

Who was

## **Jimmie Pigg?**

*August 28, 1930 – February 24, 1999*

---

Jimmie Pigg was born and raised in Bartlesville, Oklahoma. He lived there until he completed a portion of his undergraduate studies at Bartlesville Junior College. He subsequently earned a B.S. degree in Education, Biology, and Health/Physical Education at Oklahoma A&M College in 1953. In 1962, Jimmie completed his formal education by receiving an M.S. degree in Natural Sciences at Oklahoma State University. He went on to apply his education by teaching school and working as a fisheries professional for the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality.

Jimmie is well known for being a man of strong work ethic with a dedication to sampling fish communities. During his career he arguably sampled more miles of stream and acres of reservoir in Oklahoma than any of his Sooner peers. Specimens from his collections live on in many museums across Oklahoma and beyond. Similarly, his vast experiences and hard-working nature persist in current environmental professionals who worked or studied under Jimmie's tutelage.

One of Jimmie's most notable traits was his dedication to student education. Jimmie strived to help them recognize the importance and value of the environment and how it is tied to fish population health. Jimmie's endeavors in this regard were duly noted in 1983 when he was given the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science Teaching. His name is also strongly associated with the Oklahoma Junior Academy of

Science which provides students with opportunities designed to help advance them down their career path.

Jimmie's love for students seemed to know no bounds. He worked hard to raise funds to support educational platforms that encouraged students to develop skills beyond what could be learned from text books. When fundraising was not enough, Jimmie took it upon himself to personally fill the financial gaps. He donated significant amounts of his limited personal income to help students pursue careers in fisheries and other sciences. Jimmie dedicated this money to student awards given for outstanding academic achievement and to travel costs for students to present their research at conferences. It was these selfless and commendable acts that prompted the SDAFS Warm-water Streams Committee to name their outstanding student achievement award in Jimmie Pigg's honor.