BIOGRAPHICAL REMINISCENCES OF MCDUNNOUGH, BARNES, AND DAVIDSON

Publication of the biography of Dr. J. H. Mcdunnough (Ferguson, Journ. lep. soc. 16: 209-228; 1963) and the obituary notice relative to W. M. Davidson (Rawson, Journ. lepid. soc. 16: 250; 1963) in the Journal prompts me to write a few personal reminiscences.

When I was at Stanford University I spent my summers working at resorts at Lake Tahoe. This had the two-fold advantage of allowing me to collect butterflies in my spare time and also earn some money. I had sent Dr. William Barnes some butterflies from Tahoe as well as a brochure of Deer Park Inn, where I worked, and which was situated in the next small valley south of the now famous Squaw Valley. The upshot of this was that the doctor, his wife, son and daughter, and Dr. Mcdunnough, came to Deer Park for a couple of weeks in the summer of 1910. (The Brief Biography of Barnes, in the Lepidopterists' News 3: 53-54; 1949, says he went to the Tahoe region in 1917, and this may have been another trip.) My chief recollection of this family was seeing them start out in the morning, each one armed with a net, which created something of a stir, as most of the resort guests could not quite understand this type of activity. That was the year when Jack Johnson knocked out Jim Jeffries at Reno on July 4 in what was then called a prize fight. The good doctor and his son forsook the net for the time being and went down to Reno to see the fight. I do not recall whether Mcdunnough went along.

W. H. Davidson and I were at Stanford together; he graduated a year ahead of me. Dave, as we called him, had the reputation among the entomology students of bringing in from field trips more rare and odd insects than the rest of us together. And from that I would say he was very observant. Incidentally, he belonged to the Stanford Chess Club and was on the college team for three years. The note about him in the Journal says he was in the "U. S. Food Distributing Administration." Lest the conclusion be drawn that he became a distributor of food, let it be known that there was no such administration. Actually, Dave was with the U. S. Food & Drug Administration. Earlier he was with the Insecticide and Fungicide Board, which had the job of testing new insecticides and fungicides to see if they would be effective and safe to use. In 1927 this Board became a part of the reorganized Food, Drug and Insecticide Administration, the name of which was later changed to Food and Drug Administration.

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