

Harold J. Conn

May 29, 1886 — November 10, 1975

Dr. Harold J. Conn, eighty-nine, of 458 Castle Street, Geneva, New York, a former chief in research in bacteriology at the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station, Geneva, died November 10, 1975 after a long illness.

Dr. Conn was a pioneer in the field of bacteriology, having a special interest in soil bacteriology. He came to the station in 1911 as an associate bacteriologist, was promoted to chief in research in 1920, a position he held until his retirement. He was appointed professor of bacteriology in October 1945 and professor emeritus on May 1, 1948. He also served as chairman of the Commission on Standardization of Biological Stains.

This distinguished scientist was born in Middletown, Connecticut, May 29, 1886. He received two doctorate degrees, one in 1908 from Wesleyan University and the second in 1911 from Cornell University. Before coming to the Geneva station, he was an assistant in the Department of Experimental Agronomy on the Ithaca campus of Cornell University.

He was a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Sigma Xi, the American Society of Agronomy, a fellow in the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and chairman of the Committee on Technique in the Society of American Bacteriologists.

Dr. Conn was the author of more than two hundred articles in the field of bacteriology, many of them dealing with establishing specific staining techniques that are still used as the basis for procedures used today. Many other articles were based on his work with bacteria in the soil.

Surviving are a daughter, Mrs. Vincent (Jean) Cochrane of Portland, Connecticut; and a son, Herbert J. Conn of Custer, South Dakota.

Carl S. Pederson, Roscoe E. Krauss