

## BERTRAM C. DRAPER 1904-2000

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Bertram (Bert) C. Draper, one of the most active amateur malacologists in southern California, passed away in Los Angeles, on 7 August, 2000, at the age of 96. Bert was born on 30 April, 1904 in Chicago, Illinois, the first son of Edwin H. Draper and Jessie Woods Draper. When Bert was young, the family, including sister Dorothy, and brothers Clarence, Robert, and Richard, moved to Marshalltown, Iowa, where his father was a traffic manager for the Marshall Canning Company. Bert graduated from Marshalltown High School in 1922, at which he excelled in science and sports. He was also an outstanding member of the Boy Scouts of America, and was one of the first two young men from Marshalltown ever to earn the rank of Eagle Scout and eventually became a scoutmaster. He was also active in the local Baptist Church youth group.

Bert began college studies at Iowa State College, but before his first year was completed, his father died, leaving him as the sole support for his family. Through his sister Dorothy, he met his future wife, Lucinda (Cin) Williams, who was two years behind him at Marshalltown High School. However, the economic necessity of supporting his mother and younger siblings through the Depression years put marriage out of the question for the time being. In the late 1930s Bert operated his own radio service business and was the exclusive distributor of radios in the Marshalltown area.

With the outbreak of World War II, despite the fact that he was already 37 years old, Bert was called into active service with the U.S. Army. His knowledge of radio technology qualified him for staffing mobile communications vehicles in Tunisia as part of the North African campaign. Upon his return to Marshalltown he married Cin on 6 November, 1942. After his discharge from the army, Bert went to work for United Airlines at their maintenance base in Laramie, Wyoming. In 1948



Figure 1. Bert Draper (ca. 1969) displaying a minute mollusk tray.

he was transferred to a new maintenance facility at the San Francisco airport. The Drapers only child, Barry, was born that same year. In 1950, Bert was transferred to Los Angeles and continued his job of training aviation maintenance mechanics and electricians until his retirement in 1969.

Upon their arrival in Los Angeles they purchased a home close to the airport in Westchester where they lived for the remainder of their years. Although Bert's job necessitated much time away from home, he, Cin, and Barry were able to travel throughout California. Bert's interest in shell and fossil collecting was stimulated by a school project in which Barry was to

identify and classify shells found at a local beach. And although Barry's interest waned, Bert's enthusiasm for shells grew steadily.

Bert's wife Cin passed away in 1983, but Bert kept socially active in the United Airlines retirement club and in the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers Local 1932 retirement club. Bert remained fully active until he slowed in his last year. He is survived by son Barry Draper, his daughter-in-law Marti Ann (Fleming) Draper of Alhambra, California, and grandson Terrence Lee Draper.

When Bert retired from United Airlines in 1969, he worked at UCLA on a project for the U.S. government in which he formulated national standards for airline mechanical training. Upon completion of the project, Bert was free to pursue his increasing interest in shells, especially small and minute species. He spent many hours sorting through "grunge" samples for minute specimens and became quite adept at photographing them at high magnification, using bellows and electronic flash. His photos appeared in his own publications and those of James McLean, Donald Shasky, and Crawford Cate. In particular he had a passion to photograph and identify the difficult minute families of Triphoridae, Caecidae, and Vitrinellidae, especially those of the eastern Pacific and Hawaii. His illustrations of eastern Pacific Vitrinellidae, published in 1974, showed greater detail than the previously published drawings of type specimens (see Draper, 1974b). Bert's keen interest in minute shells inspired him to meticulously prepare display trays of California micro-mollusk species using shallow plastic boxes and double stick tape (Fig. 1, see also Draper, 1988b). Most were donated for the auctions of the Western Society of Malacologists or the Conchological Club of Southern California and were highly prized by collectors.

