



Wilbert McLeod Chapman



Milner Bailly Schaefer

## IN MEMORIAM

Wilbert McLeod Chapman and Milner Baily Schaefer

Fisheries science in particular and society in general suffered two tragic losses within the period of only a month with the deaths of W. M. Chapman on June 25, 1970, and M. B. Schaefer on July 26, 1970. It is indeed a strange and sad commentary that these two men whose careers were intimately entwined since college days should pass within such a short time of each other.

Death is never easy to accept; it is particularly hard to do so when it occurs at an untimely age. Both of these brilliant men, we would have hoped, would have been with us for years to come. Both were unique, each in his own way, and while the world adjusts to such events, each is in a very real sense irreplaceable.

I had the opportunity to work rather closely with both of them in California over most of the past two decades. Wib Chapman was a member of the California Marine Research Committee for many years, during most of which I served as that body's secretary. It was a challenge to try to capture the essence of his remarks. The breadth of his knowledge and the incisiveness of his thinking stimulated all of us to higher goals, and we who were close to him are better today for the good fortune of his friendship.

"Benny" Schaefer was equally brilliant. His expositions on the scientific method and population dynamics before the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission were models of translation into lay terms of highly complex mathematical theories applied to living resources. Again a personal note. A few years ago Benny was a consultant to the California Department of Fish and Game during the formation of that body's Fish and Wildlife Plan and we worked closely in developing the philosophy behind the sections concerned with living marine resources. His imprint is deeply ingrained in that document and in subsequent legislation, as well as in my thinking.

And, as Wib Chapman had a large input in that task, so did Benny into the deliberations of the Marine Research Committee. Meantime both worked diligently as members of the California Marine Advisory Committee on Marine and Coastal Affairs. While these men will rightfully be remembered for their major contributions to national and international affairs, their energy and interests were such that they encompassed an amazingly broad spectrum. Each of their contributions to the State of California is more than most men could accomplish in a lifetime devoted to that pursuit alone. One hears parallel stories throughout the scientific and fisheries communities.

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Wilbert McLeod Chapman was born in Kalamazoo, Washington, on March 31, 1910. He died in San Diego, California, on June 25, 1970, and is survived by his wife of 35 years, Mary Elizabeth, and five of their six children.

He did both his undergraduate and graduate work at the University of Washington, obtaining his Ph.D. (fisheries) in 1937. His publications, ranging from morphology and systematic ichthyology through fisheries economics and international law, number some 250. One of these, *Fishing in Troubled Waters*, is a book recounting his experiences as a fisheries development officer in the South Pacific during World War II. It is fascinating reading and makes one regret all the more that the other books he had in mind will never be forthcoming. He was particularly proud of his papers on systematics and morphology and always spoke fondly of that part of his career.

His honors were many: among them he was a Fellow of the Guggenheim Foundation and of the California Academy of Sciences, Man of the Year of the National Fisheries Institute in 1966,

and the recipient of the First Sea Grant College Award in 1968.

He began his professional career in 1933 with the International Fisheries (now Halibut) Commission. He was later employed by the Washington State Department of Fisheries, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and, in 1943, by the California Academy of Sciences where he was Curator of Fishes until 1947. It was during this period that he served in a civilian capacity in the South Pacific, his job being to develop subsistence fisheries at advanced island bases.

In 1947, Dr. Chapman became director of the School of Fisheries at the University of Washington. He left there in 1948 to become the first Special Assistant to the Under Secretary of State for Fish and Wildlife. In 1951 he became Director of Research for the American Tunaboat Association; a decade later he joined the Van Camp Sea Food Company as Director of the Division of Resources. When Van Camp was acquired by the Ralston Purina Company in 1968, he became Director, Marine Resources, of that firm, a position he held until his death.

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Milner Baily Schaefer was born in Cheyenne, Wyoming, on December 14, 1912. He died in San Diego, California, on July 26, 1970. He is survived by his wife, Isabella, and three children.

Dr. Schaefer obtained his B.S. degree cum laude from the University of Washington in 1936 and his doctorate from the same institution in 1950. He worked for the Washington State Department of Fisheries from 1935 to 1938 and for the International Pacific Salmon Fisheries Commission from 1938 until 1942.

Following wartime duty with the Navy, he joined the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 1946, serving first as a fishery research biologist

in the South Pacific Fisheries Investigations at Stanford, and from 1948 to 1950 as Chief, Research & Development, Pacific Oceanic Fishery Investigations in Honolulu.

He became Director of Investigations of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission in 1951, holding that post until he became Director of the Institute of Marine Resources and Professor of Oceanography, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California, in 1962. He remained there until his death save for an 18-month period in 1967-69 during which he was Science Adviser to Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall.

Among other honors, he was a fellow of the California Academy of Sciences and a member of the National Academy of Sciences. He wrote more than 100 scientific papers, particularly in the area of population dynamics and fisheries development and utilization. He served on a multitude of panels at the international, national and state levels. Despite his huge workload, he always found time to discuss individual problems with people both large and small, and to administer and develop first the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission and later the Institute of Marine Resources in an exemplary manner, setting standards for each that others will be hard-pressed to equal.

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This recitation cannot give a measure of these men: their unflagging energy, their knowledge in fields far apart from fisheries, their ability as raconteurs, their good fellowship. Nor does it give a measure of their contributions to the nation and to the world, contributions that will help make it a better place in which to live for a long time to come.

**Philip M. Roedel**