

OBITUARY

CLARENCE E. PALMER

Clarence E. Palmer, recently retired Professor of Meteorology at the University of California died on 21 January 1973 in Los Angeles.

Clarrie Palmer was born in Wellington, New Zealand and joined the New Zealand Meteorological Service during his undergraduate years. His first researches in meteorology were devoted to synoptic analysis over the Southern Ocean. Although he later became renowned for his work in tropical meteorology his "Synoptic analysis over the Southern Ocean" published by the New Zealand Meteorological Service in 1942 soon became a standard reference for Australian and indeed southern hemisphere synopticians.

The work, which contained a comprehensive history of earlier work on synoptic analysis in the southern hemisphere, was notable for its recognition of the structure and behaviour of the "meridional" front. Viewed today in the light of the enhanced observational network and satellite data the conclusions reached in this study are most noteworthy in that the conclusions were reached largely from isobaric charts based on a very limited network of ship reports and a few land-based observations made mainly during the Deutsche Südpolar-Expedition, 1901-1904, and the International Polar Year, 1932-33.

At the outbreak of World War II Clarrie joined the Royal New Zealand Air Force and saw service as a weather forecaster in the islands of the equatorial and tropical waters to the north of New Zealand. His work in tropical meteorology led to his appointment in 1943 as Director of the (University of Chicago) Institute of Tropical Meteorology in Puerto Rico.

After the war he lectured in Scientific Method at the University of Melbourne for two years. In 1948 he was appointed Associate Professor at the University of California in Los Angeles where he remained a staff member until his retirement in 1972. On the basis of his contributions to meteorology Professor Palmer was awarded the Doctorate of Science by the University of New Zealand in 1952.

Professor Palmer is survived by his widow, Dulcie Claire Palmer, and son, Arthur Lewis Palmer.