Leave The Dishes In The Sink
Thorne, Alison

Published by Utah State University Press

Thorne, Alison.
Leave The Dishes In The Sink.
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Appendix: The Life and Career of Wynne Thorne

Wynne appears in every section of this book except the first, which deals with my early life before I met him. To fill out the story of his life and career I have written this appendix.

David Wynne Thorne was born December 19, 1908, in Perry, Utah, then called Three Mile Creek. His parents were Milton Jefferson Thorne and Elmerta Eugenia Nelson. Wynne inherited his father’s sandy red hair and tendency to freckle, and from his mother, it is said, he inherited his happy disposition and his Danish looks. He and his older sisters, Rhea and Lora, were born at eighteen month intervals. When Wynne was four and one-half years old their mother died giving birth to a son, Leland.

Milton’s sister, Addie Nelson, took the baby into her family for that first year, while Milton’s mother, Rebecca Thorne, cared for the three older children. Milton then married Ida Vilate Young, librarian of Brigham City’s library. In choosing to marry Milton and take on his four children, Ida gave up a promising career. She had planned to go to Madison, Wisconsin, that year to further her education, yet she never regretted the choice of marrying.

Ida asked Elmerta’s children to call her Aunt Ida because she thought the title “mother” should be reserved for their biological mother. Her daughters-in-law called her Aunt Ida too. I think this custom derived from the fact that in polygamous families—and both Ida and Milton grew up in polygamous contexts—plural wives were called aunts. Later Ida wished she had taught the four older children to speak of her as their “other mother,” but she did not know of such a title at the time. Ida gave birth to Dee, June, and Marlowe, and, from my observation, I know all the children considered themselves full brothers and sisters.

Ida kept a day-to-day diary and sometimes a journal. She wrote that they used fifty pounds of flour every nine days, baking eight loaves of bread and a pan of biscuits every other day. Her yeast came from Aunt

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Rose Young who got it from the Agricultural College, and Ida kept it alive for twenty-eight years by adding sugar and cooked potato water. Everyone worked. It was subsistence farming, and the boys milked cows and thinned sugar beets. Dust from the fields infiltrated Wynne’s lungs and made him barrel chested.

Milton, a civic minded man, was elected mayor of Perry in 1929 and again in 1933. Running on the Democratic ticket, he was elected to the Utah State Legislature in 1939 and 1941, where he served with distinction on three committees: irrigation, appropriations, and education. I recall the appreciation of Utah State Agricultural College officials for his support of their appropriations requests.

When Wynne graduated from Box Elder high school, completing the four years in three, one of his teachers said he was the brightest student ever to graduate. Wynne next attended Weber Junior College in Ogden for two years. Ida wrote, “He, with his father’s help, bought a used bus mounted on a Reo Speed Wagon chassis. He was able to get a busload of passengers from Brigham City and vicinity to go to Weber each day, which helped to pay his college costs.”

There was a lot of engine trouble, which meant weary evenings putting the bus in shape to drive the next day. Some of Wynne’s classmates called him “the truck driver” when they wrote in his Weber yearbook, The Acorn. “Dear Turk, I feel very fine that I am able to write at all after hitting the pigs, turkey, car etc.” Wynne’s nickname was Turk for turkey red, referring to his sandy red hair. And as Wynne told it to me, he did hit a pig in Willard, but it got to its feet and ran off. That’s the only thing he hit.

Wynne disliked being called Turk and that’s why, when his first son was born with much brighter red hair than his own, he insisted on a short interesting name that people would use without resorting to a nickname. That’s why Kip is named Kip.

After Weber Junior College, Wynne served an LDS mission in England. He, along with other missionaries, sailed on the Leviathan on February 6, 1929. The next December his brother Dee died on Wynne’s birthday, the nineteenth. Dee underwent an ordinary hernia operation but developed an unexpected and lethal blood clot. The family did not cable the tragic news because it was Wynne’s birthday and Christmas was so near. Instead, they wrote letters and sent carbon copies of the talks given at the funeral, knowing they would arrive after Christmas. Wynne walked London streets all night long after he got the letters, trying to realize that his brother was gone.
After completing his mission, Wynne came home in February 1931, worked on the family farm all spring and summer, and in the fall enrolled at Utah State Agricultural College, earning his way by working in the chemistry laboratory for C. T. Hirst, who held an agricultural experiment station appointment and, therefore, had research funding. Wynne did well in his classes and especially appreciated Sherwin Maeser, head of Chemistry, who not only was a fine teacher but invited his best students to his home to play chess.

