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Biography of Glenn L. Hoffman

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Glenn L. Hoffman

In the fictional West of the United States, a masked man known only as the Lone Ranger rode into the lives of troubled individuals on his white stallion, Silver, and, with the aid of his trustworthy Indian sidekick, Tonto, and a six-shooter filled with silver bullets, solved the people's problems and protected them from villains. When the Lone Ranger finished his deed, he rode away and a person who had received help always asked someone nearby 'Who was that masked man, anyway?'

Glenn L. Hoffman must certainly appear to many as a Lone Ranger. He has probably helped more needy individuals than any other fish parasitologist, at least in the United States. Those who required identifications of parasites, knowledge about them or guidance to parasitological or disease problems frequently called upon him, but many would not have recognized him if they met him in public. Glenn's white stallion is his strong and fond interest in parasitology, and his silver bullets are the shots of extensive knowledge and wisdom. Rather than having one trusty companion, he has a variety. The same two worn satchels always travel with him, his collection of mounted specimens and literature keeps accumulating, and his assistants periodically change: Clarence E. Dunbar, Robert E. Putz, Maria Markiw, Drew Mitchell and Brenda Rodgers. The Lone Ranger helped people over a wide geographic range and so does Glenn. Glenn reacts physically to tobacco smoke, especially when in confined places. Perhaps the Lone Ranger was also similarly affected, and that may have been one of his reasons for spreading goodwill over such a wide and open area. As with the Lone Ranger, few people know Glenn well, but many know of him, know who was helped by him, recognize the usefulness of his help, and like and respect him.

Few true experts, in the dictionary sense, exist with a high degree of knowledge about many diverse fish diseases and parasites. Glenn is one, perhaps the best one involved with parasites of freshwater fishes. To those in the US Fish and Wildlife Service, he is Mr Fish Parasite Taxonomy. They, of course, refer to his ability to identify parasites. To most scientists, researchers, diagnosticians, fish farmers, fish transporters, and students in the USA and many other countries, he is regarded as the primary authority. The number of people he personally has helped extensively or taught is dramatic. Over 1000 individuals can be documented! Add to that the number of people who use his articles or his two books on the parasites of North American freshwater fishes, 'the bible of American fish

parasitology', and on the control of parasitic infections, and the list grows much longer and includes a worldwide audience.

Because of his recent retirement, we were requested to write a biography about this living legend. True, Glenn retired on 28 October 1985 from the US Fish and Wildlife Service after 27 years, but he did not retire from the field of fish parasitology. In his own words, it is 'business as usual' from the basement of his home at Route 3, Box 36, Kearneysville, West Virginia 24430, USA. He would prefer correspondence to be addressed there. That is Glenn's previous home, fenced in for his dog and maintained by his wife, Carolyn. He can also be reached at the US National Helminthological Collection, ARS, NER, API BARC-East, No. 1180, Biosystematic Parasitology Laboratory, Beltsville, Maryland 20705, USA, where his slide collection will be deposited. During the next few years, Glenn will revise his 'bible'.

Glenn received BA and PhD degrees from the University of Iowa. After obtaining the bachelor's degree in 1942, he served until 1946 as Lieutenant and Laboratory Director for the Sanitary Corps of the US Army, including a 2-month stint in Dr Jonas Salk's virus research laboratory in Munich, Germany. After receiving his doctorate in 1950, he became Assistant Professor in the Microbiology Department of the University of North Dakota Medical School, where he was presented with the award for Outstanding Teacher, before leaving in 1958 to take on the responsibilities as Research Parasitologist at the Eastern Fish Disease Laboratory (presently named the National Fish Health Research Laboratory) in Leetown, West Virginia. In 1974, the Fish and Wildlife Service transferred Glenn to the Fish Farming Experimental Station in Stuttgart, Arkansas, where he remained until October 1985.

Of the many honours Glenn has received, some of the more notable include the Distinguished Service Awards from the Wildlife Disease Association (1974), and from the Fish Health Section (1982) and Fish Culture Section (1985) of the American Fisheries Society; an award at the First International Fish Parasitology Conference at České Budějovice, Czechoslovakia, which entailed a good paddling while kissing a carp; and the following patronyms: *Cercaria hoffmanensis* Brooks, 1948; *Myxosoma hoffmani* Meglitsch, 1963; *Trichodina hoffmani* Wellborn, 1967; *Gyrodactylus hoffmani* Wellborn and Rogers, 1967; *Biacetabulum hoffmani* Mackiewicz, 1972; *Thecamoeba hoffmani* Sawyer, Hnath and Conrad, 1974; *Neascus hoffmani* Pandey, 1973; *Eimeria hoffmani* Molnar and Hanek, 1974; and *Myxidium hoffmani* Jayasri, 1981. When Glenn received the award from the Fish Culture Section, he was honoured but thought it was deserved more by his late dear friend, mentor and supervisor, Stanislas F. Snieszko.

Several scientific societies were privileged to have Glenn participate on their committees; he has served or continues to serve on editorial boards of nine journals, including the *Journal of Fish Diseases*, *Journal of Parasitology*, *Journal of Wildlife Diseases* and the *American Fisheries Society Fish Health Section Newsletter*.

Glenn has written over 180 scientific titles. In addition to abstracts, book reviews, bibliographies, biographies, news items and popular articles, the number includes 94 original research articles, most with Glenn as sole or senior author, and 3 books, *Medical Parasitology Laboratory Manual* (1956, Burgess Publishing Company), *Parasites of North American Freshwater Fishes* (1967, University of California Press) and *Parasites of Freshwater Fishes: a Review of their Control and Treatment* (with F. P. Meyer, 1974,

T. F. H. Publications Inc.). He also has been involved in the translation into English of a large number of parasitological publications.

In addition to writing many papers, Glenn has spoken on over 100 occasions to scientific groups with papers or as the invited speaker at society meetings, conferences and workshops. More importantly, he helped Stan Snieszko organize and teach training courses at the Leetown Laboratory for fish hatchery biologists. Those courses along with lectures given at many laboratories, universities, institutes and other facilities have over the years produced an extensive network of personnel capable of diagnosing and controlling most freshwater fish diseases in the US.

Initially, Glenn's research centred around life histories and taxonomy of digeneans and monogeneans. Then from 1959 to 1974 he extensively investigated whirling disease in salmonids and its control, because the myxosporidan agent presented a considerable threat to salmonid culture. Over the years, he has solved many problems involving different myxosporidians, other protozoans, helminths, copepods, and miscellaneous symbionts infecting salmonids, catfishes, the golden shiner and other fishes. Those and related studies involving the introduced Asian tapeworm and other parasites led to his authoritative reviews and queries regarding the distribution and dissemination of infections in and from introduced and transported fishes.

Several of his studies resulted from co-operative ventures. In addition to collaboration with North Americans, Glenn has associated with scientists from Czechoslovakia, USSR, East Germany, West Germany, Austria, Yugoslavia, Italy, Sweden, India, New Zealand and elsewhere. His referral work has also developed associations between him and researchers in several Third World countries. We all hope to see much more of this Lone Ranger's cooperation and research, and we wish him well on the trail that lies ahead.

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