

A great many members expressed their concern over Mr. Harrison's illness and shock at his death when calling at the Society's offices and by telephone.

Below are some extracts from letters received at that time.

A.C. A PERSONAL FAREWELL

By JOHN BEAMS

A MAN is many things to many people. It is therefore on a purely personal note that I wish to pay my last respects to A. C. Harrison. I met him something over 15 years ago, considerably less time than many others have known and loved A. C. But it is enough to feel a deep personal loss and more than enough to realise that his passing marks the end of an era for the Cape Piscatorial Society.

To me, A. C. was guide, philosopher and friend, a very real gentleman and a man who made my life so much the richer for having known him. From henceforth there will always be the sad reminder of his death whenever I start my latest newsletter, no longer the old familiar "Dear A. C."

From Mr. Ray Louw of Jonkershoek in a letter to Mr. Harrison:

It came as a shock to learn, only during the past week, that you were ill. For so many years I have taken you for granted; that you were always there at the Club Room. Now I selfishly feel completely sunk. My oracle on fishery matters has been denied me.

From W. H. Kinsey:

The passing of A.C.H. has been very distressing and I do wish to record with you my expression of deep sympathy. I first met him in 1947, since when I have been a member of the C.P.S., and he was very good to me then and since. Fortunately, I was able, together with Jerry Levin and another gentleman, to attend the funeral here in Johannesburg.

From Mr. A. Clauzel in France:

The death of Mr. Harrison deeply affected me, and I will always remember his smile when listening to members' tales; he knew so well a fisherman's nature.

From Mr. John Hewitson in California:

I have never met A.C. but he made me feel that I was a friend right from the first. Our shared interest in the sea-going habits of rainbow trout got things started, but the friendship has continued for over 14 years and I can tell you that I felt closer to him than to many people that I see every day. I valued this friendship beyond my words to express it. A.C. printed several of my contributions and thus made me feel very much a part of PISCATOR and the Society and its varied projects.

It is clear to me that all anglers in Southern Africa owe A. C. Harrison a great debt and his many contributions will remain a living monument in the streams and lakes of that part of the world. I feel privileged to have had this association.

From Douglas F. Smith:

In the Editorial you ask for personal notes and comments on A.C.H. for consideration for an obituary. I regret that I cannot offer anything of interest; I am a comparative newcomer to the Cape. However, I can say that the Fisheries Department in Kenya consulted A.C. on several occasions, and followed his advice.

From Alan Thompson:

I wondered what tribute we, as a fishing family, could pay to the memory of A.C. I eventually remembered these lines from Larry Koller's *Complete Book of Freshwater Fishing*, written some 17 years ago; to me the finest words on freshwater fishing that have ever been written. My two sons and I owe much to A.C.'s unfailing courtesy and wise counsel. These words are for him, and I hope to all who were privileged to know him.

"Angling is the art of catching fish with a rod, a line, and a hook. It is an ancient and honourable sport; its roots lie deep in the past, a tradition intangible but persistent governs its conduct. The tradition, which received its form and best expression from Izaak Walton and Charles Cotton, permits the angler to be guileful and deceptive, and to bring to bear on the contest whatever wisdom and experience he has been able to accumulate—for so will the fish. But it urges that the fight be fairly fought, and that the fisherman show a lively curiosity about—and a decent respect for—the natural equilibrium of life in lake and stream. Fishing, of course, may be done by other methods and with other motivations. But it seems to be true that applying the art in terms of the tradition yields the maximum of satisfaction and is most soothing to the spirit.

"I do not consider myself an elite fisherman or a purist, but I am convinced that any fisherman who aspires to be better than he is will do well to follow a traditional course. For a man fishes to catch fish, and a thorough angling education can teach him many things that will serve him in his quest.

"The fisherman who has learned his craft is a many-sided man. He is an ichthyologist of sorts, aware of the life cycle, feeding habits, and temperament of the game fish he seeks. He is an amateur entomologist, a keen and knowledgeable observer of the seasonal insect life of the water he fishes. If he has learned his lessons well he will know something of hydrochemistry and be enough of a meteorologist to have a feeling for weather. He will be a mechanic who knows his tools; he will be able to deliver an intelligently selected fly or lure to a chosen spot, and will know the capacities of rod, line and leader under strain when his manoeuvres have successfully raised a fish.

"Beyond these tactical considerations, however are the sensory perceptions the angler gathers unto himself. He responds to the ever-changing moods of rivers and lakes,

and to the inter-related lives of the creatures that inhabit the environment. His eye detects the microsecond gleam of a trout flashing at his fly in the depth of a turbulent run. His ear is tuned to the faint flip of a rise, even above the tumult of running water. He cannot be indifferent or dispassionate towards his place in this natural world and call himself an angler.

"No one will ever know all there is to know about angling, but the angler's pleasure will always be in direct proportion to his understanding. Like all worthwhile efforts, angling gives back in the degree to which it is given."
