

## Robert Bieri

Robert Bieri died on Tuesday, July 31st, at his home in Yellow Springs. He was 64 years of age.

Professor of environmental studies emeritus at Antioch College, Mr. Bieri taught at Antioch for 27 years and was the principal founder of the environmental studies program there.

He was born February 7th, 1926 in Washington, D.C., the son of Elsie and Vice Admiral Bernhard H. Bieri. In his youth he moved wherever his father was stationed and as a teenager witnessed the attack on Pearl Harbor from a hill high over Honolulu. After serving two years in the Navy he enrolled at Antioch, graduating in 1949.

He studied for two years at the Lamont Geological Observatory at Columbia University, and five years at the Scripps Institute of Oceanography, where he received his Ph.D.

During these years he made expeditions to the Arctic Ocean, the Mexican Coast of the Pacific, the Caribbean Sea, the Mediterranean Sea, and the North Atlantic. He was a world authority on the family of plankton known as Chaetognatha.

While on the Antioch faculty Mr. Bieri spent two sabbatical years in Japan, participated in an expedition to the South Pacific, an expedition from Brazil to Belize, and spent three months in Guayaquil, Ecuador as

a visiting scientist at the Instituto Oceanografico de la Armada.

He was the author of numerous scientific papers, including *Humanoids on Other Planets* which won the *American Scientist* Most Interesting Article of the Year Award and created considerable controversy. He was an expert canoeist and began building his own canoes, eventually researching and building lightweight Kootenai Indian canoes of wood wrapped in paper. His work in terrestrial and marine ecology led to a deep belief in the Earth as a living being.

He is survived by his wife, Phyllis Logan, of Yellow Springs; his daughter Carol Bieri Sanders of Oakland, California; his son George Bieri of Yellow Springs; and his daughter Phyllis Bieri of New York City. His grandchildren include Paloma Dallas and Luisa, Alex and Iris Bieri, all of Yellow Springs, and Daniel and Elizabeth Sanders, of Oakland, California. He is also survived by his brothers Bernhard H. Bieri Jr., John Bieri, David Bieri and James Bieri, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Donations in his memory may be sent to the Tecumseh Land Trust, Box 417, Yellow Springs, Ohio 45387.

A memorial service will be held Sunday, August 26th, 3 p.m., in the Glen Helen Building.