



**Cohee, Melville H.**

OREGON - Melville H. Cohee, age 91, of the city of Fitchburg, died on Sunday, January 14, 2001, of multiple health complications. He was born on April 17, 1909 near Frankfort, Indiana, the son of Cecil and Edna (Beech) Cohee. He was a graduate of Frankfort High School and attended Purdue University, where he obtained his B.S.A. and M.S.A. degrees from the Purdue School of Agriculture, in 1931 and 1932 respectively. While at Purdue, he was active in three honorary societies: Alpha Zeta, Purdue Ceres and Kappi Delta Pi. While doing his Ph.D. studies in economics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1932 and 1933, he was research assistant in the UW Agricultural Economics Department, carrying out the first ever land use, water and wind, and soil erosion economic field studies. In 1933, he helped develop the first ever watershed soil erosion and flood control program for the Coon Creek Watershed, Coon Valley, Wiscon-

sin. In 1936, he moved into the Soil Conservation Service, Washington, D.C., office in its Erosion Control Practices Division. In mid-1938, he traveled and researched past conservation laws, procedures and operations in seven central European countries to gain experiences about their governmental and land owners cooperative conservation endeavors for potential application in the U.S. He was chief of the Program Procedures and Project Plans Division of the USDA Soil Conservation Service from 1939 until 1945, heading its planning for the entire U.S. During his remaining professional career, he was with SCS as an agriculture economist, serving nine Midwestern states in planning for flood prevention and watershed protection, including river basin planning. He was one of four men assigned by USDA to plan for a new program to make proper and full use of natural resources in the Northern Great Lakes Region. He did consultant economics work with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. He was a senior economist consultant with FAO of United Nations. Mel is the author of about 50 technical publications and articles. He was active in professional and civic organizations as a charter, lifetime, and fellow award status membership in the Soil and Water Conservation Society. He was a member of Issak Walton League of America. Mel was also a Mason, an honorary Kentucky Colonel and member of First United Methodist Church, Madison. He is survived by two sons, Roger (Jean) and their daughters, Sherry and Melinda (Brad) Hoffmann, and Kent and his daughters, Shannon, Tiffany and Natalie; a sister, Miriam Smith Mueller; and a special friend, Alvina Showers. Mel was preceded in death by his first wife (of 38 years), Viola G. Terwillger; his second wife (of 12 years), Vera Wills; and a brother, Kenneth Cohee. Funeral services will be held at GUNDERSON OREGON FUNERAL HOME, 431 Soden Drive, at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, January 19, 2001, with the Rev. Keith Schroerlucke presiding. Burial will follow at Prairie Mound Cemetery. Friends may call at the funeral home from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 18, 2001. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Viola G. Cohee Memorial Fund, SWCS, Ankeny, Iowa.

*Special recognition should be given to the Oakwood Village, Ankeny, Iowa, for their care.*