In 1961 Bert became a member of the Conchological Club of Southern California (CCSC), the oldest shell club in the U.S. He served as CCSC secretary in 1964 and 1965, treasurer in 1966, vice-president in 1971 and 1984, and was president in 1972, 1973, and again in 1985. In recognition of his numerous contributions to the CCSC, he was given an honorary membership in 1979. He participated in many club functions through 1999 and was a mainstay for giving top-notch presentations that featured his outstanding minute mollusk photography. Bert was also an active member of the Western Society of Malacologists, the San Diego Shell Club, the Hawaiian Malacological Society, and the Pacific Shell Club.

In recognition of his research and volunteer work at the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History, Bert was appointed Museum Associate in Invertebrate Zoology (now Malacology) by curator Dr. James McLean in 1973. Bert sorted, identified, and arranged many parts of the museum collection of micromollusks. In addition, he prepared, edited and published the *Lost Operculum Club: List of Champions*, a list of the record size shells of the Eastern Pacific, from 1966 through its final edition in 1987. Bert always referred to himself as an amateur malacologist and his publication record reflects his dedicated interest in shells.

In addition to his love of minute shells, Bert enjoyed stamp collecting, trains (both prototype and model railroads), photography, professional baseball, and the music of Lawrence Welk. Bert happily shared his knowledge with colleagues and friends, and we will certainly miss his colorful descriptions of capturing and observing live caecids from local tide pools, flying over Mauna Loa during a major eruption, collecting fossils from the Miocene Topanga Formation, photographing and documenting his beloved minute shells, and his many other stories. Bert left his well organized collection of small shells, and his color slides and photos to the Malacology Section of the LACMNH, providing a legacy of his passion for mollusks that was his chief interest in the later years of his life.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Many thanks to Marti Ann Draper for kindly providing biographical information and photos of Bert. Additional information and photos of Bert were supplied by Yvonne Albi (Playa del Rey, CA) and Elizabeth Veal (Alhambra, CA).

#### PUBLICATIONS OF BERTRAM C. DRAPER

##### DRAPER, B.C.

- 1966. Index to Ida S. Oldroyd's (1927) *The Marine Shells of the West Coast of north America*, Vol. II. Privately published, Los Angeles, California. 63 pp.
- 1969. *Lost Operculum Club: List of Champions*. Conchological Club of Southern California. 44 pp. [May]
- 1971. Minute shells. *The Festivus* 2(5): 1-4. [Feb.]
- 1972a. Minute shells of the United States west coast [abstract]. Western Society of Malacologists, *Echo* 5:27-28. [Mar. 5]
- 1972b. Checklist of shells found in scrapings from *Spondylus princeps* taken at a depth of 40 feet southeast of Santa Rosalia, Baja California, 1969. *The Festivus* 3(4):5-7. [Apr.]

