Crooked Creek Laboratory one can reach elevations of 4000–13,000 feet and temperatures ranging from freezing to well over 100° F.

It is the intention of the supporting agencies, as well as of the University of California, that the facilities of the White Mountain High Altitude Station be made available to all interested scientists equally, whatever their university or governmental affiliation. Indoor laboratory space is limited at present to approximately 1000 square feet at each of the two substations, although it is possible that more space could be secured in the future if warranted by demand. Aside from power, water, and heat, the installation has at its disposal very little in the way of laboratory facilities, although as a matter of policy it is intended to build up as rapidly as possible a backlog of standard pieces of apparatus, such as balances, ovens, etc., which can be used by visiting investigators. In the meantime, anyone intending to work at White Mountain should bring his equipment with him.

Since the basic maintenance is being provided by the three agencies initially referred to, and since there is no other source of operating income, it seems legitimate to charge each active investigator approximately $5.00 per day, plus power and special services at cost.

The White Mountain area is isolated and remote from any large centers of population. The living quarters at both Crooked Creek and Mount Barcroft are comfortable and are available without extra charge to unattached men living at the station. Current funds, however, are not sufficient for the construction of the new buildings that will be necessary for the housing of families. Visitors and investigators, therefore, who wish to bring their families should plan to establish them at a hotel or auto-court in the Owens Valley or provide a trailer that can be brought to the station. Details will be furnished by the authors upon request.

Reference

1. ROBERTS, W. O., and TROTTER, D. Special report under USAF Contract W19-122ac-17 (Jan. 25, 1950).

Eugene Curtis Auchter: 1889–1952

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Agricultural Experiment Station, Knoxville, Tennessee

THE DEATH OF EUGENE CURTIS AUCHTER on July 8, 1952, in Honolulu, brought to a close a long and productive career as an inspiring teacher, an able researcher, and a capable administrator in a broad field of plant science. At the time of his death, he was consulting scientist to the Pineapple Research Institute of Hawaii, of which he had been president and director from 1945 until May 31 of this year, when continuing illness forced his retirement.

Dr. Auchter was born in Elmgrove, New York, September 14, 1889. He spent his boyhood working there on the family farms, which produced a large variety of fruits, vegetables, and flowers for the market. In this way he gained an extensive and intimate knowledge of practical horticulture in all its many branches even before he went to Cornell University, where he received a B.S.A. degree in 1912, an M.S. in 1918, and a Ph.D. in plant physiology in 1923. His formal education was combined with teaching and research, for in 1911 he was appointed assistant pomologist at Cornell, and from 1914 to 1918 he held various positions in the Department of Horticulture at the University of West Virginia. From there he went to the University of Maryland in 1918 as head of its Department of Horticulture and as horticulturist of the Agricultural Experiment Station.

His next ten years were highly productive. He led and conducted research and experimentation in several fields of plant science, with emphasis usually on the underlying principles of plant physiology and biochemistry, but never overlooking the importance of continued advances in practical horticulture. He brought the university's graduate study in horticulture to an ever higher level of development by his constant emphasis on those same basic sciences that he stressed in his own research. Thus, no graduate student in his department majored in "horticulture," but in plant physiology, biochemistry, or plant pathology, commonly with a minor in one of the other two fields. In addition to many scientific papers, it was during this period, too, that he wrote (with H. B. Knapp) two books published in 1929: *Orchard and Small Fruit Culture* and *Growing Tree and Small Fruit*. Both of these are still standard texts.

