

Howard P. Barss, 1885—1973

Richard H. Barss



Howard P. Barss, 88, botanist with the USDA Office of Experiment Stations, Washington, retired in 1950 after 17 years of service and died in a Portland, Oregon, nursing home May 8, 1973. He had served as an administrator of federal grant-funded research and as a specialist in botany and plant pathology. Earlier, from 1915 to 1954, he had been head

of the Botany and Plant Pathology Department at Oregon State University, Corvallis.

Before retiring he was a member of the Tobacco Disease Council since 1935, the Cotton Disease Council since 1936, and the Plant Nematode Council since 1940. From 1940 to 1946, Mr. Barss was chairman of the Division of Biological Sciences of the USDA Graduate School. He was also a life member of the American Phytopathological Society. He served the APS as vice-president in 1927, president in 1928, councilor-at-large 1930-31, and secretary from 1935 to 1937. In 1944 he was divisional councilor of the Potomac Division of the Society.

Other of his society memberships included: fellow, AAAS; Botanical Society of America; the Union of American Biological Societies (member of council, 1938-40); Crop Protection Institute (member, board of governors, 1937-1942); the American Society of Naturalists, the Washington Academy of Science, the Biological Society of Washington, the American Society of Agricultural Science (secretary-treasurer 1941, vice-chairman, 1942); and the honor societies Phi Beta Kappa, Alpha Delta Phi, Sigma Xi, Gamma Sigma Delta, and Phi Sigma.

He authored more than 100 publications and articles dealing with a wide range of plant diseases and their control.

Mr. Barss remained active in retirement and was president of the Portland chapter of the American Association of Retired Persons in 1966 and 1967 during which time its membership increased from 1,000 to 2,000.

He is survived by his widow, Laura, of Portland; a brother, Alden F. Barss, of Vancouver, British Columbia; a sister, Miss Margaret Barss of Rochester, N.Y.; three sons, Richard and Roger, of Portland, and Theodore, of Medford, Oregon; eleven grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.