

## JOHN HARPER MELVIN

1906-1977



John Harper (Jack) Melvin was born 11 December 1906 in Chillicothe, Ohio and died 19 June 1977 at Riverside Hospital, Columbus, Ohio.

Jack Melvin was an intimate mixture of scientist, educator, administrator and humanist. It was largely due to his administrative efforts as Executive Officer of The Ohio Academy of Science from 1961 to 1975 that The Ohio Academy became the third largest Academy in the nation. We truly owe a debt of gratitude to Jack as an innovative, dynamic individual who built for the future. It was with this in mind that the John H. and Ruth W. Melvin Scholarship Fund was established by The Ohio Academy of Science.

Jack Melvin graduated from Ohio Wesleyan University in 1931 and received a masters degree in geology from the Ohio State University in 1933. He served with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Omaha, NE, Little Rock, AR, and Zanesville, OH. He was State Geologist and Chief of the Division of Geological Survey, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, from 1947-1957. Before accepting the position of Executive Officer of The Ohio Academy of Science in 1961, he was general manager of the Pennsylvania Drilling Company in Pittsburgh. He served as Executive Officer of the Academy until his retirement in 1975.

Active in many scientific and engineering organizations, Jack was a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, The Ohio Academy of Science, The American Society of Civil Engineers, Society of Economic Geologists, and the Geological Society of America. He was a registered Professional Engineer in Ohio and Pennsylvania and a member of the National Society of Professional Engineers and the Ohio Society of Professional Engineers. He was active in the American Association

for the Advancement of Science and served as president of the Association of Academies of Science in 1968 and was the archivist for this national organization. His other affiliations included the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, American Association of State Geologists, American Geophysical Union, American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical and Petroleum Engineers, American Petroleum Institute, Appalachian Geological Society, and Sigma Xi. An ardent conservationist, Jack was a former Trustee of the Ohio Forestry Association, and a member of the Columbus Audubon Society. Ohio State University honored him with the distinguished Orton Award from the Geology Department in 1971. In 1975, Jack, along with his wife Ruth, was inducted into the Ohio Conservation Hall of Fame.

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