



OBITUARY

James Grant Robertson (1921-1967)

It was a great shock to friends and colleagues in Canada and abroad to learn of the sudden death of Dr. Grant Robertson on June 13, 1967, at the age of 45. He was born at Winnipeg, Man., on October 17, 1921, where he attended St. Paul's High School and the University of Manitoba. His studies were interrupted by World War II when he enlisted with the Canadian Army. He completed his B.Sc. in 1947 at the University of Manitoba and in the same year he began his scientific career with the Fisheries Research Board at Nanaimo, B.C., working on the Pacific Coast salmon. Here, he met and married Irma Hilton, in 1949, and became the proud and devoted father of three fine boys, Jamie, Brian and Sydney and a daughter Carol. While attached to the Pacific Biological Station, Grant spent a considerable amount of research time at Port John, King Island, Ocean Falls, and Hells' Gate on the Fraser River. He continued his education at the University of British Columbia where he received his M.Sc. in 1951. For his doctorate, he undertook a bio-chemical search for sex hormones in salmon embryos. This study being prompted by his earlier findings that sex differentiation in the chum salmon proceeded in the male or female direction without an intermediate female phase, which was contrary to classical findings in teleosts. He received his Ph.D. in 1954, but because of his desire to be near his family, Grant gave up a promising career in fisheries biology. Their loss was our gain when in 1954 Dr. Robertson joined the Department of Agriculture (Entomology

Section) at the Insect Laboratory at Belleville, Ont., and brought with him new techniques and ideas.

In 1957 he transferred to the Entomology Research Institute, Experimental Biology Section, Ottawa. As a geneticist with a main interest in cytotaxonomy, he showed that there were detectable chromosomal differences between races of the carrot rust fly and made an extended study of the cytotaxonomy of *Cryptolistes* and *Oryzaephilus*. He was able to construct a key based on chromosomal features for these genera. He traced the development, inheritance, and loss of DDT resistance in a parasitic insect, in addition to introducing paper chromatography in insect taxonomy. In 1962, Dr. Robertson initiated an extensive cytological survey of the genus *Calligrapha*. He described, in detail, the chromosomal complements of 17 species, and discovered the existence of tetraploidy and of populations of varying numbers of supernumerary chromosomes. Grant's contributions to Canadian entomology will be remembered. In a few short years he published a variety of scientific papers, listed hereunder. He was a member of the Genetics Society of Canada, the Zoological Society of Canada, the Entomological Society of Canada and the Entomological Society of Ontario.

Grant's greatest gift to his colleagues and friends was himself and his ability to make people relax and appreciate that every minute was filled with sixty seconds worth of living. He was never so busy or selfish that he couldn't find time to listen to, encourage, or help a colleague, friend or stranger. He crowded so many activities and interests into his life that it is difficult to sort out the important from the non-important. His personality offered to the observer some interesting paradoxes. He enjoyed people, the uncertainty of meetings, lively discussions with is colleagues and friends, and the peace and quiet of a summer retreat at Sam's Lake, P.Q. As first President of Sam's Lake Cottage Owners Association, and through the chairs of the Ottawa Research Investment Club, he achieved and maintained, by his witticism and charm, an exceptionally high membership at all meetings. It may well be said that though the stocks were low, the interest was always high when Grant conducted the meeting.

The same attention to the small important details of home life was observed by Grant. A devoted family man, he spent much of his spare time with his children, and through community activities brought the meaning of sportsmanship to the younger generation. As President of the McKellar Park Recreational Association he found himself unanimously elected the coach, or manager of boys and girls hockey and baseball leagues or leading an active part in church and community activities in which capacity he served unselfishly and to the best of his abilities. His effect upon his family is well known by the excellence of his children as students, skiers, swimmers, hockey players, and general sportsmanship. An avid skier, Grant was a familiar figure at Vorlage, Edelweiss and Fortune where he made a host of friends.

The tragedy of his death can only be counterbalanced by the good he achieved during life.

A. P. RANDALL

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BULLETIN OF THE ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA

At the Seventeenth Annual Meeting of the Entomological Society of Canada, August 1967, the members approved a recommendation for the production of a Society newsletter. At an Executive Meeting in January 1968 it was suggested that the title of the newsletter be "Bulletin of the Entomological Society of Canada". Members are now invited to submit suitable material for the first issue.

D. P. PIELOU, *Editor*