

Otto Ernst Schultz

February 1, 1931 — May 30, 1978

Otto Ernst Schultz, professor of plant pathology, died on Tuesday, May 30, 1978, in Tompkins County Hospital. He was one of the outstanding extension specialists of his generation. A native of Pietermaritzburg, South Africa, he graduated cum laude from the University of Natal in 1954 with a Bachelor of Science degree in agriculture (agronomy). He served in his native country from 1949 to 1957, first as a technical assistant in the Division of Soil Conservation and Extension in the South African Department of Agriculture, next as a technical assistant in the College of Agriculture, Cedera, Natal, and then as assistant professional officer in agronomy at the University of Natal.

Otto came to the United States in 1957 to undertake graduate work in plant pathology at Pennsylvania State University. He was awarded the Doctor of Philosophy degree in 1961 for his studies on “Inter- and Intra-race Variation among Mass- and Mono-spore Isolates of *Phytophthora infestans* (Mont.) de Bary.” He became a citizen of the United States in 1967.

In 1962 he accepted a position as assistant professor of plant pathology at Cornell University and was placed in charge of extension activities related to diseases of potatoes and field and forage crops. He also conducted applied research on the control of diseases affecting these crops. He was promoted to associate professor in 1967 and to professor in 1975.

He spent 1969-71 as a visiting professor at the University of the Philippines, through the University of the Philippines-Cornell Graduate Education Program at Los Banos. During this period he contributed to the development of procedures for the control of the downy mildew disease of corn. In 1976 he was invited by U.S. Agency for International Development to return to the Philippines as a consultant for the establishment of the Pest Control Center for the Philippines. He frequently participated in international conferences. His advice was often sought by national and international bodies concerned with extending and adapting new technologies to agricultural practice. He was an active member of the American Phytopathological Society, the Potato Association of America, and the Potato Chip/Snack Food Association and contributed significantly to committee activities of these professional organizations. He was a member of Phi Kappa Phi and Sigma Xi.

Professor Schultz's duties brought him into frequent contact with county agents, farmers, agribusiness personnel, and research and extension personnel throughout New York, the nation, and the world. His sincerity, warmth,

enthusiasm, and zest for living coupled with a thorough knowledge of his subject made him an exceptionally popular and effective leader in promoting the latest developments in the technology of production agriculture. He served as an able chairman of the Interdepartmental Field Crops Committee of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences from 1974 until his death. He was an avid believer in and supporter of cooperative extension. He worked constantly to improve the subject matter competence of county and regional extension staff. It bothered him greatly when county or regional agents resigned their positions for jobs in industry.

Otto loved field and farm visits and winter meetings where he had direct contact with farm people who sought his counsel and valued his friendship. He had many friends among his contacts, including students, peers, technicians, janitors, farmers, agribusiness personnel, stenographers, and mechanics. His love for people, wit, and genuineness made him an exceptional communicator. His positive influences upon people, the agricultural industries, and the Department of Plant Pathology will be remembered and appreciated far into the future.

He is survived by his wife, Patricia, a son, William, and a daughter, Heidi, all of Ithaca; and his mother, Erika Schultz, a sister, Irene Hampson, and a niece and four nephews, all in South Africa.

Edward D. Jones, Arden F. Sherf, Durward F. Bateman