

George A. Llano believes he was born in 1911. He's not certain, because he never had a birth certificate:

"My mother brought me in the country (USA) when I was 8 years old, and I traveled on her passport. So, when I was at Cornell (University), graduating, waiting to be naturalized, the university assisted me by preparing certain documents which said they had seen my mother's passport, and that I was on that passport as of that date, and that my birthdate was accepted as November 22, 1911."

"I've always described myself as a civil servant. My life began as a research scientist and lichenologist at the Smithsonian. During the Cold War, I came in to do consulting work with the military on Russia and then I got involved in the IGY (International Geophysical Year) for the International Academy of Sciences. I worked a year for the Library of Congress as senior biologist, and then for the (National Science) Foundation, who took over the responsibility for the Antarctic program. They called me back to be a program manager, and then I became chief scientist, so in effect, I was a high-paid clerk."

Llano was responsible for budgets, programs, monitoring studies, but did not do any research himself while at the National Science Foundation. He worked for NSF from 1960-77, retiring, but being called back until they could find a replacement.

After his retirement, he was a lecturer on cruise ships.

An item of interest is that Canadian paleontologist Ed Mitchell named a species of whale after George Llano.

Undergraduate studies, Cornell University, 1930-35

Teachers College, Columbia University, 1937-38

Harvard University, 1939-41

(Dr. Llano was drafted in 1942. While he was in the service, a professor submitted for publication Llano's economic analysis of lichens)

1946 - Upon discharge, Llano received a Scandinavian-American fellowship and went to Sweden to study with a group of lichenologists

1947 - Washington University in St. Louis, hired as a laboratory assistant

1948 - Received Ph.D. from Washington University, in absentia

1977 - Received honorary degree from DePauw University, Chicago, recognizing him for bringing the first women into the Antarctic program