

JOURNAL

OF THE

Tennessee Academy of Science

VOLUME LX

APRIL 1985

NEW PRESIDENT OF THE TENNESSEE ACADEMY OF SCIENCE FOR 1985

Dr. William H. Ellis is a native of Robertson County, Tennessee. He grew up in the Cedar Hill Community and graduated as an honor student from Cedar Hill High School in 1949.

In the summer of 1949, he entered Austin Peay State University where, in 1953, he earned the Baccalaureate Degree with a major in biology. Shortly thereafter, he was drafted into military service — serving two years in Korea as a medical laboratory technologist. Upon completion of his tour of military duty, he accepted a position as biology teacher at Clarksville High School. During his first year as a public school teacher, he completed the requirements for his Masters Degree, majoring in educational administration and minoring in biology. In the Fall of 1956, he accepted the position of Instructor in Biology. In 1963, Ellis earned the Ph.D. Degree from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville with a major in botany and a minor in zoology. He returned immediately thereafter to Austin Peay State University as an Assistant Professor of Biology.

In 1952, Bill married Agnes Burney of Cedar Hill, Tennessee. Agnes holds the doctorate from Vanderbilt University in curriculum leadership. They have one child, Elizabeth Marie, who is a freshman in high school at the Clarksville Academy.

At Austin Peay State University, Ellis holds a professorship in biology, and has served in many administrative assignments. These include, acting Vice President for Administration and Finance, Director of Institutional Research, Interim Dean of the College of Business and Professional Programs, Vice President for Academic Affairs, and is currently serving as Dean of the Graduate School, Research and Special Programs. He is the author of three books and many scientific articles. He has served as consultant to the National Park Service and to the Tennessee Valley Authority and was a National Science Foundation Research Fellow. He is a member of numerous professional organizations including full membership in Sigma Xi. Other local and professional honors include being named to *Who's Who in American Education* and *Outstanding Young Men of America*.



DR. WILLIAM H. ELLIS

Within the Tennessee Academy of Science, Ellis has been very active. He has served a three-year term on the Executive Committee, has served as Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary of the Botany Section, has served as a Regional Director of the Tennessee Junior Academy, has served on numerous committees, and in 1969, was named as a Fellow of the Academy. In 1984, he served as President-elect, and on January 1, 1985, he assumed the Presidency of the Tennessee Academy of Science.