967, as a result of a traffic accident.

His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Grant Murphy, moved to the Glencoe, Oklahoma, community, where Pat spent his childhood. He attended a country school near Glencoe and graduated from Glencoe High School in 1912. During 1913, he attended preparatory school at Oklahoma State University, then Oklahoma A and M, and began his undergraduate training in 1914. The Bachelor of Science Degree was conferred on him in 1918 and the Master of Science Degree in 1923.

Two years (1919 and 1920) were spent teaching agriculture and chemistry at Kemper Military Academy, Boonville, Missouri. In the fall of 1920, he became an instructor at Oklahoma State University and advanced to the rank of Associate Professor by 1923. He received his Ph.D. in soil science from the University of California in 1938. After an advance in rank to Professor, he became Head of the Oklahoma State University Department of Agronomy in 1940 and held that position until 1955 when he took a 3-year tour of duty with the Imperial Ethiopian College of Agriculture and Mechanical Arts at Alemaya. He returned to Oklahoma State University in 1958, but in 1962 he began a second Ethiopian tour of duty. He was one of the first recipients of a "Chancellor's Medal" presented by His Imperial Majesty, Emperor Haile Selassie I.

Dr. Murphy was a member of the Christian Church, Sigma Chi social fraternity, past master of Frontier Lodge No. 48, a 32nd degree Mason, St. John's Commandery at Stillwater and Scottish Rite Consistory in Guthrie. He was a member of Alpha Zeta, Phi Kappa Phi, Sigma Xi, Soil Science Society of America, Oklahoma Academy of Science, and in 1962 he became a Fellow in the American Society of Agronomy.

He is survived by his wife, the former Ione Mae Young; two sons, Dr. Grant Murphy, Flint, Michigan, and Pat Murphy, Lish, Illinois; and a daughter, Mrs. Phyllis Chapman of Bartlesville. Three brothers, Russell, Charlie, and Andy, live at Glencoe, and Ralph at Boise City. —Frank Davies