- 1972c. Minute shells, pt. 1. Storage: micromounts. The *Tabulata* 5(4):3-5, 4 unnumbered figs. [Oct. 1]  
[The *Tabulata* was published by the Santa Barbara Malacological Society from February, 1963 through October, 1974.]
- 1973a. Minute shells, pt. 2. Sorting, cleaning, handling, photography. The *Tabulata* 6(1):17-20, 5 unnumbered figs. [Jan. 1]
- 1973b. Minute shells, pt. 3. Scissurellidae, Fissurellidae, Acmaeidae. The *Tabulata* 6(2):8-12, 7 unnumbered figs. [Apr. 1]
- 1973c. Lost operculum club: List of Champions. Conchological Club of Southern California. 64 pp. [Apr.]
- 1973d. Minute shells, pt. 4. Trochidae, Liotiidae, Turbinidae. The *Tabulata* 6(3):6-9, 7 unnumbered figs. [Jul. 1]
- 1973e. Minute shells, pt. 5. Phasianellidae, Seguenziidae, Lacunidae, Rissoidae. The *Tabulata* 6(4):14-18, 6 unnumbered figs. [Oct. 1]
- 1974a. Minute shells, pt. 6. Rissoidae, Assimnidae. The *Tabulata* 7(1):17-22, 10 unnumbered figs. [Jan. 1]
- 1974b. Minute shells, pt. 7. Truncatellidae, Cyclostremellidae, Vitrinellidae. The *Tabulata* 7(2):44-48, 9 unnumbered figs. [Apr. 1]
- 1974c. Minute shells, pt. 8. Vitrinellidae. The *Tabulata* 7(3):64-77, 21 unnumbered figs. [Jul. 1]
- 1974d. Minute shells, pt. 9. Vitrinellidae. The *Tabulata* 7(4):100-114, 33 unnumbered figs. [Oct. 1]
1975. Checklist of shells collected at Cholla Bay, Sonora, Mexico. The *Festivus* 6(11):67. [Nov.]
1977. Using the SEM to determine differences among four species of *Caecum* [abstract]. Western Society of Malacologists Annual Report 10:10. [Dec. 14]
1979. Radular development in the family Caecidae. Western Society of Malacologists Annual Report 11:26-30, figs. 1-13. [Jan. 9]
1980. Lost Operculum Club: List of Champions. Conchological Club of Southern California. 32 pp. [May]
- 1982a. Observations of living *Caecum crebricinctum*. The *Festivus* 14(3):29-32, 8 unnumbered figs. [Mar.]
- 1982b. Notes on *Turveria encopendema*, a parasite on sand dollars. The *Festivus* 14(11):129-131, 7 unnumbered figs. [Nov.]
1983. Observation of living *Caecum crebricinctum* [abstract]. Western Society of Malacologists Annual Report 15:14. [Apr. 30]
- 1985a. Mollusks which truncate their shells and how they plug the openings. The *Festivus* 17(1):3-9, 14 unnumbered figs. [Jan. 10]
- 1985b. Three gastropod families that truncate their shells in some species, and how they build plugs [abstract]. Western Society of Malacologists Annual Report 17:8. [Aug. 28]
- 1986a. Minute marine molluscan species collected in the Hawaiian Islands which were not included in the book "Hawaiian Marine Shells" by Alison Kay [abstract]. Western Society of Malacologists Annual Report 18:13. [Jan. 31]
- 1986b. Minute marine shells of the Hawaiian Islands--Changes from the taxonomic placement in "Hawaiian Marine Shells" [abstract]. Western Society of Malacologists Annual Report 18:13. [Jan. 31]
- 1986c. The family Barleeidae in the eastern Pacific according to "The review of the genera of the Barleeidae ..." by W.F. Ponder (1983). The *Festivus* 18(2):16-17. [Feb. 13]
- 1987a. A comparison of the minute shells of the Midway Islands with those of the island of Hawaii [abstract]. Western Society of Malacologists Annual Report 19:16. [Mar. 9]
- 1987b. Lost Operculum Club: List of Champions. Conchological Club of Southern California. 43 pp. [June]
- 1988a. How do cowries enlarge their shells? [abstract]. Western Society of Malacologists Annual Report 20:33. [Mar. 8]
- 1988b. Minute mollusk shell trays. Hawaiian Shell News 36(12):5, 1 unnumbered fig. [Dec.]

## DUSHANE, H. &amp; B.C. DRAPER

1975. The genus *Seila* in the eastern Pacific (Mollusca: Gastropoda). The *Veliger* 17(4):335-345, figs. 1-31. [Apr. 1]

MOLLUSCAN SPECIES AUTHORED BY  
BERTRAM C. DRAPER

*Seila pulmoensis* DuShane and Draper, 1975  
[Cerithiopsidae]

MOLLUSCAN SPECIES NAMED AFTER  
BERTRAM C. DRAPER

*Crenavolva (Cuspidolva) draperi* Cate & Azuma in Cate, 1973 [Ovulidae]  
*Homalopoma draperi* McLean, 1984 [Turbinidae]  
*Bushia (Pseudocyathodonta) draperi* Coan, 1990 [Thraciidae]

### The Annual Auction/Potluck — April 21<sup>st</sup>

The Club auction/potluck was a grand occasion. Over 50 members and friends gathered early to socialize, view the auction shells and enjoy "Dave's Punch." There were shells everywhere and people crowded around the voice auction table and the silent auction material with its many bargains and goodies.