A quick glance at his graduation picture in the yearbook, *The Buzzer*, shows that Wynne belonged to Phi Kappa Phi and Blue Key, and was “Barb pres.” There’s no picture of the Barbarians (or Independents) although there are pictures of Panhellenic councils and members of fraternities and sororities. Yet the Barbs, while Wynne was president, took the student body office elections away from the Greeks, who until then had dominated.²

Toward the end of Wynne’s senior year, Dr. Rudger Walker, an Idaho native who was on the Iowa State College faculty, visited the A.C. campus looking for graduate students. Although Wynne was a chemistry major, Walker suggested a fellowship in soils at Iowa State, and Wynne took it, a first step in his future career as an agricultural scientist. Wynne’s appointment was a research fellowship in soil bacteriology with a fifty dollar per month stipend. He joined an ongoing project on nitrogen fixation. Specifically, it was a study of how the soil bacteria, rhizobium, grow and respire in the juices of leguminous plants. Wynne’s graduate research produced seven technical papers co-authored with R. H. Walker, and two co-authored with the head of the Soils Department, P. E. Brown.

As the time for Wynne’s dissertation defense approached, he was uneasy because the graduate dean, R. E. Buchanan, was himself a distinguished microbiologist and could ask tough questions. Wynne, who was on good terms with everybody, learned from the dean’s secretary, Ruth Confare, that if one gave her a box of candy she would keep the dean away from the defense. So Wynne gave her the candy. Imagine his astonishment the next day, after his successful defense without presence of the dean, when he happened to meet Dean Buchanan on campus. He said, “Thanks for the candy. Ruth Confare shared it with me.” Wynne took his Ph.D. in June 1936. He had acquired his master’s in one year, and his doctorate in two more years, something of a record.³

The Depression continued and job prospects were miserable. However, Walker left Iowa State for a position with the Forest Service
at the Intermountain Forest and Range Experiment Station in Ogden, a position he would hold from 1936–38. To replace him, Iowa State offered Wynne a position as assistant professor of Agronomy, which combined teaching and research. Wynne accepted but realized that to remain more than one year would be a dead end, so he kept seeking a position elsewhere.

Wisconsin and Texas

Wynne accepted a summer position at the University of Wisconsin in the Department of Bacteriology and Biochemistry, working on rhizobium with R. H. Burris in the microbiology lab. When I completed my summer teaching at Iowa State, Wynne and I were married on August 3, 1937, and set up housekeeping in an apartment in Madison.

In the middle of August, Wynne received an offer of an associate professorship from Ide P. Trotter, head of Agronomy at Texas A & M. He accepted with alacrity, and in September we moved to College Station to live among Texas Aggies. Wynne’s teaching load was the heaviest in the department and there was no research appointment in the agricultural experiment station, but he snatched time to study the nature of surrounding soils. It was a nine-month appointment, and summer 1938 found us once again in Madison, with Wynne working on rhizobium with Burris and also with Perry Wilson. Then we returned to College Station for a second academic year.

Wynne was working very hard and suffering from hay fever. We sometimes wished we were elsewhere. In the meantime Rudger Walker had left the Forest Service in Ogden to become dean of Agriculture and director of the agricultural experiment station at Utah State Agricultural College. He offered Wynne a position as associate professor of Agronomy, which included a half-time appointment in the experiment station. Wynne accepted.

Teaching and Research at Utah State Agricultural College

Wynne enjoyed his work at the Agricultural College, and often said, “I’d do this even if they didn’t pay me.” His course on irrigated soils resulted in a textbook, and while working on it he became head of the Agronomy Department, a position he would hold for eight years (1947–55). Irrigated Soils, Their Fertility and Management, co-authored
with Howard B. Peterson, was published in 1948, followed by a revised edition in 1954. It became internationally known and was translated into Spanish, Russian, and Hebrew.

From 1940–60 Wynne did research on soil fertility, plant nutrition, and chemistry of minor elements, and of saline and alkaline soils. He studied iron, phosphorus, manganese, zinc, calcium and sodium. He published research on fruit trees and shrubs, management of irrigated pastures, and the quality of irrigation water. Some years after his death, international meetings held at USU on the subject of iron in plants paid tribute to Wynne and his graduate students for this early research.

Wynne believed that his students should have as good a start as possible toward professional careers. The list of his co-authored articles brings back to me these students’ names and I can see each of them clearly in my mind’s eye: Arthur Wallace, Parker Pratt, Larry Burtch, Willard Lindsay, Lynn K. Porter, Jerry Jurinak, Gene Miller, and R. L. Smith. Charl Brown was another one. And I also remember Louay Kadry from Iraq who subsequently had a long career with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization in Rome.

