

**TO DR. JESSE M. SHAVER<sup>1</sup>**

NATHAN H. WOODRUFF

*Assistant Manager for Operations, United States Atomic  
Energy Commission, Oak Ridge, Tennessee*

Mr. Toastmaster, Members of the Tennessee Academy of Science and Guests: I am privileged to speak on this occasion as the spokesman for the thousands of men and women, who have had the good fortune to have Dr. Shaver, as a teacher, friend, and counselor during his thirty-nine years at Peabody.

As I look over the group here tonight, I recognize many who had Dr. Shaver as teacher, for example: Dr. Frances Botum, Peabody College; Dr. Tom Frick, Lincoln Memorial University; Dr. Paul Hollister, Tennessee Polytechnic Institute; Mr. John M. Rawls, Austin Peay State College; Messrs. G. W. Morgan and Robert Jackson, Oak Ridge Operations, USAEC.

There are, no doubt, others which I do not recognize immediately. Although I shall attempt to express the feeling which all of these students have regarding Dr. Shaver, I am sure you will pardon me if I fall back on my own personal experience based on the five years I worked under Dr. Shaver's guidance.

Dr. Shaver is, first and foremost, a fine teacher. We, who studied under him respect him as a competent and analytical scientist, who, when we presented carelessly-prepared, thoughtless and opinionated assignments based on lack of work or inadequate data, was quick to point the errors of our way. We learned to appreciate, and strive for, sound data on which to present our conclusions. Through this, we gained the necessary context or information and work habits, so essential for young teachers and scientists.

I was especially appreciative of what he taught me in the field of ecology. Here we gained knowledge of, and technique to measure the multitude of factors which individuals and races of organisms compete for and against in an effort to survive. For through this we learned to see and evaluate an individual in a competitive environment.

However, his teachings did not stop with the knowledge of how to measure the factors that influenced the lovely cedar trees of Cedarglade, the oaks and hickories of drier southern hillsides of Middle Tennessee, the fresh water mussels of Stones River, or growth of the false maiden-hair fern on the bluffs overlooking the Great Falls Power Plant.

His teaching carried over to relations of a human being in a modern day society. To emphasize modern day, let me digress to recall a brief talk which he gave us in class one day during the middle thirties about some "new fangled" tools which were

---

<sup>1</sup>One of a series of talks given in Dr. Shaver's honor at the dinner meeting of the Tennessee Academy of Science in Oak Ridge, November 27, 1953.

going to help the physiologist unravel some of his problems. His talk was on radioisotopes and Dr. E. O. Lawrence's cyclotrons. Great things were to be expected of these new tools.

Dr. Shaver also gave us practical approaches to everyday problems. He would take the time to counsel us on such practical things as getting along with a school administrator, how one might better weather the storms of irate parents and how best to prepare for a qualifying doctor's examination. These are experiences which a young graduate student and prospective teacher appreciate.

Through association with Dr. Shaver and experiencing his teachings, I for one found a personal philosophy which has had profound influence on my life. This philosophy of life includes a high regard of the value of honest work both for the individual and for his society, the desire to do one's best in the situation wherein one finds himself, the desire to achieve through honest endeavor, a deep-down wholesome respect for one's fellow man, a recognition that life will not always run smooth but that courage and desire are necessary to carry on, a firm belief in value of happy marriage and rearing a family, a desire to make American Democracy work.

These are personal items but I am sure I express the feeling of all of his former students. We admire Dr. Shaver's professional accomplishments but we respect and love him for his inspiring teaching and his moral and spiritual values. It is indeed a great honor for me to be chosen to speak in behalf of his present and past students, because I consider him a great man in the finest connotation of the words.

---

#### NEWS OF TENNESSEE SCIENCE

*Newsworthy items suitable for this column should be addressed to the News Editor, Dr. Carl Tabb Bahner, Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, Tennessee.*

#### *University of Tennessee College of Education:*

A new course in radioactivity for secondary school science teaching personnel will be offered by the College of Education at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, for the period July 18-July 29, 1955. The course is intended to meet the special needs of the followings groups: (1) those who are actively engaged in teaching science in secondary schools, (2) supervisors whose duties include those of working with secondary school science teachers, (3) representatives of departments of education of colleges or other workers in science education at college level whose interest is in college science courses. The course will include lectures, laboratory work, discussions, films, and field work related to the problem of presenting nuclear science in the secondary school program.

*(Continued on Page 108)*