

# OBITUARIES

## LLOYD ALDEN WILFORD, 1894–1982



Lloyd Wilford died in Hudson, Wisconsin, on January 14, 1982. His professional career in anthropology was spent in the University of Minnesota where he retired as Professor in 1959. As the first professionally trained archaeologist working in Minnesota, he spent his research efforts in delineating the content of the spatially and temporally variable cultures of a state marked by highly divergent vegetational and physiographic zones.

He began this pioneering work in the 1930s following a varied series of careers that he began at the age of 17 as a teacher in a one-room schoolhouse in South Dakota after he had completed two years of education at Lawrence University. He served in the China theater with the U.S. Navy in World War I and then worked for the U.S. Veterans Administration in Minneapolis. While with the V.A., he earned a law degree at the University of Minnesota in 1920 and in 1924 opened a private law practice with two friends in St. Paul. His career goals

shifted again, and in 1927 he entered an M.A. program in political science at the University of Minnesota where he wrote a thesis on the state Industrial Commission and received the degree in 1929.

His anthropological interests were kindled during those graduate study years when he took his minor field course work under Albert Ernest Jenks. Jenks himself was shifting from ethnology to archaeology at that period and Lloyd was a student member of a field crew at the Galaz site in the Mimbres Valley of New Mexico where he and Jenks worked four years. A subsequent year was spent at the Capsian site of Mechta el Arbi in Algeria where Lloyd was the field director. Returning to Minnesota, Jenks secured a university civil service position for Lloyd, and their archaeological research efforts turned to Minnesota, stimulated by the discovery of "Minnesota Man" (Jenks 1936) in 1932. The anthropometric analysis of that find and the subsequent Browns Valley Man find (Jenks 1937) consumed much of Lloyd's time but he was able to establish a recording and curation system for the growing scientific collections at the university. His reading in the discipline convinced him that he needed further professional training and he entered the Harvard graduate program in anthropology in 1935. His 1937 Ph.D. dissertation on Minnesota prehistoric archaeology (Wilford 1937) was the first attempt to synthesize the data collected from a number of sites between 1932 and 1936.

He returned to Minnesota after completing his work at Harvard and continued his civil service research role in the department, following the pattern of sampling sites in varied ecological settings across the state. Jenks had retired, and although Lloyd took small groups of students into the field each summer, he did not begin to teach during the academic year until World War II when he was recruited to teach celestial navigation to ASTP (Army Special Training Program) students. It was not until 1948 that he was shifted to an academic appointment in anthropology where he of-

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ferred meticulously prepared courses in archaeology and physical anthropology while continuing his active summer research program. He excavated at over 130 archaeological sites in Minnesota over 23 field seasons and for each of these sites has left field notes, photographs, carefully accessioned collections, and a typescript manuscript describing the excavations and analyzing the data. A list of these sites, the excavation dates, and a fuller description of the research strategy have been published (Johnson 1974).

Lloyd's impact on students and colleagues was great. Those students who participated in his summer fieldwork remembered the 10 weeks of careful excavation, the camping, the evenings with Lloyd and his astronomical charts, and the memorable Saturday nights in the nearest small town as the highlight of their undergraduate education. Colleagues respected his erudition and his insights and, for some, his superior talents at bridge. Student residents over many years at the Delta Chi house on campus fondly remember their faculty roommate as "Judge." Lloyd lived a full and interesting life as a scholar, a teacher, and as a world traveler. Unencumbered by personal possessions—the total could be packed in two suitcases—he lived a life he chose and enjoyed.

ELDEN JOHNSON

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