Dr. J. Frances Allen, a biologist with broad training and experience, including malacology, was a longtime friend of *Malacologia* and the Institute of Malacology, and served as advisor in the early days before the journal was formally established, and continued her interest and support of the journal throughout the rest of her life. She referred to the Sponsor Members of the Institute of Malacology as “my boys,” and was proud of their accomplishments.

Dr. Allen was born in Arkville, New York, the daughter of J. W. Allen and Mattie Jo Linkous Allen. She attended schools in Owego and Roxbury, New York, graduating from Roxbury Central High School in 1934. Dr. Allen attended Radford State Teachers College (now Radford University), Radford, Virginia, receiving her Bachelor of Science degree in 1938. During the summer of 1937 she received training at the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory, Solomons Island, Maryland, and during the summer of 1938 she took courses at the University of Virginia’s Mountain Lake Biological Station. During the years 1938–1946, J. Frances Allen taught secondary school science in Virginia, West Virginia and New York State, and during the summers of 1942, 1944 and 1945 she was Assistant Professor of Science at Radford State Teachers College. While teaching in Virginia, Dr. Allen was one of the founders of the Virginia Junior Academy of Science and became its first Secretary. She was Biological Examiner for the New York State Department of Education during the summer of 1946. In the fall of 1946, she entered the University of Maryland’s graduate school, receiving the Master of Science

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