

## ROBERT LEWIS PACKARD—1928-1979

J. KNOX JONES, JR., AND ROBERT J. BAKER

Robert Lewis Packard, known to his friends as "Bob" and to intimates as "Freddy," passed away in Lubbock, Texas, on 8 April 1979, after a lengthy bout with cancer. He was born in Lincoln, Nebraska, on 10 August 1928, one of two children of Wayne and Josephine Packard. After completion of his public school education in 1947, he entered the University of Nebraska, from which he graduated with a double major in Botany and Zoology in 1951. Following two years of military service as an officer in the Ordinance Corps of the U.S. Army, Packard undertook graduate training at the University of Kansas, where he earned the M.A. degree in 1955 and the Ph.D. degree in 1960, the former under the direction of Rollin H. Baker and the latter under the guidance of E. Raymond Hall.

Early in his college career, while still an undergraduate, what was to become an abiding interest in vertebrate zoology was evident, with an initial interest in birds as indicated by his first publications. Gradually, Packard shifted his major emphasis to mammals and most of his 61 published contributions related to that group. After completion of his doctoral work, he was appointed Assistant Professor of Biology at Stephen F. Austin State College in Texas, where he taught from 1959 to 1962. In the latter year, he moved to Texas Technological College (soon to become Texas Tech University), with which he was associated until his death. There, he was Assistant Professor of Biology from 1962 to 1965, Associate Professor from 1965 to 1967, and Professor thereafter. He also served that institution as Assistant Dean of the Graduate School (1967-68), Coordinator of Research for The Museum (1971-75), and Director of the Junction Center campus (1975-79).

As a child, Dr. Packard was stricken with a rare blood disease, hypoplastic anemia, which caused him to miss a year of grammar school, plagued him to varying degrees throughout his life, and probably contributed to his untimely death. Despite this affliction, he led an active life, participating in athletics in high school, where he earned a varsity letter in golf, and in a wide variety of activities, including extended zoological field work, as an adult. His accomplishments are all the more appreciated in light of his medical history.

On 27 December 1950, Packard married Patricia Joann Croskary, who survives him. To this union were born two daughters, Lisa Ann in 1954 and Lori Sue in 1960 (a first child, a son, was stillborn in 1952). Sadly, the girls were diagnosed as having the same disease as their father but, unlike him, were unable to combat it through childhood. Lisa died in 1965 and Lori in 1968. This personal tragedy, which could have destroyed a lesser man, was

borne by Bob, and by his wife, courageously and with determination. Only those who knew them well were acquainted with their deeply-felt emotions.

Bob Packard was an excellent teacher, both in the classroom and in the field, and was officially recognized by Texas Tech for his outstanding contributions to undergraduate education at that institution. He had excellent rapport with students and was regarded by many of them as a kind of "academic father." It seems quite likely that his appreciation for young people and his identification with them was partly a response to the loss of his own children. In any event, he will be remembered by many as an inspiring instructor and a warm human being.

At the graduate level, too, Packard was a successful mentor of students. He directed 23 master's theses (four at Stephen F. Austin State and 19 at Texas Tech) and guided eight candidates to completion of the Ph.D. degree (all at Tech), including the first awarded in the Department of Biological Sciences at that institution. These students and their academic progeny will serve as a permanent legacy to Bob Packard's work as a graduate advisor and director of graduate research. Those who received the master's degree as his students were: Peter V. August (1976); J. Hoyt Bowers (1962); Brian R. Chapman (1970); James L. Crain (1962); Paul G. Desha (1964); Michael H. Droge (1976); Robert B. Drotman (1967); Herschel W. Garner (1965); William B. Grabowski (1964); Michael J. Harvey (1962); Duane Ikenberry (1964); Gerald L. Johnson (1972); Frank W. Judd (1968); Michael C. Krenz (1977); Robert C. McReynolds (1968); Joyce W. Mize (1969); James R. Phillips (1962); Paul R. Ramsey (1969); Jimmy D. Roberts (1969); Frank Schitoskey, Jr. (1967); David J. Schmidly (1968); Timothy L. Tandy (1978); and Daniel R. Womochel (1968). Doctorates completed under Packard's tutelage included: John W. Clarke (1979); Walter H. Conley (1971); Herschel W. Garner (1970); Graham C. Hickman (1974); Robert E. Martin (1974); Kenneth G. Matocha (1975); James B. Montgomery (1979); and Robert W. Wiley (1972).

In addition to formal instruction and directing graduate studies, Bob Packard had considerable impact on several other academic areas of Texas Tech University. He was the first mammalogist at the University and it was primarily as a result of his efforts that one of us (Baker) came to Tech. He was the first to envision that institution as building a quality research program in mammalogy, and he continually worked toward that goal. Today, there are seven professional mammalogists at Texas Tech, to say nothing of those in allied fields with an interest in mammals.

He started the collection of Recent mammals, now housed in The Museum, in 1962 and he served as Curator of Mammals from 1962-71. This collection now contains more than 40,000 catalogued specimens and is among the largest in the United States.

Under his leadership as Director of the Junction Center campus (1975-79), that satellite operation became an active center of education, including

summer courses in such areas as education, art, biology, and agriculture. The largest educational building at Junction now bears his name.

Packard was associated with many scientific and learned societies. He joined the American Society of Mammalogists in 1949 while still in undergraduate school, and served the Society in a number of official capacities: as an elected Director for a total of five terms and 11 years until his death (1968-75, 1976-79); as a member of standing committees on Conservation of Land Mammals, 1961-63, Membership (as chairman), 1968-75, and Program, 1975-78; and as Chairman of the Local Committee for the 56th Annual Meeting in Lubbock, Texas, in 1976. He also served, among others, the Texas Academy of Science as a vice president, and the Southwestern Association of Naturalists as journal editor, permanent secretary, president-elect, and as president in 1972-73. These activities, along with his published contributions to the discipline of mammalogy, which spanned nearly three decades and several subdisciplines of the field (and of which a listing follows), are ample testimony to Packard's direct impact on the science.

Packard's name is associated with the original descriptions of six taxa of Recent mammals. He described the following subspecies: *Baiomys musculus handleyi*; *Baiomys musculus pullus*; *Baiomys taylori canutus*; *Baiomys taylori fuliginatus*; *Ochrotomys nuttalli floridanus*; and *Ochrotomys nuttalli lisae*. He was joint describer of a fossil species, *Baiomys intermedius* Packard and Alvarez, 1965, and of a new name for a whale, *Feresa occulta* Jones and Packard, 1956 (the previous name for which was preoccupied). One mammal, *Antrozous pallidus packardi* Martin and Schmidly, 1982, has been named in his honor.

The way a man faces death is a reflection of his character and the final months of Bob Packard's life were extremely difficult, with progressive cancer despite harsh chemotherapy. My (Baker) personal conversations with him led me to believe that he understood that death was imminent but that he considered it important not to let this condition dilute his activities in his last months of life. During that time, I never saw him exhibit self-pity or depression. In fact, he interacted with his colleagues in such a positive manner that many commented that his death had caught them by surprise. Clearly, his final days reflected the strength of Bob Packard's character.

Finally, another personal note (Jones). Bob Packard and I were closely associated for more than 40 years, having grown up but a few blocks apart in Lincoln, Nebraska, and having attended together junior and senior high school, the University of Nebraska, and (save for separation during military service) Graduate School at the University of Kansas. He was a good guy, a sound scientist, an outstanding educator, and a true friend.

Parts of the foregoing obituary appeared in the *Journal of Mammalogy* (62:855-859, 1981) and the West Texas Museum Association's *The Museum Digest* (May-September, 1980).