

IN MEMORIAM
CHESTER MORRISON ROWELL, JR.
1925–2003

Jim Blassingame

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The botanical community of Texas expresses its sorrow upon the death of Chester M. Rowell of Marfa, Texas, June 5, 2003.

Chester was born December 2, 1925 in Burnet County, Texas the eldest son of Chester Morrison Rowell and Irene Gahagan Rowell. He received his B.S. from the University of Texas in 1947, his M.S. from Texas A&M University in 1949 and his Ph.D. from Oklahoma State University in 1967.

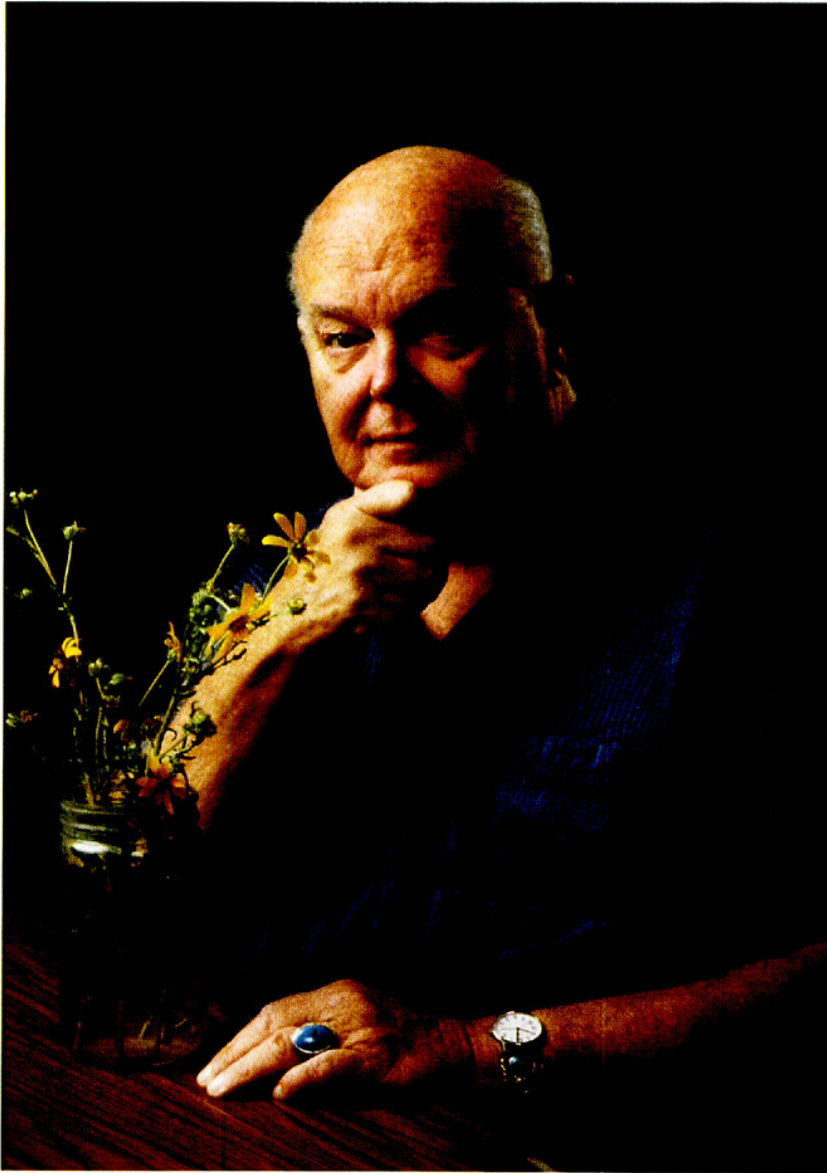
Chester taught at Texas A & M University from 1949 to 1957, Texas Tech University from 1957 to 1970 and Angelo State University from 1970 to 1987. He was the curator of the herbaria at Texas Tech University and Angelo State University. He served as chairman of the Department of Biology at Angelo State University from 1973 to 1982. After his retirement he was an adjunct Professor of Biology at Sul Ross State University.

Professor Rowell did research on the flora of Southwestern U.S. and Mexico, authored several scientific papers, presented papers at scientific meetings and was author and co-author of two books. Chester was the scientific editor of the Native Plant Society of Texas. Dr. Rowell was a driving force in building the herbaria at Texas Tech University and Angelo State University in to excellent regional collections. He worked on toxic plants and endangered species in Texas. He was an advisor to the Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife for floristic and habitat studies.

Chester was the former President of the Southwestern Association of Naturalists. Dr. Rowell was the recipient of many awards and honors. He was active in professional societies and other organizations.

Dr. Rowell was a respected researcher, valued teacher, dedicated mentor and generous friend to people all around the country. He had a lifelong love affair with photography. His enthusiasm for teaching, learning and scholarship, his quick wit and cooperative spirit, were a role model for all who knew him.

Chester Rowell was a teacher and a friend to all of those interested in the botany of any area. Early in his career he decided that his students should be exposed to life in the field and not just in the laboratory. After this decision



Chester M. Rowell (1925–2003)

Chester's life became one continuous field trip or collecting trip. All of his students and friends were given the opportunity many times to partake in such an experience. Chester was very proud to be a professional plant taxonomist. However, he was most proud to be a teacher as a source of stimulation and exciting guide for the intellectual development of young people and friends. He insisted that events of each life should be recorded on film. If you didn't have a camera, he would help you remedy the oversight with encouragement or a gift, usually the latter. Chester enriched the lives of most botanists, photographers, students and friends that he came in contact with.

Chester died June 5, 2003 in Midland, Texas at the age of 77. His many friends and associates will miss him greatly.



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