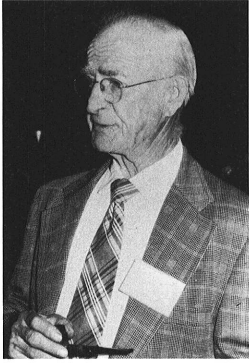


William Q. Loegering, 1912-1987

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Professor Emeritus William Q. Loegering died quietly in his sleep on 15 December 1987 in Columbia, Missouri. Bill was born in Long Prairie, Minnesota, on 11 November 1912 and graduated from Long Prairie High School in 1930. He attended the University of Minnesota, obtaining his B.S. degree in 1938.

E. C. Stakman put Bill in charge of the national survey of physiologic races of *Puccinia graminis* f. sp. *tritici* during his senior year. He was awarded his doctorate in 1949 under

the tutelage of Stakman, and then spent two years in Turrialba, Costa Rica, studying diseases of abaca, *Musa textilis* Nee. In 1953 Bill was appointed research leader for all investigations on cereal rusts in the USDA. He also assumed responsibilities for the International Cereal Rust Nursery Program. Dr. Loegering left the USDA in 1967, after nearly 25 years of distinguished service, to become professor of plant pathology at the University of Missouri. He was named professor emeritus in 1978.

Dr. Loegering's distinguished career has been marked with numerous honors, but his greatest contribution lies in the field of interorganismal genetics. He was among the first to understand the implications of Flor's hypothesis in plant disease resistance and crop improvement through plant breeding, and he was a master at explaining it in simple language. Bill's concept of the aegricorpus

provides for analysis of disease systems with logic unbiased by host- or parasite-based viewpoints. This concept is controversial, partly because it demands accurate terminology. The aegricorpus consequently has not been unanimously adopted by plant pathologists, many of whom continue to view disease from one single vantage point or another. With the advent of molecular techniques, however, it is becoming clear that the host-parasite interface is a "unique entity" and that it cannot be adequately explained as the mere action of one organism on another.

Bill was a stimulating teacher, and his course in interorganismal genetics was one of the most popular in plant pathology at the University of Missouri. He was asked to present this course in Argentina and did so on two occasions. After retiring, he was invited by the Chinese government to deliver his course over a three-week period. These lectures were taped and bound in book form for classroom usage. Although a lifetime bachelor, Bill gave generously of his time to the Boy Scouts of America. In recognition of his contributions, the Scouts presented him with the Silver Beaver Award, the highest award given to anyone outside the immediate Boy Scout organization.

Bill was renowned for his ability to stimulate scientific debates, particularly with students. These conversations, which are legendary in the department, generally took the form of animated discussion over coffee and were punctuated by Bill's attempts to keep his pipe lit. Although he generally failed at the latter task, no student ever forgot Loegering's precepts: logic, clarity of thought, and precision in terminology.