

## Mathias C. Richards, 1906-1972

Avery E. Rich and B. L. Richards, Jr.



Dr. Mathias C. Richards, Associate Dean of the College of Life Sciences and Agriculture, University of New Hampshire for 21 years, died May 22, 1972 after a short illness.

He was born in Fielding, Utah, December 7, 1906. He received the undergraduate degree in Botany and Plant Pathology from Utah State Agricultural College, Logan, in 1931, and the Ph.D. from Cornell University in Plant Pathology in 1938.

Dr. Richards was an instructor in plant pathology at Cornell University for a year prior to joining the faculty of the University of Tennessee in 1939. He came to the University of New Hampshire as Assistant Professor of Botany in 1941, and was soon promoted to Associate Professor and Professor. He taught several courses in plant pathology and mycology, and directed graduate students in these areas of specialization. He conducted research on downy mildew of spinach, control of apple scab with new fungicides, early blight of tomato, and sources of resistance to *Phytophthora infestans* in tomato, which led to the development and release of two

new tomato cultivars resistant to late blight.

In 1950, Dr. Richards was the recipient of a Fulbright Award to conduct research in The Netherlands.

In 1951, he was appointed Associate Dean of the College of Agriculture, later changed to the College of Life Sciences and Agriculture, a position which he filled until his death.

Dean Richards served as president of the Northeastern Division of The American Phytopathological Society in 1944, as Councilor of the parent society in 1945, and as Treasurer and Business Manager from 1946-1948. He also served as chairman of the resident instruction section and secretary of the Division of Agriculture of the Land-Grant Association. He was the first president of the University of New Hampshire Chapter of Sigma Xi in 1954 and also served as president of the UNH Chapter of Phi Kappa Phi in 1958.

He was cofounder of the Durham Community Chest, serving as chairman from 1947-1950. He was chairman of the Durham Boy Scout Committee for ten years, and chairman of the local Salvation Army unit for ten years.

Dean Richards is survived by his wife, Margaret (Burgoyne), who now resides at Riverside, California; a son, Robert, of Windsor, Connecticut, a daughter, Mrs. Marilyn R. Sherman, South Charleston, West Virginia, and five grandchildren.