

PAUL DAVID REITER — 1909-1953

PAUL DAVID REITER, born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, May 11, 1909, died in Ann Arbor, Michigan, January 10, 1953. *This span of years was largely devoted to anthropology, and the related fields of geology and biology. Not all of the work was of a professional nature, but served as an excellent background for later studies.

In 1925 Paul began working part-time as a driver for the late Dr. E. L. Hewett, a job which brought him in contact with anthropologists working and visiting in the Southwest. After a year at Park College, Missouri, Paul transferred to the University of New Mexico where he earned B.A. and M.A. degrees. Shortly after graduation in 1931, he married Winifred Stamm. From 1931 until 1938 he served as Curator of Archaeology at the Museum of New Mexico; he then transferred to a position as Instructor at the University of New Mexico, eventually becoming Associate Professor in the Department of Anthropology. In 1939 he was awarded a General Education Board Fellowship at the University of California, and in 1943 a Thaw Fellow, Peabody Museum, Harvard University. At Harvard he was granted a Ph.D. in Anthropology in 1946. While at this university he also served as a Research Associate, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, being attached to the Chemical Warfare Service Development Laboratory. This work involved the application of physical anthropology to design of war materials such as gas masks, back packs, and carriers. He was particularly proud of a flame-thrower carrier which he had designed.

Paul was probably best known for the summer field sessions which he directed for the University, especially those at the Research Station in Chaco Canon. His earlier anthropological interests were divided between physical anthropology and kivas; his Doctor's thesis "Form and Function in Some Pre-historic Ceremonial Structures of the Southwest" reflecting the latter. As a physical anthropologist, he was often called on by the local and State Police Departments to give testimony and identification involving skeletal remains. The first item in his bibliography, "Report on San Geronimo Cave," pointed toward his major field interest during the last few years. Paul enjoyed cave work, and was an avid searcher for those that might contain remains of Early Man. Paul was an excellent photographer, both in the field and as a dark-room technician. In all his endeavors, work was his hobby.

At the time of his death, Paul was on leave of absence for special studies in human anatomy at the University of Michigan and Chicago under a Ford Foundation Fellowship.

Paul Reiter was a person of strong likes and dislikes; there was no middle ground. To me, he was a sincere, generous friend who would do anything possible to advise and assist, regardless of the time involved. The field of Southwestern anthropology has lost a stimulating teacher and researcher; one who had, and would have in the future, contributed much to our knowledge of anthropology. Personally, I have lost a good friend and colleague who worked with me throughout twenty-five years of Southwestern experiences.

He is survived by his wife, Winifred, a daughter, Ann Ellen, and a son, Gordon, who reside in Albuquerque.

STANLEY STUBBS.

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