

Brief Note on Mrs. J. Robert Shuman (formerly Mrs. George M. Wright)

Ben H. Thompson

(Earlier this year, in *The George Wright FORUM* 4(4), we reported the tragic accidental death of Mrs. Shuman. Insufficient information at that time prevented us from doing justice to this grand lady. The following has been kindly sent to us from former NPS Assistant Director, and brother-in-law of Mrs. Shuman, Ben Thompson...Eds.)

Bernice Ray, known as 'Bee' all of her life, graduated in political science from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1929. She and George M. Wright were at the University during some of the same years. On the campus she was a member of Delta Gamma sorority and he was a member of Delta Upsilon fraternity.

She and George were married in January, 1930, and lived in Berkeley where he had established an office for the Wildlife Surveys he was conducting in the national parks.

Bee had no background in biology, but she strongly supported George in his work. After their marriage she went with him on nearly all of his trips into the parks, collecting information on wildlife conditions, and often camping in remote regions, as in the upper reaches of the North Fork Flathead River in Glacier National Park and in the Bechler River country of Yellowstone. She had a fine social sense and their home was a center for many festive parties.

A few months after their first daughter was born, they tucked the baby in a snugly covered basket, with a gauze window above her face, and drove to Yellowstone in winter. Baby and basket rode in the Survey's especially equipped truck, behind the driver's seat but in the open air—and thoroughly enjoyed the trip.

In 1934, then with two little daughters, Sherry and Pamela, Bee and George drove to Washington, DC where George, in addition to his Wildlife Division responsibilities, chaired the preparation of a report on the recreational use of land in the United States for the President's National Resources Planning Board. During the last night of the report's preparation, Bee brought in sandwiches and coffee to the staff. The report was finished and handed in the next morning, on time.

In 1935 after being several months in their Berkeley home, they closed the home and moved their family and furniture to Washington, DC where they established a new home at 28th and O Streets in Georgetown. There in February 1936 Bee received word that George, traveling with a presidentially appointed group studying proposed parks and monuments along the international boundary with Mexico, was killed in an automobile accident. Some months later she returned with the children to Berkeley. The Federal Government had by then assumed financial responsibility for the Wildlife Division.

In 1938 Bee and J. Robert Shuman, of the investment firm of Shuman Agnew, were married and made their home in San Francisco.

They were living at 1940 Broadway when Mr. Shuman died in October 1982 and where Mrs. Shuman lived until she was killed in an automobile accident in February of this year, just 50 years after George Wright's similar, tragic death.

She is survived by her two daughters, Mrs. Sherry Wright Bricchetto and Mrs. Pamela Wright Lloyd and their families, by Mr. Shuman's two children, Mr. Jack Shuman and Mrs. Joan Lyehe and their families, and by her sister, Mrs. Mathilda Jane Ray Thompson.

Ben H. Thompson, Glenwood, New Mexico.

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Society Notes

Attached to the inside back cover of this issue of FORUM is a dues/subscription notice to all members of The George Wright Society/subscribers to The George Wright FORUM. It will say whether or not you now owe dues—and when dues will be due if they aren't now—according to our records. The notice also provides space for change of address, should one be required, and an envelope preaddressed to the Society Treasurer.

For those receiving FORUM on an "official" designation, a confirmation of the current FORUM mailing list will be requested of the Washington and Regional offices in the United States, from the Park Canada Directorate office in Ottawa, and from individuals now on the mailing list in other nations.

Those of us fortunate enough to have attended the recent (July) triennial Conference on Science in the National Parks in Fort Collins, came away believing that this was the best conference yet. Our heartfelt thanks go to Dr. Raymond Hermann, who was the conference organizer, arranger, and overseer. Thanks, Ray, for the superb job.