At USAC Wynne gave the Tenth Annual Faculty Research Lecture in 1951, taking his title, “The Desert Shall Blossom as the Rose,” from Isaiah. An introductory section on the Tigris-Euphrates basin told of the early great canals and how they ultimately salted up. Seven years after giving this lecture, he saw from a helicopter the borders of the ancient Narwan canal.

The faculty association had initiated annual Faculty Research Lectures in 1942, and over the years Wynne and I attended nearly all of them. Willard Gardner presented the first one, entitled, “The Scientist’s Concept of the Physical World.” Gardner’s list of publications, appended at the end of his lecture, gives a glimpse of the evolution of soil physics, a field which he founded. Wynne told me that Gardner was so famous as founder of soil physics that his picture hung on the walls of the Rothamsted Experiment Station in England.

It is interesting to note that, in 1950, Willard Gardner’s son, Walter Hale Gardner, received one of the first two Ph.D.s to be granted at Utah State. Walter Gardner took his degree in soil physics, and Wynne signed his dissertation as major professor, with Willard Gardner signing as thesis director. The thesis was only thirty-one pages long and full of mathematical symbols. I recall Walt bringing it to our house for Wynne to read, and afterwards I asked Wynne if he understood it. “No,” said Wynne in all honesty. “Only Walt and his father understand
it. His father typed it, because his typewriter has proper symbols, and Willard Gardner in his early years was a court reporter. That’s how he learned to type."

A candid recital of events of the early 1950s must include the fact that it was a time of troubles for USAC. Governor J. Bracken Lee and the Board of Trustees overstepped their legal responsibilities and reached down into administrative and faculty affairs. Wynne chaired the Faculty Association Committee on Faculty Relations and in this capacity battled the board and Governor Lee. The governor was responsible for dismissing President Louis Madsen in 1953. But Madsen’s was not the only abrupt dismissal. In 1950 the board had cut short the tenure of his predecessor, President Franklin S. Harris.

After Madsen, the next president was Henry Aldous Dixon, former president of Weber Junior College. Dixon was well aware of the uneasy relationship of USAC to the governor and trustees. In the summer of 1953, when Dixon arrived on campus as president, he said to Wynne, “Stay away from me. I find you too controversial.” Stunned, Wynne did stay away by leaving for a sabbatical year in Knoxville as chief of the Soils and Fertilizer Division of the Tennessee Valley Authority.

Administration of University Research

We came home from Tennessee in the fall of 1954. In November after a brief political campaign, President Aldous Dixon was elected to Congress to replace Douglas R. Stringfellow, a World War II veteran who had been giving dramatic accounts of his heroic war experiences, and then confessed on television that they were untrue. With the departure of Dixon, Utah State had lost three presidents in four years. After insisting on certain concessions from the Board of Trustees, Daryl Chase became president in December 1954, a position he would hold for nearly fourteen years. Under him the college’s name became Utah State University in 1957.

Upon recommendation of Dean Walker, President Chase immediately proposed that Wynne Thorne be appointed director of the Utah Agricultural Experiment Station and of University Research. Board of Trustee membership had changed and the appointment was approved, along with creation of a Division of University Research and approval of Wynne’s strategy to broaden the scope of research possibilities across campus for faculty who lacked access to experiment station funding. Nine month faculty could now apply for research money for
the summer months, available from USU’s uniform school fund allotment. This was state income from mineral leases on state and federal lands, an income that was growing rapidly because of oil and gas development and uranium exploration.

Wynne defined research as any scholarly activity and said that research supported by uniform school funds could include any creative activities such as art, music composition, or writing as well as traditional research in biological, physical, and social sciences. On his suggestion, a university research council representing all colleges was created to recommend awards of research money.

The agricultural experiment station continued to have the largest research appropriation of any unit at USU, amounting at this time to almost two million dollars a year. Wynne administered the station along with seeking out other sources of funding. He took on regional and national assignments, among them serving as director of the Western
Agricultural Experiment Station Directors. Earlier he served as president of the Soil Science Society of America (1955–56), having previously been president of the Western Society of Soil Science. Other aspects of his career can be glimpsed from his list of publications.6

Wynne initiated annual Experiment Station Day which included an evening banquet. In an unusual paper read at the banquet on February 20, 1960, he summarized an interdisciplinary research project on arid lands research at USU:

This highly successful research program began with reports of W. P. Thomas that our income from grazing lands in the state was frightfully low. O. W. Israelsen calculated that water falling on these lands was being largely wasted and only about 1 percent was reaching our streams . . . Four of our geneticists and plant breeders tackled the problem: Sid Boyle, Douglas Dewey, Marion Pedersen and De Vere McAllister . . .

