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Memorial of Sterling Brown Hendricks
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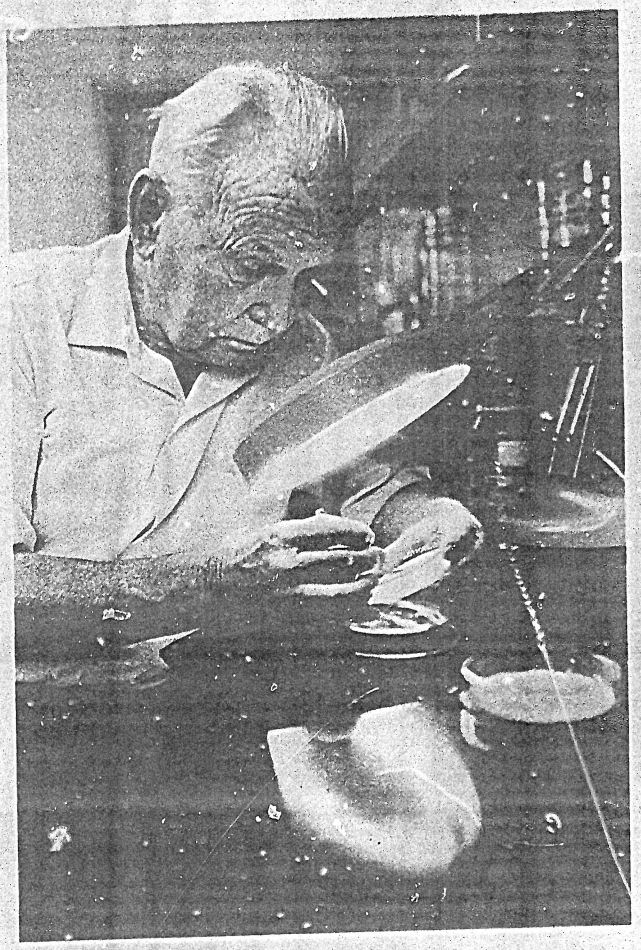

Sterling B. Hendricks was born in Elysian Fields, Texas, on April 13, 1902. He obtained the Bachelor of Chemical Engineering degree from Arkansas State College in 1922, the M.S. degree from Kansas State College in 1924, and his Ph.D. from California Institute of Technology in 1926. From 1922 to 1925 he worked part-time as an assistant in Southern Field Crops Investigations, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and he was an instructor in Kansas State College in 1923 and 1924, and a teaching assistant in CIT from 1924 to 1926. He then worked for one year as a Research Associate in the Geophysical Laboratory of the Carnegie Institution of Washington and for one year in the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research; during these years he was associated with the pioneer X-ray crystallographer R. W. G. Wyckoff. From 1928 to 1940 he was Chemist in the Bureau of Chemistry and Soils of the USDA; and from 1940 to 1943 Chemist in the Bureau of Plant Industry, USDA. He became Chief Scientist in the Mineral Nutrition Engineering Research Laboratory, Agricultural Research Service, USDA in 1943, holding this position until he retired in 1970. After his retirement he continued to live with his wife in Crystal Spring, Maryland.

Among those scientists associated with the Mineralogical Society of America, Sterling was probably unique in having the broadest field of scientific work. He himself listed as his fields of interest the structural aspects of organic and inorganic chemistry, chemistry and physics of crystal structure, insecticides, phase rule, X-ray diffraction of solids, electron diffraction of crystals and gas molecules, soil chemistry, base exchange, plant physiology, plant nutrition, and photoperiodism. He might have added mineralogy, especially of the clay minerals, micas, and phosphates, metals and intermetallic compounds, and some other subjects. His effectiveness in attacking new problems was without doubt the result in considerable part of his extensive experience in many fields. His earlier publications, including most of those of interest to members of the GSA, are listed in the bibliography; he also published 95 papers on organic chemistry and plant growth.

I first met Sterling in the fall of 1924, when he came to Pasadena to begin his doctoral studies. He was a keen and lively young fellow, full of energy. With his straw-colored hair and freckles, he reminded me of Peck's Bad Boy. A. A. Noyes, the director of the Gates Chemical Laboratory, suggested to

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(omitting 95 papers on plant growth and organic chemistry)

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