

Tribute to Henry Elliott Adler
1917 - 1983



Henry Elliott Adler died unexpectedly on July 8, 1983, 3 days after his 66th birthday. These past few years, Dr. Adler's health had not been the best and thus had markedly marred his enthusiastic participation at professional and industry sessions. He is survived by his wife, Mary, five daughters, and one son.

Dr. Adler, although born in New York in 1917, was nevertheless a true westerner, moving first to Washington and then spending a major part of his adult life in California. He received his bachelor's and DVM degrees from Washington State University in 1942 and 1946, respectively, then served as a pathologist for the State Dept. of Agriculture in Puyallup.

From 1947 to 1949, he was in Hawaii at the Board of Agriculture and Forestry in Honolulu, after which he returned to Washington State University to join the professional faculty. In 1953, he came to the University of California at Davis as an assistant veterinarian, received his Ph.D. in 1955, and then was on the faculty research group until his retirement in 1982.

Although his fortes were microbiology and immunology, Dr. Adler was an excellent pathologist, a fine clinician, and a highly competent veterinarian and biologist. He enjoyed teaching and did it well. Among his many contributions were the development and application of the first really effective bacterin against erysipelas in turkeys in the early 1950s. Of even greater importance was his development of agglutination antigen and agglutination tests for the detection of asymptomatic carriers of *Mycoplasma gallisepticum*:

he aided greatly in the eradication of this infection in basic breeder flocks of both turkeys and chickens. He loved to get out in poultry houses and turkey pens to work with producers and their birds, and to help them solve problems. His contributions in the field of egg sanitation and hatchery management included the development of egg-sanitizing procedures, efforts in the control of salmonellosis and paracolon infection in turkeys, and studies on pasteurellosis of chickens and turkeys.

Other contributions made by Dr. Adler included participation in the organization and maintenance of the Western Regional Research Committee in Respiratory Diseases of Poultry, participation in the meeting at East Lansing, Michigan, that resulted in the publication of the National Academy of Sciences - National Research Council "Methods for the Examination of Poultry Biologics," and active leadership in a number of committees. He was recognized as early as 1957 with the Newman International Poultry Association Award, and in 1960 he received the National Turkey Federation Research Award. In 1962, a similar award came from the XIIth World Poultry Congress. In 1961-62, he was a National Institutes of Health Fellow in Australia, awarded by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research in Australia, and in 1970 he received a travel award for research in Spain by the World Poultry Congress. In 1970, he also received the Corn Products Company International, Inc. Award for distinctive contribution to poultry science advancement.

Dr. Adler was one of the organizing charter members of the American Association of Avian Pathologists and an enthusiastic contributor. In late June of this year, he was nominated as a life member of the Association, but he passed away before the Board met and could approve his honor. It would have pleased him very much. Dr. Adler was also a member of the American Veterinary Medical Association, the Poultry Science Association, the Society for Experimental Biology and Medicine, Sigma XI and the Society for Applied Microbiology.

Dr. Adler was always mindful of the many contributions by those with whom he collaborated. He had the highest regard for his fellow faculty investigators as well as for those staff members and employees of the poultry and turkey organizations with which he worked. He was always eager to encourage and help junior scientists and to give credit to those with whom he was associated. Graduate students whom he encouraged and guided are now recognized investigators, and he had numerous associates at the University of California, throughout the United States, and worldwide. He had a great scientific imagination, tremendous enthusiasm, and an encyclopedic store of facts. Those of us who knew him best know that we have lost an extremely competent co-worker, a good friend, and a guide for many coming into the field.