

**IN MEMORIAM**  
**ELMER HARRISON JOHNSON**

On Sunday, June 15, 1947, The University of Texas lost, in the death Of Mr. Elmer H. Johnson, one of its outstanding research men, and Texas a citizen who in many respects possessed the broadest knowledge of its resources and industries.

Mr. Johnson was born near Preston, Tacleo County, Missouri, September 8, 1893. He attended Rural High School at Preston, the Weaubleau Christian College 1909-1912, the University of Montana 1914-15, and the Southwest Missouri State Teachers College 1915-1917, where he received the degree of Bachelor of Science. During the First World War he served in the Intelligence Division, 64th Infantry.

After the war he pursued a unique program of graduate studies to prepare himself for a career of research in natural resources. He went to the University of Wisconsin in 1920-21 to study under Dr. C. K. Leith, one of the world authorities on mineral resources, and received the Ph.M. there in 1921. In 1922-23 he entered the University of Chicago to study under H. C. Cowls in botany and Chester W. Wright in economics; there he was made a fellow in geography and a member of Sigma Xi. The year 1924-25 he spent at Clark University studying under W.W. Atwood and O. E. Baker. He also studied at Missouri and Harvard Universities and worked with such outstanding men as R. L. Schantz, University of Illinois, botanist, C. F. Marbut Chief Division of Soils Survey U. S. Department of Agriculture, and Baron Steen de Geer, University of Stockholm. He was one of those rare individuals who never ceased to study and to explore new fields. He took courses in the basic sciences from men in the University of Texas, distinguished in their respective areas and so he became thoroughly grounded in such sciences as soil science, botany, geology, mineralogy, and economics, which were requisite to his own research work in resources and industries.

Mr. Johnson came to Texas in 1925 as a member of the faculty of Texas A. & M. College where he taught geography. While at A. & M., he developed a great interest in Texas and Texas

resources. The establishment of the Bureau of Business Research at the University in 1926, which began a comprehensive research program to serve Texas and Texas trades and industries by discovering the avenues of their most effective development based on material resources and natural advantages, opened up to Mr. Johnson an opportunity to devote his time to a study of Texas and its natural resources. This was an irresistible appeal. Therefore, he came to the Bureau of Business Research as Industrial Geographer in September 1927, which position he occupied until his death. He was a close associate of Dr. Robert T. Hill from 1929 until Dr. Hill's death in 1942.

Mr. Johnson was not only a true scholar and a discriminating collector of information with much valuable writing to his credit, but he has also left much manuscript material of very great value in various stages of completion. His first formal publication The Natural Regions of Texas,

The University of Texas Bulletin No. 3133, contributed much toward stimulating a new and more constructive type of thinking about Texas resources and especially stressed the idea of visualizing these resources in terms of natural regions. Mr. Johnson's second monograph "The Bases of the Commercial and Industrial Development of Texas" was published as Bulletin No. 3309 in 1933. His studies and his individual counsel were relied on heavily by the U. S. Department of Agriculture Crop Reporting Service in laying out the Crop Reporting Districts of Texas to fit as nearly as possible the natural agricultural production regions of the State.

Mr. Johnson served on many committees, advised numerous groups interested in Texas resources and their development, made many addresses, and wrote many articles especially for Texas newspapers, scientific magazines throughout the world, and more particularly for the Texas Business Review. These data along with unpublished manuscripts in the files of the Bureau of Business Research constitute material of great value to Texas and the scientific world.

A bibliography of Mr. Johnson's publications is available from the Office of the General Faculty upon request.

On May 30, 1931, Mr. Johnson married Ellen Deborah Johnson at Marietta, Oklahoma. She was a devoted capable partner. Together they lived quiet and gentle lives, attaining the high respect of neighbors and the love of all of the children in the neighborhood, as well as finding time for such hobbies as studying Indian civilization, collecting stamps, and taking motion pictures.

Mr. Johnson continued his interest in scholarly research and writing in the last months of his life when he was slowly losing his strength and facing an early death.

His work constitutes unique and generous praise for him; nevertheless, it is the desire of the Faculty and Administrative staff of The University of Texas to pay tribute to such a man and to express heartfelt sympathy to the members of his family and especially his wife who contributed so much to his career.

The Committee presents this statement for entry upon the minutes of the General Faculty as an acknowledgement of the University's appreciation of him and the debt all Texas owes to him for his studies, and asks that a copy be sent to his bereaved wife.

D. B. Casteel  
A. B. Cox  
R. W. French

C. D. Simmons  
Paul J. Thompson  
J. Anderson Fitzgerald, Chairman

Filed with the Secretary of the General Faculty by Mr. J. A. Fitzgerald, Chairman, Special Committee on E. H. Johnson Memorial Resolutions, October 20, 1947.

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M. K. D., Manager