

# Ferdinand Hinchley Butt Van Cleve

*August 5, 1899 — December 11, 1993*

Professor Emeritus Ferdinand Hinchley Butt Van Cleve died at home in Friday Harbor, Washington on December 11, 1993 of natural causes. He was predeceased by his wife, Gladys, who died on December 20, 1992. He is survived by a brother, Dr. Donald Van Cleve of Voorheesville, New York. He was appointed an Instructor in Entomology in 1930; promoted to Assistant Professor of Insect Morphology, October 1, 1944; Associate Professor, July 1, 1948; and Professor on July 1, 1959. He became an Emeritus Professor of Entomology, August 16, 1959.

He was born on August 5, 1899 in Spokane, Washington; Ferd and his brother grew up in the Seattle area and developed an early love for boats. No boat advertised for sale was too expensive to inspect. Ferd's philosophy was that if one is just looking, price is no object. He brought his love of boats to Ithaca where he soon acquired a handsome sailing auxiliary vessel. But, upon retiring to Friday Harbor in 1959, he went back to power boats.

He received his B.A. degree from the University of Washington, Seattle, Washington in 1923; his M.A. degree from the same school in 1925 and his Ph.D. degree from Cornell in 1934.

Ferd and Gladys acquired the John McGraw home in Dryden located at 8 Library Street; the house was built in 1835. John McGraw was an early benefactor of Cornell University and the donor of McGraw Hall. After they had studied the history of the house, they renovated it in its original style. They frequently entertained their colleagues and students; there were Sunday teas and picnics. If new guests found the house interesting, Ferd was delighted to take them on a tour and demonstrate its interesting features.

He taught courses in insect morphology and embryology. A number of graduate students worked with him and produced theses under his direction. Ferd's lectures in entomology were informal, pleasant but often accompanied by difficult quizzes. The lectures were stimulating and his fine sense of humor was always present. He inspired students to perform beyond their expectations in making scientific pen and ink drawings. He was co-author and illustrator of *Embryology of Insects and Myriapods*, written with O.A. Johannsen and he was author of a number of articles on the morphology of insects. He was author of a booklet entitled, *Friday Harbor Then and Now*. It is profusely illustrated with his sketches of scenes of Friday Harbor.

Ferd was ever the optimist. At the age of 77 and having two major health problems, he was planning on putting into book form more than 100 eight by ten inch photographs of well-known old sailing vessels, "sometime in the

next ten years". His greatest concern at this time was his inability to take his guests on a cruise in Puget Sound on his thirty-six foot diesel cruiser because he had broken a leg due to a fall and could not fit the immobilized leg behind the pilot wheel. He and Gladys were planning yet another trip to the Orient via freighter the following year; a trip which they subsequently made.

*George Eickwort, Dick Pendleton, John G. Franclemont*