

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

ERNEST PAUL (HUSKY) HUNT (1888 – 1978)

Ernest Paul Hunt, Associate Professor of Education, Emeritus, died November 20, 1978, just ten days after celebrating his ninetieth birthday.

In view of his slight stature, some may have assumed that the name "Husky", by which he was widely known, was a hyperbole; yet his associates were well aware that his unusual physical vigor warranted the name quite literally. As an undergraduate at the University of Indiana, where he earned three varsity football letters as quarterback, he was known as "Rabbit". It is legendary that, in a crucial game with the University of Chicago, Quarterback Rabbit Hunt, weighing in at 143 pounds, carried the ball across the goal line for the winning touchdown against a team coached by the famous Amos Alonzo Stagg.

After graduating in 1913 with a major in Geology, Husky taught high school science courses, and taught and supervised physical education, for five years in his native Indiana, in Colorado and in Texas. Then in 1918 he joined the faculty of Berkeley High School in California, where his teaching and coaching produced phenomenal results. In the eight games of the 1921 season his championship football team scored a total of 391 points, while allowing only one touchdown to be scored against it.

In 1922 Husky came to Stanford as Instructor in Physical Education and Director of Freshman Sports. His coaching duties during the next thirty-three years spanned an amazing range of assignments. He was at various times freshman football coach, assistant varsity football coach, freshman baseball coach, freshman basketball coach, head basketball coach (1926 - 30), head wrestling coach and head gymnastics coach. He was one of the first to film his football players in action as a tool in coaching; and for several years he took all of Stanford's official football game movies, and filmed other Stanford sports as well.

Meanwhile, in addition Husky taught a variety of courses in curriculum and instruction, teaching methods and supervision of physical education in the teacher preparation program. In 1936 he was named Associate Professor of Physical Education in the School of Hygiene and Physical Education, and later he held a joint appointment in the School of Education.

Beyond the campus Husky found expression for extraordinarily absorbing interests. Early in his career he became committed to study of the arts, crafts and cultures of Native Americans of the southwest. He devoted vacations and spare time to exploration and discovery, particularly among the Navajos and the Hopis. His dedication, understanding and sincerity commanded great respect among these peoples; and he aided them materially by purchasing their products and promoting public interest in them. During the great depression his expeditions to the Navajos and Hopis were missions of mercy as well as exploration. He collected, transported and distributed quantities of clothing and food to the impoverished.

On these expeditions Husky applied his expertise in photography to a vast quantity of documentary films, which served as the basis for numerous lectures over the years at universities and museums.

In a remote cliff dwelling he discovered pottery and artifacts which were later dated from approximately 1200 A.D. Sensing the importance of preserving and protecting these ruins, he made a cause of urging upon the federal government that the site should be made a national monument. At his prompting the Betatikan Ruins became a national monument during the administration of Ray Lyman Wilbur as Secretary of the Interior.

But Husky's instincts as a naturalist were not limited to Indian country. He was fascinated by mountains, rivers, forests and every living thing inhabited therein. He was a member of one of the early groups to navigate the Colorado River, before some of the more treacherous rapids were contained by dams, before there were inflatable rafts and before the devising of relatively safe, commercial, packaged tours. His special joy was the Sierras, most of all Tahoe, where he and his wife, Fern, built a second home. It was there too that he opened a shop, making available some of his cherished Indian arts and crafts, particularly Navajo rugs, on which Husky was a recognized authority.

In his later years his explorations were necessarily more limited. But frequenters of the campus will long hold in warm regard the image of a solitary figure serenely stalking on paths of the campus and of his beloved Stanford foothills. They will recall too that this was a man to whom hundreds of former students, former players, colleagues and friends, on and beyond the campus, were beholden, a man characterized by a colleague, on the occasion of his retirement in 1955, as:

A quiet unobtrusive man, courteous and cooperative, adorned by honest modesty, unaffected, sincere, patient, thoughtful, conscientious, gentle and kind; a man whose fields of interest are surpassed only by his keenness of perception; a man with a twinkle in his eye to match the good humor of his spirit, believing in clean living and clear thinking; a man who has enriched the lives of all his friends.

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