

Richmond Welcomes APS

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It has been 10 years since APS has held its annual meeting in any location as closely associated with the early history of this country as Richmond, Virginia. Although first settled in 1610 as a trading post on the James River, Richmond was not laid out as a town until 1737. Since that time, it has been the scene of many moments of American history. Patrick Henry delivered his "liberty or death" speech at St. John's Church; former Vice-President Aaron Burr was tried for treason by Chief

Justice John Marshall, whose home has been restored in the Court End district of the city. Richmond has the second oldest statehouse in the country (1780), and it was the seat of the Confederate government from 1861 to 1865. Williamsburg, Jamestown, and York are within short driving distances.

The scientific program at Richmond will have great variety and should interest all members of APS. The preliminary program begins on page 527 of this issue. Premeeting conferences and workshops have been planned on "Comparative Pathology of Sclerotial-Forming Pathogens" in College Station, Texas, and "Phytophthora Identification" and "Identification of Zygomycetous Endomycorrhizal Fungi" at West Virginia University, Morgantown. These activities are

separate from the formal program.

Paul Williams and the Program Committee have generated 3 symposia, 4 colloquia, 1 workshop, 1 teach-in, 15 discussion sessions, 37 paper sessions containing 435 presentations, and 4 poster sessions with 272 posters. Evening sessions have been scheduled for Monday and Tuesday. The opening session on Monday morning will include two technical presentations representing different ends of the spectrum: Barbara Valent from DuPont will bring us up to date on "The Molecular Genetics of Host Specificity in the Rice Blast Fungus" and Jerry Hatfield, director of the new USDA National Soil Tilth Laboratory at Iowa State University, will speak on "The Remote Detection of Crop Stress: Applications to Plant Pathology." These two presentations will continue the trend of recent years whereby the opening session is used to bring the latest information to us by experts in a specific area. The President's Forum will feature W. R. Dowdle, president of the American Society for Microbiology, who will discuss issues of common interest and concern to microbiologists and plant pathologists. The annual APS President's Address will conclude the opening session.

Monday morning will conclude with "Impacts of Regulation of Biotechnology on Plant Pathology," sponsored by three committees of the Society: Biotechnology Regulation Impact Assessment, Public Responsibilities, and Regulatory Work and Foreign Plant Diseases. Cochairman are D. L. Coplin, A. H. Ellingboe, and B. P. Singh. Biotechnology will have high visibility at Richmond, with sessions and/or presentations taking place morning and afternoon.

Richmond has much to offer, both technically and socially. I urge you to place this event on your schedule and to take advantage of the many activities scheduled.