The resulting plant was given the name of cactile grass but soon became known as cackle grass. It had small tufts of grass blades where the spines of the barrel cactus usually appear. But most important of all, had a luxuriant growth of grass and legume on the top, which during dry weather derived water from the barrel of the cactus part. Unfortunately the bulk of the forage on top of the barrel was about 10 feet high . . .
Fortunately cackle grass is winter hardy and easy to establish under our Utah conditions. (Wayne) Cook, (D. L.) Goodwin and (Larry) Stoddart established several plots of about 10,000 acres each for detailed and controlled observations and these are spreading rapidly crowding out sage and rabbit brush . . . But since livestock could not reach the feed, some of our cattlemen started to doubt the value of this new forage . . .

A group headed by Jim Bennett together with Doyle Matthews, Gene Starkey and Dave Carson tackled the problem with typical USU ingenuity and imagination . . . It was decided to cross the giraffe with our Rambouilet sheep . . . An animal named “Gireep” resulted which resembled somewhat the sheep but had a neck long enough to feed on even the tallest cackle grass . . . The gireeps proved hardy and prolific. The meat was good with a slightly banana-like flavor, no doubt due to the tropical ancestry. . . .

There was just one flaw. The fleece proved to be a curious material different from both hair and wool, and therefore, given the name of Hool. Now our chemists and textile specialists entered the picture.

Florence Gilmore and Elmer Olsen . . . went to work on the problem . . . Miss Gilmore had the brilliant idea—it could be used to make women’s hats. The fad caught on and millions of hats were produced. Our cattlemen became wealthy. But women are fickle and fads changed. Just as disaster seemed imminent Elmer Olsen discovered that the product burned with terrific ferocity and he conceived that it would make an excellent rocket fuel. Soon rockets will be driven by Hool from USU produced gireeps.

This report, with illustrations by an unknown artist, appeared in the Christmas issue of the 1960 Agronomy Newsletter under the title of “Wow! Gireeps and Hool.” In a more serious vein, a year later Wynne presided over a symposium held in Denver on “Land and Water Use” which became a book by that title.7

Every early November Wynne was in Washington D.C. for meetings of the Experiment Station Directors’ Section of the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges. He served on the Committee of Nine of the directors’ section, and in 1961–62 was section chairman, which meant being chairman of all state directors.

In 1965 Wynne became USU’s first vice president for research, and in real life as in the “gireep” fantasy, he strongly encouraged cooperation across disciplines. The Ecology Center, the Desert Biome, various
research-based institutes, and the Environment and Man program came into being. Wynne served seven years as vice president and then, for his final two years at the university, because of health problems, he chose to step down and serve only as director of the agricultural experiment station.  

Wynne’s final nine years at the university continued his strenuous pace. They were years in which he insisted that undergraduate as well as graduate students should have opportunity to do research, a belief spelled out in 1969 in a rather famous paper.  

When he retired in 1974, at age sixty-five, the research momentum he started in 1955 had culminated in 1972–73 in 1,636 publications by faculty, including seventy-five books. The research expenditures in fiscal year 1973–74 amounted to well over eleven million dollars. At
commencement in 1975, the university recognized his work by award-
ing him the Honorary Doctorate of Science.

At the time of Wynne’s retirement Eastman Hatch, of the USU
physics faculty, wrote to him:

When I came to this university five and one-half years ago, it soon
became apparent to me that there was a human dynamo over in Old
Main who was responsible for the fact that while the total grant pic-
ture at most universities (including the one I came from) was
becoming very bleak, Utah State University’s funding for research
was increasing every year. Of course the faculty had a great deal to
do with this—but so did you. The policies provided by you and the
Research Council under your direction created the atmosphere and
the incentives which enabled this unusual record. . . .

Utah State is one of the most successful universities in getting inter-
disciplinary programs off the ground and running. Your policies
and active cooperation have been a large factor in this achievement.
Your mark will remain on this university for years to come.11

Consulting Experience

Over the years Wynne had a lot of irons in the fire. One of them was
consulting. The earliest (1958) was his trip to Iraq to advise the govern-
ment on soil and water problems, followed by a visit to the USSR as
part of a soil and water team.

