

DeForest H. Palmiter

May 12, 1904 — November 4, 1972

Dr. DeForest H. Palmiter died of a heart attack on November 4, 1972. He was born in Antigo, Wisconsin, on May 12, 1904. He held a B.S. degree from Oregon State College and received his Ph.D. degree from the University of Wisconsin in 1932. His doctoral thesis dealt with growth and sexual reproduction of the apple scab fungus, *Venturia inaequalis*, on artificial media. Dr. Palmiter joined the staff of the Department of Plant Pathology of the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station in 1937. He was stationed at the Hudson Valley Fruit Investigations Laboratory at Poughkeepsie, which later was moved to Highland, New York.

Dr. Palmiter was in charge of research on diseases of orchard fruits in eastern New York. His pioneering work with organic fungicides, initiated in the early 1940s, resulted in recommendations for disease control in orchards throughout the northeastern states. In his fungicide trials, special emphasis was placed on fruit quality, finish, and yield as well as on disease control.

During his career, he published more than eighty scientific articles and numerous popular reports dealing with fungicide evaluation, eradication action, and virus and nematode problems of tree fruits. His investigations were not limited to eastern New York for he was called upon to assist with disease problems in Europe, South America, Australia, New Zealand, and the Philippines. His most recent sabbatical leave was from September 1967 to March 1968, when he spent six months at the Central Philippines University at Iloilo City. In the Philippines he studied courses at the University related to plant pathology and worked with local agricultural leaders to determine the more important plant diseases limiting food production in that particular area.

Dr. Palmiter was a member of the American Phytopathological Society, Sigma Xi, and an honorary member of the New York State Horticultural Society. In 1949 he served as president of the Northeastern Division of the American Phytopathological Society.

Bud, as he was known to his friends and associates, rendered considerable aid to fruit growers of the Hudson Valley through his counsel on their specific problems. Their appreciation was expressed in a citation presented to him by the New York State Horticultural Society at their annual meeting at Kingston, New York, on January 28, 1970.

Dr. Palmiter was a member of the Arlington Rotary Club and the Senior Citizens' Housing Corporation, of which he was a past president. He attended the First Baptist Church in Poughkeepsie and was an active member of the Dutchess County Council of Churches. Dr. Palmiter had completed plans to journey to Nicaragua in January 1973 to help build a church in Managua.

Upon his retirement in December 1969 Dr. Palmiter was appointed professor emeritus.

Dr. Palmiter is survived by his wife, Viola; a daughter, Mrs. George (Ruth) Spencer; and two sons, Russell and Richard.

Michael Szkolnik, Alvin J. Braun