He was brought to the Bureau of Plant Industry in 1928 to consolidate the various offices then conducting research on fruits and vegetables into a Division of Horticultural Crops and Diseases. In 1935 he was made assistant chief of the bureau and in 1938 he became chief. While with the bureau he continued to stress fundamental research and was active in initiating some of the special investigations dealing with length-of-day response, the plant hormones that were then coming into notice, and similar studies. He was active also in the organization of the Northeast Pasture Laboratory at State College, Pennsylvania; the Soybean Regional Laboratory at the University

of Illinois; the Salinity Laboratory at Riverside, California; and the Plant, Soil and Nutrition Laboratory at Ithaca, New York. The interrelationship of soils with plant nutrition and with animal and human nutrition became a subject of special interest, and he gave an outstanding paper emphasizing the possibilities of research in this field at the annual meeting of the AAAS at Richmond, Virginia, in 1938. In 1942 he was appointed the first administrator of the Agricultural Research Administration, which he had the responsibility of organizing. This was a difficult and bold venture that united many diverse research activities, and it required an imaginative grasp of the ends in view, plus patient diplomacy in achieving them. He held this position until 1945, when he became director and president of the Pineapple Research Institute of Hawaii.

The Plant Industry Station at Beltsville, Maryland, is a monument to Dr. Auchter's administrative ability and to his vision and drive. What if there had been no Beltsville? Let us look back: Arlington Farm was doomed, the West Wing and most of the quarters of the bureau in the South Building were likely to be taken any day, and nowhere were there specific plans for a continuation of the bureau as an entity. Moreover, we were at war, with all the difficulties which that entailed in the procurement of materials and labor for construction. Nor was there any appropriation to expand Beltsville, and the very name was anathema to many of the members of the Congress. Without the knowledge or prior approval of the Secretary of Agriculture or other officials, Gene Auchter alone, working through a friendly senator since retired, got the necessary appropriation. Even earlier, steps were under way to acquire the property needed, and the entire project had been formulated in his mind. It was a privilege to stand on one of the high points in the building area and have Dr. Auchter paint a word picture of just what was to go where. It was also a privilege to hear him dissuade Army officials from demolishing the greenhouses at Arlington until other facilities were available.

Dr. Auchter belonged to many scientific and professional societies. He was an honorary fellow of the Royal Horticultural Society of London, a fellow of the AAAS, and a member of the American Society of Horticultural Science (president, 1926), American Society of Plant Physiologists, American Phytopathological Society, American Genetics Association, Washington Academy of Sciences, Botanical Society of Washington, Botanical Society of Hawaii, Hawaiian Academy of Science (president, 1950), Sigma Xi, Alpha Zeta, and Phi Kappa Phi. He was an officer of and devoted much time to the activities of the Pacific Science Council and was a member of the Cosmos Club (Washington, D. C.).

With all these varied activities and accomplishments in his profession. Gene Auchter, as he was known to hundreds of friends, was first of all human, and he thoroughly enjoyed life. While at college, he earned part of his expenses as a semiprofessional baseball pitcher. A broken finger ended any possible dream of making a career of baseball, but it did not end his interest in the game and in those who played it. About 1936 he rode from Washington to New York with the New York Yankees and ate dinner at the table at which Lefty Gomez sat. His enjoyment was like that of a fourteen-year-old. For days much of his conversation was about the talk he had overheard, particularly of the many different ways Gomez had tried to put an end to a current pitching slump. In later life, time did not permit Dr. Auchter to engage in hunting and fishing, but he retained a sincere interest in these pursuits.

Few, if any, of his intimate friends knew how many graduate students he had helped finance to a final degree. It was heartening, however, to see the pleasure he derived from the knowledge of having helped, when one of his "boys" made good—as most of them did. Always throughout his career he had a keen eye for promising young scientists and liked to encourage them. Perhaps this was one of the secrets of his success. Again, as an officer in Phi Kappa Phi, he devoted time to careful inquiry as to the justification for certain new chapters and to preparations for, and installations of, new chapters when this fell to his lot. Indeed, there seemed to be no end to the vitality and drive that permitted him to enjoy life in all its ramifications.

Dr. Auchter was awarded the Wilder Medal by the American Pomological Society in 1952 for outstanding achievements in horticultural science. We can conclude in no better way than to quote the formal citation inscribed on this medal:

"Scientist, educator, administrator, leader in horticulture, through whose vision and devotion opportunities have been provided for substantial advancement in horticultural research of great benefit to society."