



## Kudo to Hilde McGrath: Reporter-Editor

With the completion of volume 63 of *Plant Disease Reporter*, Editor-in-Chief Hilde McGrath concludes many years of meticulous, superb editing of this world-famous journal. At its birth in 1917, the journal was known as *Plant Disease Bulletin* and its avowed purpose was "to collect information on plant diseases in the United States covering such topics as prevalence, geographical distribution, etc., and to make this information immediately available to all persons interested, especially to those concerned with disease control."

In 1923, beginning with volume 7, the name was changed to *Plant Disease Reporter* but the purpose was still mandated by the Plant Disease Survey of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The issues were mimeographed until 1950; then copy was multilithed and publication of illustrations became possible. The introduction of justified margins and glossy paper stock in 1973, volume 57, further enhanced the physical appearance and half-tone illustrations in the journal. The most recent innovation was in January 1975, when all manuscripts submitted were refereed. At that time, Hilde McGrath was officially recognized as editor-in-chief and Marguerite Benedict, as senior editor.

That *Plant Disease Reporter* had earned world renown is attested to by the frequency of its citation in other journals. Of 1 million journal citations in 1969 in *Phytopathology*, *Plant Disease Reporter* was the most frequent other than *Phytopathology* itself (*Phytopathology News* 6, March 1972). Also, it ranked

16th of 50 journals cited in botany journals (*Current Contents* 6, January 13, 1975).

In a study of the literature documentation section of the Agrochemicals Division of Bayer AG, Federal Republic of Germany, W. Bartels reported at the 1978 International Congress of Plant Pathology that from 1968 to 1977, *Plant Disease Reporter* ranked second in the number of papers abstracted; *Phytopathology* was third and the *Journal of Economic Entomology* was first. These were abstracts included in *Pflanzenschutz-Bericht* and based on 465 journals abstracted.

This impressive record of the global success enjoyed by *Plant Disease Reporter* is a tribute to the high standards of excellence set by Hilde McGrath as editor-in-chief. We salute you, Hilde!

We now initiate the second name change, *PLANT DISEASE*, beginning with volume 64, this time under the auspices of the American Phytopathological Society. We are building on the rich legacy provided for us by Hilde McGrath, Paul R. Miller, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. May our efforts be as laudable as the efforts of those who worked so unceasingly to make this journal what it is today in the nation and in the world.

Thor Kommedahl  
Publications Coordinator of APS

