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I first met Clyde Stormont in February 1948 in the basement laboratory of M.R. Irwin in the little building for Genetics on the Agricultural campus of the University of Wisconsin at Madison. I was a new graduate student under Irwin. The weather was cold and snowy. Clyde was showing a dish washer how to wash dishes and getting help from Claire Busk (a technician) on cattle tests made in small test tubes in copper racks.

Clyde was a lean and spare figure exuding an air of calm competence. This impression has not changed through the years. But I have added notations of creative and original thought, logically presented privately and before academic audiences.

Clyde went off on a Fulbright to New Zealand shortly after Bill Stone arrived as his trainee in cattle blood groups. After he returned it was not long before he went to the University of California at Davis.

Clyde and I were the ones who struggled most with Irwin in presenting ideas contrary to the popular genetic norm of the time, Clyde with his "outrageous" concept of phenogroups, and I with my allelic alternative antigens and hybrid substances. (Ray Owen and Bill Stone seemed to sail by MRI without effort.) Clyde seemed to be impressed by my double presentation of papers with Cliff Bryan at Minneapolis at a national Genetics meeting. So after my year postdoc at Madison, he put me in charge of the Serology Laboratory at U. Cal at Davis in fulfillment of the University's contract with the Purebred Dairy Cattle Association to blood type cattle. I was there for 7 years.

Those were productive years for Clyde and I in tripling the B series of phenogroups to over 300 and confirming our notions about the blood group systems. Yoshi Suzuki, at the time Clyde's technician, was a big help too.

Even though he was willing to stick his neck out far enough, I never knew Clyde to make any academic errors, unlike most of the rest of the geneticists. Being able to count phenogroups directly, he was slow in giving enough credit to the Hardy-Weinberg manipulations as applied to blood groups—a "near miss." But with data from my two new systems (N and R'-S) and our accumulating systems data, he readily saw its utility.

In the first decade of my experiences with Clyde (1948 on) various "authorities," sometimes even friends,

seemed to be reluctant to accept his "phenogroup" ideas (or Wiener's "agglutinogens"). Clyde always included facts and reason in his answers. Others had no technique as sensitive as our blood typing in cattle and, therefore, had no similar data bank to compare with. (Electrophoresis of enzymes, etc. finally got others to accept our "genotyping" ability without parents or offspring.)

I'll never forget about the outdoor discussion he had with Alan Robertson, a friend from Edinburgh, Scotland. We were attending the Tenth International Congress of Genetics at Montreal, Canada. Lucian Sprague and I were standing by them listening in on this discussion. Robertson came out with the question: "What is the alternative to 300 alleles?" Lucian and I had identical reactions, but Lucian came out with it first: "SIX HUNDRED ALLELES!" Clyde's delighted response was, "There you go!"

Of course, we are beyond that number now with perhaps another 250 breeds to go. Already having had some clues about mutations or crossing over "within a gene," Clyde added something about a big or complex "locus"—as far as he has ever needed to go to counter criticisms about the allelic nature of the B system of cattle.

I did hear an address by Clyde to the Sigma Xi group of newly-admitted students and staff at Davis that was memorable. I believe the title was "Treasure Your Exceptions." The gist of the talk was that in Science the most interesting and significant advances come from discoveries that do not fit the expected. Researchers should confirm, then further study the exception to the expected—**not** ignore, hide or minimize such events.

Clyde's own discoveries came from just such honest and creative efforts to understand the unexpected. So we had phenogroups "early on" in spite of the critics, as well as twins' identical blood types, generalizations to sheep, horses and bison confirmed by expansion of blood typing to those species, applications in other species including zoo animals, and many other artistic scientific advances.

This principle can be applied to people also. Clyde Stormont was exceptional, a treasure to science and scientists. We can and do treasure Clyde!

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