

## O B I T U A R Y

### Augustus Burns Weathersby

1913 - 1988

Dr. Augustus Burns Weathersby, Emeritus Professor of Entomology, University of Georgia, died January 26, 1988, of a massive stroke.

A. B., to everyone who knew him, was born May 19, 1913, son of a minister, in Pinola, Mississippi. He received his B.S., M.S. and Ph.D. in entomology from Louisiana State University.

After receiving his master's degree in 1940, he worked for the Louisiana Department of Agriculture as an entomologist. An accomplished story teller, A. B. enjoyed relating such inane trials and tribulations as his attempts to help the city fathers control the town ant. In 1941 he met Olive Hammons, a school teacher who would later become his wife. They were married in April 1945.

With the outbreak of World War II, A. B. went into the U. S. Navy, joining the Epidemiology Unit of the Third Marine Division. His work in mosquito control carried him to Guadalcanal, Bougainville and Guam. From this experience he carried a piece of shrapnel in his finger. Unsure as to whether the shell fragment was of Japanese or American origin, he never applied for the Purple Heart. In 1946 A. B. helped set up the Naval Medical Research Institute in Cairo, Egypt. While in the Middle East, A. B. became an advisor to the Iranian Minister of Health. During an evening flight from Iran, A. B. and Olive were conscripted into the Caterpillar Club, an elite group whose members have abandoned disabled aircraft by parachute, in this case a B-17. On landing A. B. immediately began searching and calling in the night to find Olive. Arabs gathered in the vicinity of the crash site mistakenly thought he was offering praise to Allah. The respect this misunderstanding garnered helped insure their safe passage through the desert. A. B. returned to Louisiana State University, completed his doctorate in 1954, and continued his military service. From 1947 until his military retirement as a commander in 1962, A. B. held various positions including special lecturer in the U. S. Naval Medical School and several assignments as entomologist - parasitologist.

After retiring from the Navy as a commander in 1962, A. B. joined the Department of Entomology, University of Georgia as a research associate. In 1964 he was named professor, the position he held until retirement in June of 1983. A. B. regularly taught undergraduate and graduate level courses concerned with insects of medical importance. A. B.'s enthusiasm, command of his subject and irrepressible humor made him a favorite of students. He developed an especially innovative and popular course called *Insects and Man*, for the non - science majors. In 1983 he was awarded the Entomological Society of America's Distinguished



Achievement Award in Teaching. A. B. participated in numerous honor and professional societies including: Sigma Xi, Phi Sigma and Gamma Sigma Delta. He was a member of the Entomological Society of America, American Society of Tropical Medicine, American Association for the Advancement of Science, American Mosquito Control Association, Society of Parasitology and the Georgia Entomological Society. He served as president of the Southeastern Society of Parasitologists, president of the University of Georgia Chapter of Phi Kappa Phi and as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene.

A. B.'s primary research interests were in the areas of host - parasite relations, insect susceptibility to disease organisms, the behavioral interactions of parasites and vectors, cryobiology and tissue culture.

A. B. was active in community affairs. He served as president of the Clarke Central High School Touchdown Club, president of the National Little League of Athens and was a member of the Dugout Club. The Clarke Central High School baseball field was recently refurbished and named Weathersby Field. A. B. served three terms as chairman of the Board of Deacons of Beech Haven Baptist Church. He also worked with the Chamber of Commerce and the Advisory Committee of the Clarke County Board of Education.

A. B. had many interests and talents. He played a number of instruments in high school and college bands, as well as the piano and violin. Noted for his rich bass voice, he sang in a barber shop quartet and in his church choir. He was an artist. He enjoyed painting, photography, woodworking and lapidary. He was well known for his gardening, having a particular affinity for azaleas.

A. B. is survived by his wife, Olive, and two sons, Richard M. of Athens and Robert B. of Dallas.

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