Later he was hired by the engineering firm, Charles T. Main, to be a
consultant on the California Water Plan, that vast project bringing
water south from northern California. During the middle of July 1960,
he toured the twenty-six California counties that would be affected,
and returned to spend days at our Logan Canyon cabin, writing the
report and verifying locations on a large map of California suspended
from the cabin’s balcony. Barrie typed the report for him.12 In
November Wynne was offered the position of director of the New
Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, but declined, saying his inter-
est lay in arid lands.13

Wynne consulted for the Shell Oil Company Experiment Station in
Venezuela in 1961. Later he went to Ecuador for Charles T. Main to
evaluate development in the Guyas River Basin. He went to Bolivia for
the United States Agency for International Development. He went to
India for Parsons Engineering. The National Academy of Sciences pub-
lished the East Pakistan report he wrote for the World Bank.
Teaching and research were no longer part of his work, and I asked him why he did administration and consulting. He said because he knew he could do it better than anyone else around, and he hoped his international work would benefit world food production and starving people.

In early 1973 Wynne had heart surgery, a triple bypass at the LDS Hospital in Salt Lake City. Avril and Lance, students at the University of Utah, lived in a house on the Avenues, so I stayed with them. Every morning in the chill air I wiped smoggy film off my windshield and drove to the hospital to see Wynne. Later he spoke lightly of his surgery in his talk to Logan Rotary. Among his papers are these typed sheets:

I was asked to tell you what I have been doing in the past year—other than attending Rotary. First I had a new heart plumbing job. The old corroded pipes were replaced with new ones—fresh from my own leg. I feel wonderful and hope the same for each of you.

I have been to India twice, once last July and second in early January. I completed two short missions for the UNDP, one covering 10 countries in the Middle East and North Africa to examine their cereal variety testing and breeding programs and one in Ethiopia to review their agricultural research activities . . . I am concerned and I hope you, too, are concerned about the future well-being of all peoples in the world. I have travelled more than most—spending at least modest periods in 25 different countries. I have found the same basic human values in people of every nation, the same strengths and similar weaknesses . . .

In developing countries there is no social security. Children are the primary old age insurance. These countries are increasing population by 2.5% per year or more. This means doubling of population in less than 25 years . . . How can this be managed, where will the food come from? The U.S. and many other countries have been providing technical assistance to help in food production for 25 years or more, yet these countries are still on the verge of famine.

Wynne observed that most national unilateral assistance programs are short lived. He saw more hope in international research centers. The first two such centers, supported by Rockefeller Foundation and Ford Foundation, involved research on corn and wheat in Mexico, and on rice in the Philippines. Additional centers were created with funding from the Ford, Rockefeller, and Kellogg Foundations, from the United Nations Development Programme, and from twenty-five nations.
Wynne represented those twenty-five nations on the board of governors of the International Center for Research in the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT). Until his death in 1979 he went to India two and three times a year for meetings.

Every three years board members’ wives got a free trip to Hyderabad. I chose to go along for the January 1975 meetings and left the United States in early December 1974 with friends Ione Bennion and Alta Crockett. We saw Hawaii, Samoa, and New Zealand. Wynne caught up with us in Sidney, Australia. We were in Adelaide, Australia, for Christmas with Carolyn Steel, and at the International Rice Research Institute in the Philippines for New Year’s. We reached Hyderabad in time for Wynne’s board meetings, and attended the dedication of the new ICRISAT campus by Indira Ghandi. We traveled north to visit Marathwada Agricultural University in Parbahni, at the invitation of Vice-Chancellor (President) D. K. Salunkhe. Born in India, Salunkhe was a longtime USU faculty member and had taken a three-year leave to work with Marathwada University. He and his faculty were most kind to us, and besides visiting the campus, we were taken to see the famous Ajunta and Ellora caves. The next year, Wynne was again at Marathwada Agricultural University, this time to receive an honorary doctorate on January 17, 1976, a degree of which he was very proud.

Continuing the saga of our round-the-world trip: Wynne was with us when we went to Teheran, before the fall of the shah. Then we all four went on to Rome where Wynne learned from UNDP that he was to go to Libya because their government wanted to know what to do about the water they had struck in the desert while drilling for oil. We three women went on to Spain and home. In early March, Wynne returned to Logan with amazing tales of Libya.

