

## PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

and 80's, extended far beyond the classroom and laboratory. He was an active member of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists and was one of the major figures responsible for the spread of dental research among its members, especially the younger ones who were just becoming exposed to the breadth of research challenges. I can recall from my own experience, when in 1971, I was brash enough to organize symposia for the national meetings. Dr. Dahlberg was there to help when I needed extra commentary to fill in for missing discussants in the program. He remained in the audience throughout the long morning session, offering questions and comments and, most important, encouragement. Nearly twenty years later, he was there again at a national meeting of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists. This time he had to divide his time and support between three simultaneous dental anthropology symposia, since interest in dental research had grown so much. About this time our Dental Anthropology Association was beginning to swell in membership and our newsletter increase in content.

Space is insufficient to list the many achievements of our late colleague; his work spans such a range of accomplishments made during more than half of a century. The field work among Native Americans, the dental genetic studies, the growth studies, insightful articles on variation and evolution, and the many commentaries stand out as major contributions.

The life and work of Al Dahlberg will be celebrated in a special issue of the *Dental Anthropology Newsletter* in January. Until then, this issue is offered in tribute to a fine scholar and teacher. We shall miss him.

## Albert A. Dahlberg (1908-1993)

JIM DAHLBERG

Albert A. Dahlberg died of a heart attack early Friday afternoon, July 30, 1993. He was doing what he loved to do: working outside at his farm. He always said that he wished to live to the end of his life on the farm, and his wish was granted. His ashes will remain on the land that he loved so much.



Albert A. Dahlberg

Born in Chicago on November 20, 1908, Al spoke Swedish until he went to school. All of his life he enjoyed this background, often going back to the Swedish neighborhood at Christmas and at other special times.

In 1933 Al received his DDS degree and started a long, fruitful association with the University of Chicago Dental Clinic. He later established a very successful dental practice. In spite of his interest in teeth and their care, he had a great sweet-tooth of his own.

Al's intellect and curiosity led him to ask how teeth came to have the size and shape that they do. Reading on his own, and with the tireless support of his wife, Thelma, he learned about human genetics and physical anthropology. Starting in the late 1940's, the team of Al and Thelma went on many field trips to study the dentitions of various human populations, including American Indians of the Southwest, Eskimos, and groups in Iran, Iraq, and Japan.

As a professor in the Department of Anthropology and Program of Evolutionary Biology at the University of Chicago, Al obtained great pleasure from his anthropological work. He shared his enthusiasm with his friends and family.

The significance of this work was widely recognized, and Al received many awards including the Order of the Rising Sun 3rd Degree (the highest honor bestowed on a non-Japanese by the emperor of Japan), an honorary doctorate

from Turku University in Finland, and the 1992 Award from the International Society of Dental Research.

Al and Thelma were married on January 2, 1934. To celebrate, the two newly-weds had a hamburger, which was all they could afford at the time. Ever since then, they marked their anniversaries by treating themselves to a hamburger. They had three children, Corki, Al, and Jim, who were blessed by growing up

in a supportive, loving, and stimulating home. Al and Thelma devoted themselves to their three children and eight grandchildren.

In 1950, while the children were all at camp, Al and Thelma bought their home on Stone Barn Road. The kids were told about the purchase during a picnic on the big hill. Many years of happiness followed, and The Farm became home. Every Friday evening in Chicago the family would pack the car with food, clothes, dog, etc. and set off to spend the weekend at The Farm to hike, feed horses, mow the lawn, fix fences, and do the things that continually needed to be done. Summers were spent at The Farm. As soon as the kids' school ended, Al would commute into Chicago to work at his dental practice and at the University.

When the pace of life slowed a bit, Al and Thelma were able to spend more and more time at the farm. But even in retirement, Al did not lose his interest in dental anthropology. He continued his association with the University of Chicago as a professor emeritus and set up a laboratory in a newly constructed garage on the farm. Al spent many happy hours working there, analyzing some of the thousands of teeth of individuals that he had immortalized as plaster casts and writing scientific articles. Al's most recent article was published just a few months ago.

During their almost 60 years of marriage, Al and Thelma were fortunate to become close friends with many wonderful people who lived around the world, in Chicago, and near The Farm. Al valued these friendships very much and Thelma still does. The support of family and friends at this time of transition has been great and is very much appreciated.

## Richard M.S. Taylor (1903-1992)

JOHN B. CARMAN

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The association's only New Zealand member, Richard M.S. Taylor, died in his 89th year, on August 30, 1992. His major contributions to dental anthropology spanned a period of more than 50 years. His last work, published in Auckland, was completed at the age of 87. It earned his second degree of Doctor of Science, conferred just a few months before his death.

Richard Morris Stovin Taylor was born in 1903 Wanganui, 100 miles north of Wellington, New Zealand. He was the great-great grandson of Reverend R.M.S. Taylor, the C.M.S. missionary who transcribed the principal copy of New Zealand's Treaty of Waitangi in 1840. Educated at Wanganui Collegiate School and then at the University of Otago, he graduated B.D.S. in 1926. He was awarded a research scholarship which he took up in 1928 in the Department of Anatomy at Otago University. He commenced a study of the human palate using both conventional, point-to-point measurements and the more sophisticated coordinate geometry possible with the newly developed Reserve Craniostat which W.P. Gowland, the Professor of Anatomy, had purchased from Western Reserve University while on leave. This study took six years part-time, and in 1934 Richard Taylor received the degree of Doctor of Dental Surgery.

As part of his research, he studied casts of the fragments and reconstruction of the Piltown find. He became doubtful of the details of the reconstruction and at the January, 1937, meeting of the Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science (ANZAAS) in Auckland, he presented a paper demonstrating clearly on morphological grounds that the canine was an upper left and not a lower right as in the reconstruction. More importantly, he showed that the setting of the teeth was incompatible with the wear patterns, and that no plausible antecedent occlusion could have existed in the individual. He was one of the first to seriously challenge the status of Piltown with verifiable evidence. It was a regret to many that the intervention of World War II prevented due recognition of his work. His D.D.S. thesis on the palate was critically re-evaluated and published in 1962 as a supplement to *Acta Anatomica*.

The demands of earning a living, marriage to Irene (Rene) Rhodes in 1935, and family (Diana and Michael) saw Richard employed first in the School of Dental Service in Wellington, Hamilton, and Auckland (1930-1948), and then in private practice in Auckland. There was little time for research but foundations were laid. Throughout his practice Richard collected extracted teeth. In 1946 and again in 1969, as a member of anthropological groups, he studied the dentition of native Australians, traveling extensively through central Australia and Queensland. In 1964 at the age of 69, Richard chose to retire from full-time employment and turn to full-time research. He established associations first with the department of Zoology