JAMES ECKART OZMENT (1939-1965)

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James Eckart Ozment was one of the most promising young natural scientists ever to come to Southern Illinois University. His shocking death on April 30, 1965 saddened the hearts of those who knew him and had worked with him. It was on that fateful day that, while alone with nature, which was his way, he fell from a 60-foot cliff at Giant City State Park.

He was the son of Mr. & Mrs. E. M. Ozment of Stonefort, Illinois. His interest in nature developed early at home, and he spent all spare moments in his short life exploring for plants and animals.

Ozment's brilliance is attested to by his scholastic achievements. He ranked number one in his Carrier Mills High School graduating class in 1957 and number one in his Southern Illinois University graduating class in August, 1961, where he majored in zoology and minored in botany.

He received a master's degree in botany in 1963, writing a brilliant account of the plants which grow on limestone cliffs in southern Illinois. He was in his second year of doctoral study in plant taxonomy at Southern Illlinois University at the time of his untimely death. He had received two graduate fellowships from Southern Illinois University and a National Science Foundation Summer Fellowship, and was holding a two-year NSF Co-operative Fellowship.

Ozment traveled extensively in search of plants and animals. He had gone on collecting trips in 1962,-63, and -64 to Mexico to collect plants for the University herbarium.

He was chief collector for the Illustrated Flora of Illinois project and a contributor to the manuscript on *Chamaesyce*. He was monographing the boraginaceous genus *Bourreria* for his doctorate.

Ozment was in the midst of several projects. His master's thesis and three articles which he was collaborating on follow this necrology.

Before his death, three publications had been produced by Ozment. They are as follows:

STAINS, HOWARD J., JAMES E. OZMENT, and ARTHUR LIPPOLDT. 1961. An electric fence enclosure for small mammals. J. Mamm. 42(3): 391-95.

————and JAMES E. OZMENT. 1962. A record of the brown skink (*Sciencella laterale*) and prairie skink (*Eumeces septentrionalis*) from Barber County, Kansas. Trans. Kansas Acad. Sci. 65(2): 143.

MOHLENBROCK, R. H., JAMES E. OZMENT, and GEORGE W. FOLKERTS. 1962. Additions to the flora of Illinois. Rhodora 64(3): 356-61.

The James E. Ozment Achievement Award in Natural History at Southern Illinois University has been set up by Mr. Ozment's parents.