

OBITUARY

CURTIS J. HESSE

With the death of Curtis J. Hesse, curator of the Museum of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas, not only has the museum lost an excellent custodian and the college an able geologist, but the community has lost a congenial friend.

Mr. Hesse was born on September 28, 1905, in Wamego, Kansas, and died at Bryan, Texas, on May 12, 1945, after recurring heart attacks. He is survived by his mother, Mrs. C. V. Hesse, and a brother, C. G. Hesse, both of Lawrence, Kansas.

Mr. Hesse entered the field of paleontology when he was 14 years of age, at which time he became connected with the Museum of Paleontology at the University of Kansas, and held this position until 1929. During the time he was with the University of Kansas Museum, Mr. Hesse completed work for his bachelor of arts degree, which was conferred by the university in 1927. In 1929, he went to the University of California on a teaching fellowship and later became laboratory and field assistant for the Museum of Paleontology. During his connection with the University of California, he received his master of arts degree in 1933.

In 1938, Mr. Hesse came to Texas A. and M. as assistant curator of the museum and in 1943 he was made curator, which position he held until the time of his death. In addition to duties with the operation of the museum and field trips over Texas and other states in its interest, Mr. Hesse gave a portion of his time to work on the teaching staff of the department of geology. Even though he carried a full schedule with his teaching load and work at the museum, still he found time for numerous articles on the results of research which he was conducting in different phases of geology. The esteem in which he was held by his colleagues and students and the papers he has contributed to important scientific journals are

a tribute to his scientific accomplishment and inspirational force.

Mr. Hesse was secretary of the Texas A. and M. Chapter of the American Association of University Professors, treasurer of the Texas Academy of Science, and held membership in the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, American Association for the Advancement of Science, Geological Society of America, American Society of Vertebrate Paleontologists, Texas Archeological and Paleontological Society, Sigma Xi, Texas Geographic Society, American Society of Mammalogists and the American Society of Economic Paleontologists and Mineralogists.

His services to these organizations are evidence of his willingness to contribute beyond the line of duty to the advancement of scientific endeavor.

To his scholarship was added an intense interest in the development of good citizenship in American youth. He gave much of his time to fostering Boy Scout activities in this section of the state and in this capacity became a leader. He was Scoutmaster for Troop 102 of College Station, which maintained headquarters in the museum. Mr. Hesse had the reputation of being one of the best and most efficient scoutmasters in this area and his troop was regarded as a model for proper scouting activities.

Being always ready to address the boys and girls of Bryan and College Station schools, he was frequently called upon and prepared for these talks in the spirit of embracing an opportunity to turn the thoughts of youth in the right direction.

Mr. Hesse possessed the admirable characteristics of being trustworthy, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind and cheerful. With these traits, it is not extraordinary that his personality won him the friendship of his associates.

HAROLD VANCE

AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL
COLLEGE OF TEXAS

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

GERMAN UNIVERSITIES AND MUSEUMS

DR. JOHN W. WELLS, of the department of geology of the Ohio State University, has sent to SCIENCE the following information in regard to German universities and museums:

Jena: Mineralogisches Institut totally demolished and apparently not wholly evacuated before the main bombing three weeks before the capture of the city. Geographisches Anstalt somewhat damaged by blast, mostly evacuated. The building temporarily houses the Geologisches Institut of the University of Breslau.

Erlangen: Undamaged. Nothing evacuated from Geologisches Institut. Most of staff, with exception of Krumbeck and another, in German army.

Heidelberg: Undamaged, but most of collections of the Geologisches-Paläontologisches Institut evacuated, including large quantities of material from the Mauer deposits. For last few years there have been three regular staff members, of whom only one, Florian Heller, was there at time of visits. The head of the Institut is Wilser; additional teaching aid was given by Salomon and Jaworski.

Wurzburg: Geographisches Institut completely demolished, but most of equipment apparently moved to the country. Geologisches Institut slightly damaged by blast, nothing evacuated, and, being one of the few habitable buildings in the city, was being used for army billets.

Darmstadt: Geologisches Institut and Hessisches Geologisches Landesanstalt totally demolished.