In July 1976 I made a quick trip with Wynne to London, where four candidates for ICRISAT director were interviewed. They came from across the world. During the day while the selection committee interviewed, I went out to see the sights of London in spite of the very hot and dry weather, and on July 4 saw England celebrate the independence of the United States with considerable fanfare. Each evening I had dinner with the committee and the candidate and wife just interviewed. The choice was New Zealander Leslie Swindale, director of the Agricultural Experiment Station in Hawaii. His wife Delle, a New Yorker, had her Ph.D. from Cornell in ecology. They were very bright and friendly people and during their years at the Institute made great contributions.
Retirement and Continuing Professional Work

Wynne retired the summer of 1974. Determined not to breathe down the necks of those who replaced him at USU, Wynne suggested in the fall that we drive across Canada to Orono, Maine, where he had been invited to evaluate the agricultural experiment station of the University of Maine. We stayed two weeks, saw the New England autumn colors, and then drove slowly home cross country, stopping to visit Marlowe and Merle Thorne at the University of Illinois, Urbana, where Marlowe was head of Agronomy. Soon after our return, we started the round-the-world trip described above. Wynne got home from Libya in early March. On March 21, 1975, annual Experiment Station Day occurred, but this time it was informally known as Wynne Thorne Day.

More than three hundred people attended. We were particularly happy to see the Burnell Wests, with whom Wynne stayed in Iraq. There were many friends, former graduate students, and relatives. Wynne gave a major address on progress and direction for the future, and Willis L. Peterson, an economist at Minnesota, spoke.

Among the distinguished visitors, most of whom spoke, were Thomas J. Army, vice president of Great Western Sugar, from Denver; Mark Buchanan, director-at-large of the Western Region Agricultural Experiment Stations; J. B. Kendrick, vice president for research of the University of California, Berkeley; Roy L. Lovvern, administrator of the Cooperative State Research Service, Washington D.C., who was responsible for Wynne’s assignments to review experiment stations; and Rex Thomas, regional administrator, Agricultural Research Service, Berkeley.

The dinner was humorous from beginning to end as our faculty and wives brought out old stories. But the greatest surprise was when Al Southard and LeMoyne Wilson presented Wynne with the Utah Agricultural Experiment Station Bulletin, Soils of Utah, which had been years in completion. It had taken a long time to get all the soils of the state mapped. This was the only published version, the rest being still in press. Al had really sat on the printers to get this one done in time for the dinner.  

Life went on. Besides evaluating the Maine Agricultural Experiment Station Wynne evaluated the stations of Rhode Island and of Maryland. I was with him on his two-week visit to the University of Maryland during a very cold winter, at the time of President Jimmy Carter’s inaugural, which we watched on television in our motel room. It was just too cold to go over to Washington, D.C.
Wynne also worked for the Board of Agricultural and Renewable Resources, which functioned under the National Research Council. This appointment began before his retirement when he was editor for the Committee of Fifteen, which wrote *Our Daily Bread: A Report to the Nation on Its Food Supply* (1973).

Because I kept gathering material on measures of quality of life, Wynne asked me to write a paper with him for a symposium of agricultural and forestry scientists to be held at the annual AAAS meetings in Denver in late February 1977. We entitled our paper “Land Resources and Quality of Life.” The symposium papers became the book, *Renewable Resource Management for Forestry and Agriculture.*

At the same time, Wynne and Marlowe were writing their book *Soil, Water, and Crop Production,* designed to help advisers working with farmers, public leaders, and others seeking to improve crop practices. Wynne and Marlowe wrote twelve chapters and invited authors wrote seven.

Toward the end of 1978, Wynne came home ill from a brief consulting trip to Syria. Surgery to reactivate a failed kidney did not help, and not until two and a half weeks before his death was he diagnosed as having cancer of the liver, which had spread from colon cancer. He died on February 15, 1979.

“He died with his boots on,” his colleagues said. I know he would have wanted it that way, but I also know that he desperately wanted more time.

Five years later Rulon Albrechtsen asked permission to name a new hard-red spring wheat for him. He said that one can’t very well name a wheat “Thorne” but the name “Wynne” would do very nicely. That’s what the new wheat became. It is in interesting company because earlier hard-red spring wheats had been named Fremont, Borah, and Powell.

Perhaps the most lasting recognition of Wynne’s contributions to Utah State University is the D. Wynne Thorne Research Award given every commencement. When Kip and I received honorary doctorates at USU on May 6, 2000, in the printed program opposite the page with my picture and citation was the D. Wynne Thorne Research Award recipient, Richard Krannich, sociologist. I like to believe that Wynne was there in spirit, especially because Kip was commencement speaker.