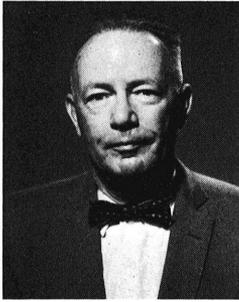


Paul Eric Hoppe, 1896-1972

E. W. Hanson and D. C. Army



Paul E. Hoppe, well known corn pathologist, died at his home in Madison, Wisconsin, July 25, 1972. He had been retired since December 31, 1966.

Paul spent most of his life in Wisconsin. He was born at Platteville, Wisconsin, on December 29, 1896, the third of four children of Fred and Catherine Hoppe. He obtained his elementary and secondary education in the Platteville public schools, took a 2-year course at the Platteville State Normal School, and then enrolled at the University of Wisconsin-Madison from which he received a Bachelor of Science degree in 1921, after spending parts of 1918 and 1919 in France as a member of the U.S. Armed Forces. For the next 3 years he taught agricultural subjects at a high school in Mazon, Illinois, and coached the school's basketball team. He returned to Madison in 1924 to do graduate work in plant pathology and, for 4 years, studied under such eminent teachers as L. R. Jones, E. M. Gilbert, C. E. Allen, J. B. Overton, J. G. Dickson, R. A. Brink, E. J. Kraus, and G. W. Keitt. In 1929, he joined the staff of the U.S. Department of Agriculture to investigate corn diseases and continued in this capacity until his retirement.

His work involved both basic and applied studies on most of the important corn diseases occurring in the northern part of the corn belt. He studied ear rots, stalk rots, northern corn leaf blight, and bacterial top rot. Prior to 1943, he made annual surveys of the relative prevalence and geographic distribution of the fungi associated with ear rots. His most outstanding contributions were concerned with seed rots and seedling diseases. He was among the first to establish that seed rots were caused by microorganisms and were not the result of low soil temperatures. He also established that the primary source of these organisms was not infected seed, but the soil in which the seed was sown. He demonstrated

that *Pythium* spp. were the principal pathogens involved and that soils differed in the relative prevalence of different species of *Pythium*. He showed that pericarp injuries were important avenues of entrance for soil microorganisms. He also showed that these pathogens could be effectively controlled by fungicidal seed treatment and developed simple techniques for evaluating the chemicals. The popular rolled-towel technique was one of his innovations. He was a world authority on seed rots and seedling diseases and their control by seed treatment. He wrote a chapter on these diseases for the 1953 U.S.D.A. Yearbook of Agriculture and was an invited speaker at the International Congress on Crop Protection at Hamburg, Germany, in 1957. He was an important partner in the Wisconsin hybrid corn breeding program for more than 30 years.

While Paul's greatest devotion was to his work, he had other interests. He was an enthusiastic sports fan, an avid and very successful fisherman, a lover of flowers and good music, a stamp collector, a photographer, and a student of birds and reptiles. One of his favorite fishing companions was the late B. M. Duggar. Paul was a charter member and the first president of the Madison Gladiolus Society. At one time, he played violin in an orchestra.

He was a person of extraordinary integrity, unselfish, cooperative, and respected by all who knew him. He was quiet, reserved, sensitive, reliable, and conscientious. He was conservative in his outlook, but resourceful and creative. His approaches to problems were direct and logical. His thinking was sound. He seemed always able to find simple ways to do what he wished to do.

He was married February 24, 1924, to Sarah Wylie of Marissa, Illinois. Besides his wife, he is survived by two sons, Richard and Karl; two daughters, Lois (Mrs. Kenneth Finger) and Marilyn (Mrs. Robert Soule); two brothers; one sister; and one grandchild.

Paul's life was a fulfillment of many of his dreams. He had a happy home, a productive and satisfying career, and many friends.