

# Carl Seymore Winkelblech

*June 28, 1918 — October 30, 1995*

Professor Emeritus Carl Seymore Winkelblech, 77, died at his home on Graham Road in Ithaca, New York, October 30, 1995, after a courageous struggle with cancer. Born June 28, 1918, in Aaronsburg, Pennsylvania, he was a son of the late Paul M. and Ollie Treaster Winkelblech.

Carl received the B.S. degree in agricultural engineering from Pennsylvania State University in 1939 and the M.S. degree in agricultural engineering from Ohio State University in 1961.

Before joining the faculty at Cornell, Carl spent one year in the Engineering Department of the Oliver Corporation at South Bend, Indiana and 13 years with the USDA Soil Conservation Service where he was responsible for the design and construction of many large group drainage projects. He also designed hundreds of water storage structures. In 1953 and 1954, he served as a Niagara County Extension Agent where he helped establish the County Soil Conservation District. He also developed an overall county drainage plan with priorities based on land use capabilities. Carl was appointed an Extension Assistant Professor in August 1954 with principal responsibility for conducting educational programs in soil and water engineering and tillage machinery. He was promoted to Associate Professor in July 1959 and to full Professor in July 1967.

Professor Winkelblech's background and experience permitted him to develop outstanding educational materials in drainage, water supply, soil conservation and management, water resource development, and tillage. He was one of the early innovators in the development of equipment and techniques for minimum tillage. He built one of the first plow-plant machines. Carl worked extensively with growers to minimize compaction and soil management problems through proper tillage practices. As an example of his practical approach to farmers' problems, he developed equipment for ridge planting on muck soils that was enthusiastically accepted by growers. He also designed a strawberry runner cutter to implement a new technique in strawberry culture.

Professor Winkelblech provided leadership in the development of the Land Improvement Contractors' Association and was instrumental in inaugurating a highly successful training program for New York State land improvement contractors. He also worked extensively with golf course operators on drainage and compaction problems. Professor Winkelblech was a consultant on the technical staff of the "Temporary State Commission on Irrigation" during the summers of 1956, 1957 and 1958. He and Professor Hugh Wilson conducted a study for the Commission to

determine the feasibility of developing water supplies and the legislative requirements to distribute irrigation water to important agricultural areas of the state.

He organized and conducted many county and state plowing contests. He developed the criteria and rules for the conduct of these contests and used these principles as effective tools to teach good plowing and plow adjustment. He served as a judge at several national and world plowing contests.

His outstanding extension program in machinery management received national recognition from his peers by being awarded four Blue Ribbons in the American Society of Agricultural Engineers' Competition for TV short courses, movies, demonstrations and publications. He was a prolific writer, contributing over one hundred articles to *Extension County News* and farm magazines. He also authored three excellent college bulletins: "Basic Principles of Tillage", "Farm Pond Construction", and "Drainage Around the Home".

Carl worked closely with farm machinery distributors in New York State providing leadership in the New York State Tractor Club, and the New York Farm Equipment Dealers' Association. For many years, Carl was an integral part of Empire Farm Days, a major agricultural machinery exhibition.

As an authority on rural water supply and treatment, Carl developed and disseminated information that has aided countless New York State farmers and homeowners.

Professor Winkelblech retired on July 31, 1975, after 21 years of continuous service to the Department of Agricultural Engineering in the New York State College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Cornell University. In October 1975, he was awarded the title of Professor of Agricultural Engineering, Emeritus.

He continued to utilize his knowledge and expertise in drainage after retiring. He aided many golf courses throughout the state in solving their drainage problems. He took particular interest in improving the drainage on the Robert Trent Jones Golf Course at Cornell University. "Wink", as he was known by his friends, became an avid golfer after being given a set of golf clubs for his work on drainage at the Cornell course. His most recent contribution was locating and designing a holding pond, between holes #1 and #6, for the anticipated course irrigation system. Wink played golf every day the weather permitted and frequently arrived at the course as soon as it opened. He looked forward to joining other Cornell retirees for a round of golf. Before his death, he was awarded a lifetime membership at the Robert Trent Jones golf course at Cornell. After retirement, Carl and Olive spent the winter months in Florida where he played golf and became an excellent surf fisherman. He supplied fresh fish to all his Cornell associates in the area.

Carl was a very kind and caring person who dedicated his life to helping others. He would do anything to help someone and never asked for anything in return. His family and grandchildren were most important in his life and they respected and loved him in return. Carl dedicated his life to educating, invigorating, improving and serving agriculture.

Professor Winkelblech is survived by his wife, Olive of Ithaca, New York; daughter and son-in-law, Mary Ann and John Beno of Freeville, New York; three sons and daughter-in-laws, Kermit and Sandra of Palos Park, Illinois; Dean and Kathy of Andover, Massachusetts; David and Helen of Hawley, Pennsylvania; eleven grandchildren; two great grandchildren; and a sister, Mary Stover of Aaronburg, Pennsylvania.

*Wesley W. Gunkel, Everett D. Markwardt, William F. Millier*