

## Arthur Kneeland Parker, 1922-1974

G. Wallis



Dr. Arthur Kneeland Parker, Forest Pathologist with the Department of the Environment, Pacific Forest Research Centre, died of cancer in Victoria, British Columbia, November 12, 1974.

Art was born in Eston, Saskatchewan on January 3, 1922, where he also received his early education, completing this in Saskatoon. Following three years with the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps, he undertook undergraduate studies at the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, specializing in chemistry, and received his B.A. degree in 1948. Subsequently, developing a keen interest in forest pathology, he chose this field for his graduate studies, working under the late Dr. D. C. Buckland at the University of British Columbia. He received his M.A. degree in 1951 and Ph.D. in 1956. Art was a first-class scholar, being twice a recipient of the Canadian Pulp and Paper Scholarship.

In May 1949, Art was appointed to the staff of the Department of Agriculture, Science Service Division, Victoria. His early studies concerned the association of *Europhium trinacriforme* with pole blight disease which was ravaging white pine at that time. In addition, his work on decay associated with logging injury to spruce and balsam contributed significantly to a better understanding of the management of these tree species.

In 1962, Art accepted a position with United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization in Nigeria. During

his 18-month stay he surveyed nursery and plantation diseases throughout the country, initiated several research projects in that field, designed a forest pathology herbarium and laboratory, and trained technical counterparts to continue the work on his departure. On returning to Canada, Art took up the study of *Dothistroma pini*, and shared in the discovery of the perfect stage *Scirrhia pini*. Concurrently, he continued studies which had been of keen interest to him on the epidemiology and taxonomy of the genus *Rhabdocline*. He was probably best known in the field of forest pathology for his contributions to this disease. Shortly before his most untimely death, Art elucidated the cause of root die-back in container-grown forest tree seedlings.

Art was a dedicated scientist and applied himself unstintingly to achieve his goals. During his stay in Africa, he became a keen horseman and applied himself as arduously on the polo field as he did in the laboratory.

Through his publications and membership in nine professional and scientific societies in Canada, United States, Great Britain and Africa, Art was widely known and admired. He served as Chairman of the 8th Western International Forest Disease Work Conference in 1960. To his immediate colleagues, Art was respected as an unostentatious, but forthright, scientist to whom we owe much, not only for our understanding in the fields in which he specialized, but also for his deep concern with the philosophy of science.

Surviving Dr. Parker are his wife, Patricia; two step-daughters, Bobbinette and Lia Thomas; and two sons, Andrew and Robert.