In Memorium

Daniel Branch Quayle

Daniel (Dan) Branch Quayle, a world authority in the field of molluscan biology and bivalve culture, passed away October 19, 1993 at his home in Nanaimo, British Columbia. He was 80 years old.

Dan was raised in Ladysmith, B.C., where he undoubtedly developed his love for the ocean. After completing high school, Dan taught school for three years in southeast B.C. He enrolled at the University of British Columbia in 1934 and completed his B.A. in Zoology in 1937. During this period he worked as a summer student at the Pacific Biological Station under Dr. C.R. Elsey studying breeding of Pacific oysters, Crassostrea gigas, in Ladysmith Harbour. He received his M.A. from U.B.C. in 1938 and joined the staff of the Pacific Biological Station in that year, assuming responsibility for the molluscan research program. This began an association with molluscan shellfish and the Pacific Biological Station that spanned a period of 55 years.

His biological career was interrupted during World War II when he served with the Royal Canadian Air Force. He spent one and a half years as a prisoner of war after being shot down over Germany.

He returned briefly to the Pacific Biological Station at the end of the war in 1945 before leaving to begin his Ph.D. studies at the University of Glasgow under Sir C.M. Yonge. Upon receiving his degree he returned to British Columbia to work for the Provincial Department of Fisheries as Director of the Biological Services. He built a small laboratory at Ladysmith and commenced extensive studies on oyster and bivalve culture. During this period he worked closely with industry, pioneering methods to improve oyster production. He maintained a close association with people in the industry, not only in British Columbia but elsewhere, for the rest of his life.

In 1957 Dan left British Columbia to work with industry, first in the State of Washington and then in the State of Virginia.

In 1958 he returned to Nanaimo and the Pacific Biological station and remained there until his retirement in 1973. During this period he undertook extensive research studies on marine invertebrate populations along the coast. Dan’s close association with industry continued and during this period he published his book, “Pacific Oyster Culture in British Columbia”, which became a standard text for oyster culture, particularly for the west coast of North America. Much of the success of the British Columbia oyster industry is due to the efforts of Dan Quayle.

After his retirement in 1973, Dan became a consultant for Canadian aid organizations and travelled throughout the world assisting in development of shellfish culture industries. When not involved in overseas consulting, Dan continued as an active volunteer research worker at the Pacific Biological Station until shortly before his death. He published widely and during this period undertook a major revision of his “Pacific Oyster Culture in British Columbia” publication. He was an inspiration to the staff of the Pacific Biological Station and always had time to talk with younger staff members and give them the benefit of his long years of experience.

Dan had a long association with the National Shellfisheries Association, particularly with the West Coast Section. He served on the Editorial Board of the Proceedings and Journal for many years.

In 1993 the University of Victoria awarded him an honorary LL.D. in recognition of his work in the field of marine invertebrates and molluscan culture.

Dan is survived by his wife, Ann, and his daughter, Moura, and by a host of friends whose lives have been enriched by their association with him.

Neil Bourne, Nanaimo, B.C.

Calling All Bibliophiles!!

Kudos to Dick Petit of North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, for his wonderful efforts in compiling a substantial collection of out-of-print books and papers on the Mollusca. His collection came to my attention when Sandy Shumway sent me a small publication put out by Dick which lists the titles he currently has available for purchase. Being a bibliophile myself, I rapidly paged through the G’s and sure enough found a listing for Gallof, P., 1964. The American Oyster, Crassostrea virginica - listed for only $25.00!!! I telephoned Dick immediately and requested the long-sought-after item, and am now the proud owner of an original volume. Dick says that he “disposes of molluscan libraries for fun” while building his own in the process. He also has some journal and serial publications in the collection (including back issues of the Journal of Shellfish Research and Proceedings of the National Shellfisheries Association). Dick’s note on the back of his list says it all: “Wanted - Wanted - Wanted Publications (book, papers, journals, or entire libraries) on Mollusca (marine, fresh-water, land, fossil or recent). If you have molluscan publications you no longer need, why not make them available for others who might need them? Please contact me if you have any molluscan publications to sell.”

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