

Carl W. Boothroyd

January 15, 1915 — May 7, 2000

The Plant Pathology Department lost a dear friend and admired colleague with the passing of Carl William Boothroyd on May 7, 2000 at the Cayuga Medical Center in Ithaca. A memorial service was held May 13 at Sage Chapel on the Cornell campus.

Carl was born on January 15, 1915 in Woodsville, New Hampshire. He graduated with an A.B. degree from Dartmouth College in 1938 and proudly acknowledged his allegiance to his alma mater forever after by donning his green and white sweater whenever a Big Green team was in town (even at Cornell hockey games!). Carl received the M.S. degree from Washington State University in Pullman in 1941. From 1942-46, Carl served in the U.S. Army Medical Corps, and thus his matriculation at Cornell University extended from 1941-50, whereupon he received the Ph.D. degree in Plant Pathology.

He joined the Department of Plant Pathology in 1949 as Assistant Professor and Extension Plant Pathologist with responsibilities for potatoes and forage crops, a position he held for 4 years. His long association with teaching graduate and undergraduate Introductory Plant Pathology began in 1952 and continued till 1980. Carl teamed up with Dr. Dan Roberts of the University of Florida to author the book, *Fundamentals of Plant Pathology*, which was used in his undergraduate class. During this same period, his research responsibilities were with diseases of corn. He took great pride in the training of many students, including many international students that have subsequently gone on to high positions in their home countries (e.g. Dan Mukunya, Kenya; Mario Contreras, Honduras; Rafael Jimenez Diaz, Spain, to name a few). Dr. Boothroyd retired on June 30, 1980 and held the title of Emeritus Professor of Plant Pathology thereafter.

Carl was best known recently as the Emeritus Professor “guardian” of the Plant Pathology Newsletter. He was a regular provider of news items, and was the recognized contact by department alumni. Like anything Carl did in his life, he paid serious attention to this responsibility, and the department will sorely miss his efforts.

Carl was aptly described as the “Gentleman’s – Gentleman,” but one would be mistaken to assume that with this complement, Carl was easily taken advantage of. He could be extremely rigorous when it came to teaching Introductory Plant Pathology and to testing students on their mastery of the subject via oral exams – both of which he did for many years. He was also a serious participant at the monthly “Bankers Meeting”, in which he skillfully used his poker playing talents to separate his competitors from their money. And then there was his

prowess for fishing! For many years, Carl was always willing to help organize and compete in the Annual Student-Faculty Fishing Derby, but he was never willing to divulge the trade secrets that often netted him first prize.

Carl was a charter member, past president, and Paul Harris Fellow of the Ithaca-Cayuga Rotary Club, where he was tremendously active in selecting and hosting international students through the club's International Foundation.

Carl is survived by his wife of 18 years, Mrs. E. Sureyya Boothroyd; a son, Richard; a daughter, Margaret; a stepdaughter, Yasemin; his twin sister, Mrs. Charlotte Boothroyd Chase of Durham, New Hampshire; and several grandchildren, nephews, and nieces. Carl was predeceased by his first wife, Loretta (Lannie) Ranney Boothroyd, and his brothers, Clifton and Ken Boothroyd.

George W. Hudler, H. David Thurston, Thomas A Zitter