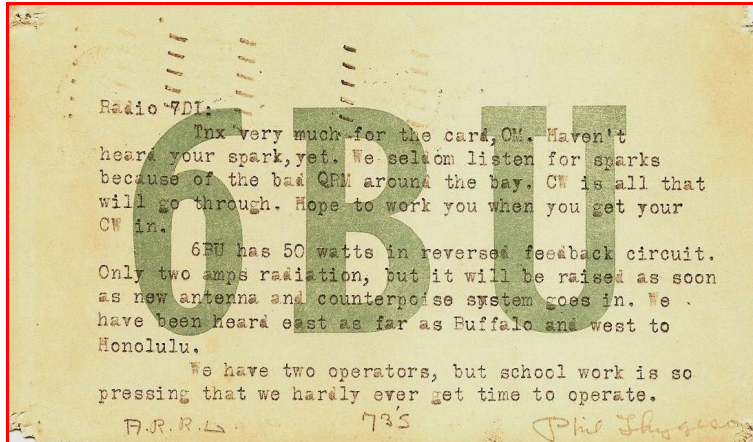


Dr. Phillips Thygeson MD *1903-2002* 6BU - Dr. Thygeson MD top ophthalmologist, former UCSF professor who helped discover the cure for one of the world's leading causes of blindness, has expired at his Los Altos home. His death followed complications from pneumonia, he was age 99.

Born in St. Paul Minn., moving to Palo Alto in 1917, enrolling at Stanford University, where he earned a bachelor's degree and later his medical degree.



After a preceptorship with prominent ophthalmologists Drs. William Finnoff and Edward Jackson, Dr. Thygeson received doctor of ophthalmology and masters degrees from the University of Colorado. He began working with Dr. Francis Proctor and the two discovered that the cause of trachoma was a filterable microbe now known as chlamydia. In 1939 the pair discovered that sulfonamides could cure trachoma.

After conducting research in Egypt and Tunisia, Dr. Thygeson worked at the University of Iowa and Columbia U. During this time, he made three extended trips to Fort Apache, AZ., where he studied trachoma among the Apache Indians.

Returning to Northern California after serving in World War II and built a home in Los Altos, our subject worked in a private ophthalmic practice in San Jose before joining the staff at UCSF as a professor ophthalmology.

Later serving as director of UCSF's Proctor Foundation for research in Ophthalmology from 1957 - 1970. In addition Dr. Thygeson worked as a consultant to World Health Org., and established the Alta California Eye Research Foundation in 1968.

Dr. Thygeson is survived by a son Fritjof and a daughter Kristin; 5 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. A public memorial service at UCSF was held. Memorial gifts may be sent to Alta California eye Research Foundation POB 622 Los Altos, Ca 94022 or Nature Conservancy 4245 N. Fairfax Dr., Suite 100, Arlington, Va 22203-1606 - Scripted by Ryan Kim - Chronicle 5 Aug 2002

Some have energy abounding! Being in college and having time for early wireless radio is a fine accomplishment. MF/ Dr Phillips

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