

7 November 1995

Dear AANews librarian/keeper of the morgue:

I was asked recently by an organization I am affiliated with to prepare a biography, and it struck me that it might also be valuable to the News to stick in my file in the morgue to save Bill Tremel the time and bother of going through lots of clips to prepare my obit when that becomes necessary. (I presume Tremel will still be there at that time since it looks as if he will never retire!)

Also, I'm getting along in years, and I figure I'd better do it while I can still remember it!

Sincerely,



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For Obit File: Ann Arbor NEWS

Douglas James ("Doug") Fulton
Born April 5, 1928
Abingdon, IL - Knox County

Wife: Anna Summers Fulton, Tucson, AZ
Son: Bruce Douglas Fulton, Tucson, AZ
Daughter: Andrea Lee Fulton, Monterey, CA

Only son of Oscar D. and Neva E. (LeFevre) Fulton, Doug spent his early years in Illinois, where his father ran a walnut lumber business and managed several farms. He also spent one year in Suwanee, Tennessee, where his father developed timber and coal mining property. The family moved to Dunsmuir, California, when his father returned to railroading as a train dispatcher, and moved again to Tucson, Arizona in late 1939.

Doug attended Mansfield Jr. High and Tucson High, where he participated in dramatics and was elected to the National Honor Society, graduating in 1946 with high honors and giving one of the graduation speeches.

He attended the University of Arizona where he received his B.A., graduating in 1949 magna cum laude. He majored in German and French, and continued his interest in dramatics, acting in several U of A plays under the direction of Peter Marroney. He was a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Kappa Phi (scholastic honorary), Pi Delta Phi (French honorary) and University Players.

Following his graduation from the U of A, Doug attended the University of Chicago on a scholarship and was employed by the university as a graduate examiner in German. He transferred to the University of Michigan in 1950 and received his M.A. in Linguistics in 1951.

Doug joined the USAF during the Korean War, and served with the Office of Special Investigations in Washington, D.C., and the 4602nd Air Intelligence Service Squadron in Colorado Springs, Colorado, at Headquarters Air Defense Command.

Following service, he returned to Ann Arbor in 1957, where he planned to continue work on his doctorate in the field of Linguistics, and took a temporary job as photographer at the Ann Arbor NEWS. This temporary job became permanent, and during his tenure as staff photographer, Doug won many awards from the Michigan Press Photographers Association, including several for portfolio category, signifying best all around photographer in the state. He also won awards from the Associated Press and the National Press Photographers Association.

In 1962 he began writing "A Naturalist's Journal," a weekly column for the Outdoor Page of the NEWS and in 1968 was appoint-

✓ ed Outdoor Editor when the NEWS began a Sunday edition. As Outdoor Editor of the NEWS he became extremely involved with conservation issues and the preservation of natural areas, not just in Ann Arbor and the state of Michigan, but also on a national level. He won numerous awards from the Michigan Outdoor Writers Association and the Outdoor Writers Association of America for both his forceful writing on environmental affairs and his photography of wildlife. He was deeply involved in the first environmental teach-in at the University of Michigan in 1970, and was president of the board of directors that established the Ann Arbor Ecology Center.

He also won a top award from the Associated Press for an in-depth series of articles on the Sleeping Bear area in western Michigan and was cited for helping to make this a National Recreation Area. He was prominent in the campaign for preservation of Pictured Rocks and Sylvania as National Recreation Areas and wilderness designation of the Porcupine Mountains, and was one of the authors of the Michigan Wilderness Law, the first such state legislation to protect wilderness areas. He was twice cited by Keep Michigan Beautiful for his leadership in litter control activities; was named Conservation Communicator of the Year by the Michigan United Conservation Clubs in 1970; and was awarded the Audubon Society's Diamond Jubilee Award in 1979. At his retirement in 1983 the Michigan Outdoor Writers gave him the association's prestigious Gene Little "Papa Bear" Award -- only the second time in the organization's history.

✓ In Ann Arbor, he was involved in many natural resource preservation issues, including Gallup Park, Bird Hills Park, Thurston Pond Nature Center, Mitchell-Scarlett Woods and the many areas along the Huron River (including opening up Barton Pond to public recreation and convincing the city of Ann Arbor to construct a full bridge over the river at Huron Parkway). He served on the Ann Arbor Parks Advisory Board and the committee to plan development of the County Farm park.

He also served as head of the Mayor's Committee on Natural Resources for several years. This committee was involved in initiating many natural areas preservation goals for Ann Arbor, including hiking and biking trails along the Huron River and identification of prime preservation areas.

Doug was also one of the leaders in establishing the Outdoor Education Program in the Ann Arbor Public Schools, along with other members of the Washtenaw Audubon Society. He served three terms as president of WAS, and was editor of both the society's newsletter and the first Guide to Finding Birds in Washtenaw County.

Another of Doug's interests was music, especially blues music. He covered the Ann Arbor Blues and Blues and Jazz Festivals for the NEWS, and also reviewed concerts and other musical activities. In addition he began a Record Review feature in the NEWS, and headed this column for five years. He also served the NEWS as Special

Features Editor, and for several years produced a weekly Picture Page, many of these featuring his outstanding photos of wildlife and natural beauty.

Doug took early retirement from the NEWS in 1983 because of health problems, and returned to Tucson, Arizona, where he first served as interim director of the Tucson Botanical Gardens and then as editorial assistant for SAFARI Magazine and as the first editor of SAFARI TIMES, a monthly newspaper, for Safari Clubs International.

