

Sears Crowell

In the early 1870s, a few years before the first of the great scientific institutions in Woods Hole, Massachusetts, was founded, Captain Crowell of East Dennis, business man, ex-sea captain, and ship owner, and great-grandfather of Sears Crowell, sent his son Azariah there to work as chemist in a new family business. In the next hundred years the home he established there was the scene of many lively family activities. Delight in games of all kinds, enthusiasm for work, and love of the sea and sailing were shared by all members of the clan, one of the most energetic of whom was Professor Crowell's father, Prince Sears Crowell, a dye chemist in the textile industry.

Professor Prince Sears Crowell, Jr., born in Natick, Massachusetts in 1909, spent at least part of most summers at Woods Hole and was introduced to the pleasures of scientific study partly through the Children's School of Science operated in the summer by wives of scientists and summer residents. Within his own family he found a keen interest in environmental affairs. His mother, late in life, claimed to have been "one of the early environmentalists." Her membership in the Audubon Society and other ornithological societies, her obtaining one of the early federal bird-banding permits, and her interest in national parks and conservation all provide some basis for that claim. The whole family, but especially Sears Crowell and his mother, participated in extensive projects of bird-banding. Later, as a result of some of this work, they were co-authors of a paper on the changing population of terns and

gulls at some of the islands in Buzzards Bay. Summer jobs on the collecting crew of the Marine Biological Laboratory also increased Professor Crowell's interest in marine biology.

Sears Crowell attended Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine, where in 1930 he received the A.B. degree. There he was influenced by Professor Manton Copeland, for years head of the Biology Department, a gentle scholar of whimsical humor and quiet enthusiasms who through his friendly interest in his students encouraged many of them to go on in medicine or academic teaching. From Bowdoin, Professor Crowell went to Harvard University, where in 1935 he received his Ph.D. degree. After a temporary appointment of a year at Brooklyn College to fill the position of a faculty member on leave, he joined the Zoology Department at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, where he remained until 1948 when he came to Indiana University. Summers, whenever possible, he worked at Woods Hole. In July 1938 he married Villa Elizabeth Bailey. They have three children, Persis Ann, Polly, and Prince Sears III, two grandsons, and three granddaughters. Two fine sons-in-law are university teachers.

Professor Crowell's teaching shows his interests. At Brooklyn College, he taught general biology and a popular course in field biology noted for its adventuresome field trips to Prospect Park. At Miami he continued with general biology and embryology, and during the war years taught many pre-medical students in the Navy V-12 program. At Indiana University, he began teaching the very popular course in comparative vertebrate anatomy and a course in his speciality, in invertebrate biology. The latter course, interspersed with general zoology and biology, ornithology, and vertebrate biology, has occupied his teaching time to the present. During the years of his tenure at Indiana University, he has directed the research of many undergraduate and graduate students. One of his successful teaching innovations was the requirement that each student in his course had to learn to care for and investigate some species of invertebrate animal, referred to as his "pet."

Professor Crowell's career in biological research began at Bowdoin where he co-authored a paper on the behavior of caddisflies. At Harvard, under the direction of Herbert W. Rand, he embarked on the study of regeneration in earthworms. His research was stimulated and directed by his continued interest in marine biology. He attended the course in invertebrates at the Woods Hole Marine Biological Laboratory in the summer of 1930, and from 1936 through 1941 and for two subsequent summers taught that same course. At Woods Hole, at Miami, and

in Bloomington he worked on various coelenterates (sea anemones, hydroids, and jellyfish), especially the hydroid *Campanularia*, which he began to study in 1950. Among his notable investigations is that of the interesting "stolon fusion" phenomenon in which some colonies will unite and others remain independent, apparently dependent upon genetic relationships. Central to his investigations have been problems of development, regeneration, and regression. He is the author or co-author of over 25 papers on coelenterate biology, and has contributed chapters to several compendia on the subject.

Professor Crowell has contributed substantially to the international field of marine biology not only through his research, but also through the many years of service as teacher and trustee at the Marine Biological Laboratory at Woods Hole. He served four four-year terms as trustee, two three-year terms on the executive committee, and three years as secretary of the board. In May of this year he will become a trustee emeritus. In 1957, he also became the program officer for the American Society of Zoologists and was the first editor of the *American Zoologist*, now in its 19th year of publication.

Professor Crowell's services to Indiana University include membership on the Committee to revise the University Faculty Constitution (1970-72) and membership on other university committees. He worked with the Indiana Science Talent Search from 1958 to 1963. He is one of the Indiana University representatives on the Ocean Sciences Panel of the Committee on Institutional Cooperation of the Midwestern Consortium of Universities. He is a fellow of the Indiana Academy of Science and was chairman of the zoology section in 1948-1949. He is past president of the Indiana chapter of the Society of the Sigma Xi and the University Men's Faculty Club. In civic affairs, he has been active in Rotary, the Civil Liberties Union, the Monroe County United Ministries, Citizens for Good Government, and the First Presbyterian Church of Bloomington.

Professor Crowell has been a distinguished teacher, a fine research worker, and an understanding guide and inspiration to his students at Indiana University for over 30 years. His friendliness, keen sense of humor, and penetrating appraisals of biological and administrative problems make him a difficult person to replace. Fortunately, he plans to continue his research at Indiana University as well as in Woods Hole. We hope that he may continue these activities for many years.

Frank N. Young, Jr.