

EARLY STEPS IN FORMATION OF CREATION RESEARCH SOCIETY

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The American Scientific Affiliation (A. S. A.) was formed at a meeting held September 2-5, 1941. The first annual convention was held in 1946. When I was asked to join by Alton F. Everest in 1944, he assured me that the stance of the society would be anti-evolutionary.

This position is clearly evident in the first book published by A. S. A. entitled, *Modern Science and Christian Faith*. The chapter on "Biology and Christian Faith" written by Dr. William J. Tinkle and me presented many genetic reasons for not accepting any sort of "evolutionary" explanation for the origin of species.

By 1951 the A. S. A. had over 220 members, but along with this growth theistic evolutionists somehow joined, since the statement of belief was far too loosely drawn. By 1963 such men as Bernard Ramm, Richard Bube, Walter R. Hearn, David O. Moberg, William F. Tanner, J. Lawrence Kulp, and J. Frank Cassel dominated the thinking and editorial policy.

Yet by the time of publication of the A. S. A. directory many committed creationists were still members. These included Arthur Custance, R. Laird Harris, John R. Howitt, John W. Klotz, Frank L. Marsh, Henry M. Morris, William J. Tinkle, and Wilbert H. Rusch, Sr.

Increasingly dissatisfied with the theistic evolutionary viewpoint of the A. S. A., I had begun to correspond with a "Team of Ten", who were dedicated creationists. These were Henry M. Morris, William J. Tinkle, Frank Marsh, John J. Grebe, John W. Klotz, Wilbert H. Rusch, Sr., Duane Gish, R. Laird Harris, and Edwin Monsma.

At a meeting of the A. S. A. with the Evangelical Theological Society held at Asbury College in Wilmore, Kentucky

from June 19-21, 1963 several of the "Team of Ten" presented papers. I decided to go to this meeting also. At that meeting the first draft of the present Creation Research Society (C. R. S.) statement of belief was made.

As I recall William Tinkle, Henry Morris, Wilbert H. Rusch, Sr., Frank Marsh, R. Laird Harris, and John Grebe were at this meeting. Only Tinkle, Rusch, and I were able to drive with John Grebe to his home in Midland, Michigan, where we were joined by Duane Gish, David Warriner, John N. Moore, Frank Marsh, Karl Linsenmann, and John Klotz. The first draft of the statement of belief was then "tightened up" to the present form.

The statement has remained unchanged, and has served very well to keep out theistic evolutionists and others who might like to sabotage the C. R. S. position as was done with the A. S. A.

In 1965 I appointed Dr. Thomas Barnes as chairman of the biology textbook committee. This book stresses the viewpoint of an original creation, and design in nature as the explanation of the many interesting facts of biological science. Barnes and his committee worked diligently on the book project with the result that Zondervan Publishing House published the first edition entitled, *Biology: A Search for Order in Complexity* in 1970. Dr. John N. Moore deserves special mention for his splendid coordination work between Zondervan and the committee. He has also been managing editor of the *Creation Research Society Quarterly* since the middle of the second year of publication in 1965.

Two unwritten concepts are held by C. R. S., namely that the universe and the earth are young in age, that is thousands rather than millions of years old, and that many events catastrophic in nature, though local in extent, occurred subsequent to the great flood of Noah's time.

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PANORAMA OF SCIENCE

Mechanical Design of Trees

The July, 1975 issue of *Scientific American* contained an interesting article¹ on the mechanical design of trees. The author, T. A. McMahon, stated at the onset, "Usually, of course, there is a single most important design principle both in nature and in engineering." He pointed out that the growth of trees is largely controlled by auxins produced in apical plant tissues.

As a result, in spring, cambial activity starts first in the twigs and progresses down the stem. Differences in auxin concentrations cause trees to grow toward the light, or cause bent trees to grow straight.

McMahon developed the thesis, based on beams of the same cross-sectional shape, modulus of elasticity, and specific gravity, that the diameter of trees will vary with height raised to the 3/2 power, that is the length times the square root of the length.

His study of numerous species indicated that on the average this was true, although he noted that the mean height trees obtain is only about 25% of that they could obtain and still not buckle. That means trees are designed, with regard to buckling, with a safety factor of about four.

Foresters have already recognized that the specific gravity of trees varies with distance from the pith and height up

the stem, and recognized that bole form is quite variable; but McMahon may have quantified a design principle which has general application.

Trees which grow in dense stands tend to be more cylindrical than those in the open field. Those in the field develop more taper allowing them to withstand the greater wind stresses to which they are exposed. McMahon has reasoned that the wood rays are affected by such stresses, and in reaction more auxin moves to areas under stress, resulting in more growth in those areas.

A scientist noted years ago that the knees of cypress trees provide just the type of mechanical support an engineer would design to support a tree in a swamp. Truly, man continues to be amazed at the skills of the greatest engineer, the Creator of all.

—Contributed by Harry V. Wiant, Jr.

Comments on Manipulation of Genes

Man has been fascinated by genetic manipulation from the dawn of civilization, as illustrated by the selection of dozens of breeds of purebred dogs, cats, horses and cattle, not to mention favorite varieties of flowering plants and food crops. Such experimentation is the basis of the trad-