

## OBITUARIES

VERNON IRVINE CHEADLE  
1910–1995

Dr. Vernon I. Cheadle, an internationally noted research botanist and an expert on the evolution of water conducting tissue in monocotyledons, died Sunday, July 23, 1995. Santa Barbara, the botanical community, and higher education have lost a distinguished citizen and supporter.

Cheadle was raised in the dirt-poor farming community of Salem, South Dakota during the Depression; a humble beginning that help shaped his values and attitude. He attended South Dakota State College for one year, then transferred to Miami University (Ohio) graduating magna cum laude in 1932 and in 1934 completing a Master's degree. In 1936 he completed a Ph.D. at Harvard. His doctoral dissertation, under the supervision of Ralph Wetmore, was concerned with growth in monocotyledons. To Vernon's credit, his research topic was his own invention rather than an idea proposed by his advisor. Very likely an advisor would not have proposed such a wide-ranging and pioneering topic, which would have daunted a graduate student less courageous and energetic than Vernon. From his dissertation emerged widely-cited papers in 1940 and 1941, papers in which the trends of vessel origin and specialization in monocotyledons are laid out in relation to organography and systematics. Realizing that he had been able to study only a small sampling of most monocotyledon families in his dissertation work, Vernon devoted the balance of his life to investigating, in family after family, the details of vessel structure and occurrence. By extensive travel, most notably in Australia and South Africa, he obtained materials for his surveys of xylem in individual monocotyledon families. To his credit, he kept this research alive during his years as Chancellor at UCSB. A faithful attendee at national biological meetings, Vernon Cheadle presented his findings orally as well as in papers in leading journals. The most recent oral presentation of his research was a study of xylem in Bromeliaceae which was given at the Honolulu meetings in 1992 with his research assistant, Dr. Jennifer Thorsch. Thus his research career spanned more than 50 years showing that an intellectually meaningful scientific career can last a lifetime.

In 1936, Vernon joined the faculty at Rhode Island State College, serving as Professor, Chairman, and Director of the Graduate Division from 1942 to 1952, except from 1944 to 1946 when he served with the Navy in the Pacific Theater of W.W.II. In 1950–1951 he spent a sabbatical at UC Davis working with Dr. Katherine Esau, who shared his interests in phloem. The following year Vernon was invited to return to Davis as a tenured faculty member and Chair of the Botany Department. While at Davis, working in collaboration with Dr. Esau, he made significant contributions to knowledge of the structure and evolution of secondary phloem in dicotyledons, including some of the first ultrastructural studies on phloem.

Over the years, he was the recipient of numerous awards including the 1963 Award of Merit from the Botanical Society of America, of which he was President in 1961, Phi Beta Kappa, and Phi Kappa Phi. He was also a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the California Academy of Science, and the American Academy of Arts and Science. In addition he served first as a Trustee, then honorary trustee for both the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden and Ganna Walska Lotusland.

In 1962, after serving as acting vice chancellor at UC Davis, Dr. Cheadle accepted the second Chancellorship of the University of California, Santa Barbara. Under his leadership and vision the campus underwent phenomenal growth not only in increased



number of students but also in the number of distinguished faculty, setting the foundation for the emergence of a first-class research university. Despite the riot-torn era of the late 1960's and early 1970's, marked by campus demonstrations, faculty protests, the burning of the Bank of America in Isla Vista, and mass arrests, Dr. Cheadle exhibited remarkable courage and emerged as an administrator of remarkable skill.

Dr. Cheadle retired as Professor and Chancellor Emeritus in 1977 at age sixty-seven. In 1979, the Regents of the University of California named the main administration building Vernon I. Cheadle Hall. Dr. Cheadle's associates at UCSB characterized him as: "an outstanding Chancellor whose impact was felt not only in Santa Barbara but throughout the University of California" (UC President Jack Peltason); "He never gave unwanted advice, but was thoughtful in his comments when they were solicited, and always demonstrated his deep affection for the campus he had so influenced" (Former UCSB Chancellor Barbara S. Uehling); "He was a role model for many and a wonderful human being" (Former track and field coach Sam Adams); "I always felt he was a person of integrity and principle, who understood the need to defend free expression and academic freedom. In a time of chaos, he tried to uphold the ideas of civility (UCSB Sociology Professor Dick Flacks)". Even after his retirement from the chancellor's position in 1977, Cheadle remained involved in both the university and the community it serves.

In addition to being a distinguished scientist and administrator, Vernon was an accomplished athlete. In 1978 he was inducted in the Miami Athletic Hall of Fame and for 18 years competed in the Masters Track and Field meets, holding several Masters world records in the discus and shot-put. He was a warm, friendly, unpretentious man; one of those people whose contribution is as visible and as clearly defined as the university that he helped create.

In 1990, both Vernon and his wife Mary were named honorary alumni by the UCSB alumni association for their "wise and caring leadership . . . as UCSB's first family." They were a remarkable team, dedicated to the university and community they so loved. Cheadle is survived by his wife and their son, William, an Associate Professor of Surgery at the University of Louisville.

—EDWARD L. SCHNEIDER and SHERWIN CARLQUIST, Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, 1212 Mission Canyon Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93105.

KATHERINE K. MULLER  
1909–1995

Katherine Kinsel Muller, director of the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden from 1950 through 1973, died Thursday, August 17, 1995. She was 85. Santa Barbara and the botanic garden community have lost a colleague, supporter, and friend who devoted much of her life to the vitality and visibility of public gardens. Her association with the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden began in 1948 as an associate in education. In 1950 she was appointed acting director, then named director in 1951 (see Mathias, Mildred E. 1975. Katherine K. Muller and the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden. *California Horticultural Journal* vol 36(2):77–78).

Katherine was an accomplished educator, administrator, and community leader. Every aspect of the Garden that we know today was influenced in some way by her early planning and guidance. Under her administrative stewardship the garden expanded to its present 65 acres, significantly increased plantings and trails for public viewing, instituted classes for adults and children, enhanced the original library by adding two wings, added a propagation complex, a two-story herbarium and research wing. During this time she taught courses on both native and introduced trees for the Garden's educational program and University of California Extension and con-



Schneider, Edward L and Carlquist, Sherwin John. 1995. "Vernon Irvine Cheadle 1910-1995." *Madroño; a West American journal of botany* 42, 520–521.

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