Promptly at 6 p.m. dinner was ready and the feast was outstanding. So many home-cooked delicacies — Jim Goldammer's now famous Burmese Chicken among them — and delectable salads, muffins and side dishes. Members were wishing their plates were larger.

Before the voice auction began at 7 p.m. — right on time — auctioneer Carole Hertz called host Wes Farmer to the front of the room and publicly expressed the Club's appreciation to him for having hosted the Club's auction for thirteen years!!! He received a VERY generous round of applause from the audience and a kiss from the appreciative auctioneer.

And then the bidding began; the event all had been waiting for. There were many exciting shells in the auction — rare cowries such as *Cypraea jeaniana sherylae* and *C. marginata albanyensis*, a magnificent *Pleurotomaria teramachii* with operculum, and a *Pterynotus miyokoae* to name just a few. Along with the outstanding selection of shells were some magnificent coral specimens and books. The bidding was fast and furious but filled with much humor.

Midway through the evening there was a break so that members could revisit the silent auction, enjoy the bargain-basement dollar table, and feast on the many desserts with coffee. The voice auction then continued until the last shell was won at 10:45 p.m.

The end of the auction was greeted with applause for an evening of great fun. Now we all have to wait till next April to do it again.

Without those who donated the beautiful specimens for auction (and the bidders), the party could never have been the success, both financially and socially, that it was. Following, in alphabetical order, is the list of donors. Ed Boyd, Twila Bratcher-Critchlow, Beatrice & Tom Burch, Monika Forner, Billee Gerrodette, Carole & Jules Hertz, Susan Hewitt & Ed Subitsky, Linda & Kim Hutsell, John Jackson, Kirstie Kaiser, Paul Kanner, George Kennedy, Bob King, Margaret & Dave Mulliner, Jeanne & Don Pisor, Chuck Reitz, Dale Roberts, Nancy & Bill Schneider, Carol Skoglund and Gladys Weber. Our thanks to them all.

### The Annual WSM Meeting in San Diego

A last reminder that the Western Society of Malacologists annual meeting will be held at the Ramada Inn and Conference Center, 5550 Kearny Mesa Road, San Diego from 20-24 June 2001. Late registration can be done at the meeting venue -- the registration table will be in the Balboa Room from 2:30 to 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday June 20<sup>th</sup> and after 9 a.m. on Thursday in the WSM Host Suite. For those who wish to attend only one day, there is a \$25 fee. The auction is open to local Club members with no registration required.

**Wednesday evening** — opening reception (and continuation of registration in the Captain Maury Room)

**Thursday morning** — the Opisthobranch Symposium with contributed papers in the afternoon.

**Friday morning** — the Latin American Malacology Symposium with contributed papers and poster sessions in the afternoon.

**Friday evening** — the Annual Reprint Sale and Auction. The reprint sale and auction preview will begin approximately at 7 p.m. with the auction commencing at 8 p.m.

**Saturday morning** — the paleontology session and contributed papers.

**Saturday evening** — the banquet.

**Sunday** — paleontology field trip to Ensenada.

For further information, contact either President Hans Bertsch Phone: 619-423-8900 or E-mail: hbertsch@nu.edu or Treasurer Cynthia Trowbridge Phone: 541-574-8020 or E-mail: trowbric@ucs.orst.edu

For auction information or to donate to the Auction, contact Carole Hertz @ 858-277-6259 or E-mail: cmhertz@pacbell.net

### Additions and Changes to the Roster

#### New members

Kosuge, Sadao, Institute of Malacology, 6-36 Midoricho 3 Chome, Tanashi City, Tokyo 188, Japan

#### Renewals

Scripps Institution of Oceanography, SIO Library 0219, 9500 Gilman Dr., La Jolla, CA 92093

#### Changes

Vollero, Silvana, change e-mail to: rpetrosk@san.rr.com