He also continued his long-time interest in blues music by becoming a board member and then president of the Tucson Blues Society. He edited the bi-monthly newsletter, Blues Beat, for several years and was editor of the society's Blues Greats calendar, distributed world-wide and containing photographs of famous bluesmen and women.

He continued to photograph bluesmen and women in appearances in Tucson, both at the Tucson Blues Festivals and also at clubs and concerts in the Tucson and Phoenix areas. He initiated the Blues in the Schools program for the Tucson Blues Society; he researched and collected citations for a Blues Bibliography now widely used by blues societies and publications; and he initiated a program to furnish blues books for the Tucson/Pima Library system. Mainly because of these programs, the Tucson Blues Society was awarded the Keeping the Blues Alive Award for Blues Societies by The Blues Foundation.

for 1994

In later years he was called upon by record companies, book publishers and periodicals to furnish photos from his extensive collection. His photos appear in Blues Who's Who, the Smithsonian Collection of Classic Blues Singers, Blues: A Photographic Documentary, published in Germany, England and the U.S. and other books and publications. His entire collection of blues photos is now in the Frank Driggs Agency collections.

He continued to return periodically to Ann Arbor for visits until 1988, when his wife Anna retired from the Ann Arbor Public School system, where she had enjoyed a long career as an elementary teacher at Angell School. She returned with him to Tucson, where the couple lived in the foothills of the Tucson Mountains, west of the city, surrounded by the the high Sonoran Desert they both loved.

AWARDS, COMMENDATIONS: Douglas James Fulton

COMP

(P-photo; W-writing; C-commendation)

- 1958: (P) LOOK magazine, one of Ten Best Sports Pictures of 1957
(photo reproduced in magazine)
Michigan Press Photographers Association (MPPA):
(P) Graflex plaque - Best Newspaper Photographic Exhibit;
(P) First place - portfolio;
(P) First place - sports;
(P) First place - pictorial;
(P) First place - feature sequence.
- 1959: (P) LOOK magazine; H.M. - Sports Pictures of 1958.
(P) Associated Press (AP): Third place - feature.
MPPA:
(P) First place - sequence;
(P) First place - sports;
(P) Second place - portfolio;
(P) Second place - portrait and personality;
(P) Second place - sports;
(P) Second place - picture story;
(P) H.M. - feature.
- 1960: (P) AP: First place - feature;
MPPA:
(P) First place - portfolio;
(P) First place - picture story;
(P) First place - sports;
(P) Third place - sports;
(P) Third place - portrait and personality;
(P) Third place - picture story feature.
- 1961: MPPA:
(P) First place - sports;
(P) First place - picture story;
(P) Second place - feature;
(P) Second place - sports;
(P) Third place - portfolio;
(P) Third place - spot news;
(P) Third place - picture story;
(P) Third place - portrait and personality;
(P) H.M. - portrait and personality.
- 1962: (P) LOOK magazine: H.M. - Best Sports Pictures of 1961.
(P) National Press Photographers Association: photo selected for
national exhibit.
- 1964: (W) AP: Second place - Feature sequence (investigative series on
Sleeping Bear National Lakeshore).
- 1965: (W) Michigan Outdoor Writers Association: First place - series and
runner-up to Pacquin Award (Best contribution to conservation).
(P) AP: First place - photo, and Best in Show.
- 1968: (W) MOWA: First place - feature;
(P) AP: Third place - feature;
(C) Keep Michigan Beautiful, major award;
(C) Honorary membership, Huron Valley Chapter, American Institute
of Architects.

- 1969: (P) Outdoor Writers Association of America (OWAA): First place - photo contest, scenic division and Best in Show.
(W) MOWA: First place - feature.
- 1970: (C) Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC): Conservation Communicator of the Year 1970.
- 1971: (W) MOWA: First place - conservation (Pacquin Award);
(P) First place - photo;
(C) Ann Arbor City Council: Letter of commendation.
- 1972: (P) MOWA: First place - photo.
- 1973: (P) MOWA: First place - photo
- 1974: (C) Washtenaw County Soil Conservation District: Communications Award.
- 1975: (P) OWAA: First place - best use of photos in newspaper;
(P) Second place - people category;
(W) MOWA: First place - conservation (Pacquin);
(W) Second place - feature;
(P) Third place - photo.
- 1976: (W) Detroit Press Club Foundation: Finalist in editorial competition (top 3);
(W) MOWA: First place - conservation;
(W) First place - photo;
(P) Second place - photo.
- 1977: (W) MUCC: Runner-up to Ben East Award for outdoor writing;
(W) MOWA: Second place - conservation;
(W) Second place - feature;
(P) Second place - photo.
- 1978: (P) MOWA: Second place - photo.
- 1980: (P) MOWA: Third place - photo;
(C) Michigan Audubon Society, Diamond Jubilee Award for Conservation Communication;
(C) Washtenaw County SCD: Communications Award.
- 1981: (W) OWAA: Second place - Eagle Rare Endangered Species;
(W) Second place - Evinrude Waterways Recreation;
(W) MOWA: Second place - feature
(P) Second place - photo;
(C) Western Washtenaw Ducks Unlimited: Commendation for conservation writing;
(C) Keep Michigan Beautiful Award.

1988:

(P-photo; M-Michigan; C-commendation)

WASHTENAW COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT: COMMUNICATIONS AWARD