

Distinguished Service Award

Awarded only once before in APS history, the Distinguished Service Award honors individuals who have provided sustained outstanding leadership to the Society, while also furthering the science of plant pathology.

Raymond J. Tarleton



Raymond J. Tarleton was born in Shreveport, LA, in 1925. He spent his early years in Dallas, TX, but attended five high schools in four different cities before his graduation. He developed a strong interest in science while in grade school, and this continued throughout his life, although his final career choice was that of a scientist's right-hand man.

He entered the University of Minnesota in 1943 with the intention of becoming a chemist. He received a B.A. degree in chemistry from Minnesota in 1948 but unknowingly established the

basis for his professional career by choosing a group of subject electives far removed from science.

In addition to his major in chemistry, he received a minor in journalism, with a substantial number of business credits. Still pursuing his dream of becoming a research chemist, he entered graduate school at Minnesota, switched to biochemistry, and ultimately became involved with the journal *Cereal Chemistry*, which at that time was being edited by the chairman of the Department of Agricultural Biochemistry.

Soon after completing his course work for a Ph.D. in biochemistry, he was offered a part-time position as technical editor of *Cereal Chemistry*. In the fall of 1950, he was offered a full-time position as business manager and technical editor of *Cereal Chemistry* and business manager of the American Association of Cereal Chemists, with an office in Snyder Hall, the home of the biochemistry department of the University of Minnesota's St. Paul campus. He was also given an opportunity to complete his graduate degree work while serving the association, which he did, receiving an M.A. degree in journalism and biochemistry in 1952.

His first major contribution to AACC was the establishment of a new journal for that society in 1956, planning both the concept and the design. The original title was *Cereal Science Today*, and it depended upon both invited feature articles and short research submissions, all of a highly applied nature. The journal continues today as a monthly applied journal received by all members of AACC. It has an in-house editorial and advertising sales staff and generates 25% of the total AACC income.

During his tenure on the St. Paul campus, Tarleton met Dr. Helen Hart, who was then editor-in-chief of *Phytopathology*. Over a period of several years, he provided advice on production problems associated with the publication of *Phytopathology* and assisted with the evaluation of commercial printers for that journal. It was through his association with Dr. Hart that he met other officers of APS and gained knowledge of the society.

In 1962, Tarleton and a partner formed Association Services, a small firm specializing in editorial and production services for nonprofit organizations in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area. He had received permission from AACC to enter this arrangement on the understanding that his contribution would be after hours, on a moonlighting basis. In 1963, Dr. Thor Kommedahl was appointed editor-in-chief of *Phytopathology* and contracted with Association Services to serve as the journal's editorial office. At the beginning, Tarleton personally edited *Phytopathology* in the evenings and on weekends, and he and his wife, Andy, would proofread galleys and final page proofs. This work was turned over to other technical editors as the firm gained financial stability.

As AACC grew over the next 4 years and required increasing time for travel, Tarleton found it necessary to resign from the Association Services partnership in the spring of 1967. This was the last year of Dr. Kommedahl's term as editor-in-chief, as well as the ending term of the APS business manager, Dr. David Marsden. Under the leadership of President Arthur Kelman, the APS Council approached AACC about sharing its editorial and business staff with APS.

Thus, in June 1967, the editorial office of APS was transferred to the AACC headquarters, and in November the final transfer of the business office took place. Tarleton became the executive vice president of the Society.

Since that time, Tarleton has shepherded the administration of the society through a series of dramatic, and occasionally traumatic, changes. A devastating fire in October 1968 destroyed the headquarters office. Tarleton and the rest of the headquarters staff, in their customary efficient manner, got the operations for both APS and AACC up and running again in a very short time.

Tarleton was instrumental in assisting APS with its purchase of land for, and subsequent construction of, a new headquarters building for the Society in 1971 and with the expansion of the facility in 1989. He was active in the planning and design stages of *Phytopathology News*, working closely with Dr. Malcolm

Shurtleff in 1967. A few years later, he again cooperated with Dr. Shurtleff in publishing the Society's first compendium (corn) in 1973 and in 1979 assisted in the planning and production of *Plant Disease*. Tarleton, in close cooperation with Dr. Luis Sequeira, has been responsible for the financial planning and execution of APS's newest journal, *Molecular Plant-Microbe Interactions (MPMI)*.

Throughout his career, Tarleton has been involved with numerous professional societies and groups. He served as nutrition

consultant to the Agency for International Development and held terms as secretary, vice president, and president of the League for International Food Education (LIFE). He was also one of the group's founding members. Today, Tarleton continues to serve as treasurer and executive officer of the Intersociety Consortium for Plant Protection.

After 25 years of exceptional and dedicated service to APS and its members, Tarleton will retire from his position as executive vice president effective December 31, 1991.