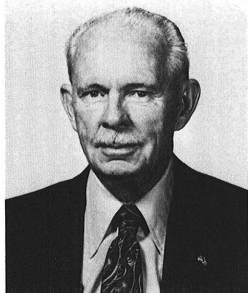


Edward Kemp Vaughan, 1908–1990

R. A. Young and A. D. Davison



Dr. Edward Kemp Vaughan, Professor Emeritus of Plant Pathology at Oregon State University, passed away January 3, 1990, in Corvallis, Oregon. Dr. Vaughan was born November 16, 1908 in Las Vegas, NM, where his father was on the faculty of what is now Highlands University. The family moved, soon after Ed was born, to Las Cruces, NM, where Ed's father was on the faculty of New Mexico State College and later was Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences

and Acting President. Ed had a life-long association with academic life.

Ed received a B.S. degree in biology from New Mexico State College in June of 1929. After working for a year as a junior plant quarantine inspector in El Paso, Texas, he began graduate work at Oregon State University where he received a master of science degree in plant pathology in 1932. He also met Ruth Bullis in Oregon and they were married in 1932. Ed began work on a doctoral program during 1932–1933 at the University of Minnesota. After a year he discontinued graduate study for a time and taught high school for a year in Las Cruces, NM, then worked for two years with the USDA Soil Conservation Service in Tucson, AZ. He continued graduate work in 1936, served as an instructor at the University of Minnesota and completed requirements for the Ph.D. in 1937.

Ed's first position after earning his Ph.D. degree was as an agent with the USDA in New Brunswick, NJ, from 1937 to 1941. He then was appointed associate professor of biology at Virginia Polytechnic Institute from 1941 to 1944 where he was responsible for graduate programs in plant pathology. For the next three years he was plant pathologist with the USDA Coastal Plains Experiment Station at Tifton, GA, where he conducted research on seedling diseases of vegetable plants.

In 1947, Dr. Vaughan was appointed professor of plant pathology at Oregon State University with responsibility for research on diseases of small fruits and vegetables, a position he held until his retirement in 1974. During Ed's 27 years at OSU, he devoted most of his effort to research, but also taught graduate level courses and supervised graduate students. In 1966 he served as acting head of the Department of Botany and Plant Pathology.

Ed received numerous professional honors. He was active in his professional society and served as president of the Pacific

Division of the American Phytopathological Society in 1952. He was a Guggenheim Research Fellow during 1954–1955 in the Netherlands and a senior research fellow of the Plant Disease Division of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research in Auckland, New Zealand, during 1964–1965.

Following his retirement in 1974, Ed spent two years on research in plant pathology in Iran from 1974 to 1976.

Most recently he was recognized in 1988 as one of the Centennial Outstanding Alumni of New Mexico State University.

The effectiveness of Ed's research program is attested to by more than 130 publications, primarily concerning diseases of vegetable and small fruit crops, and his excellent relationships with grower organizations.

Ed always carried a full share of departmental responsibilities such as planning new facilities, serving as chairman of local arrangements for major meetings held at Oregon State University, and arranging special departmental functions. He had tremendous energy, fine organizational skills, and a good sense of humor.

Probably his greatest contribution to his profession, however, was his work with young people, 21 of whom sought advanced degrees under his direction.

Some recollections from former students seem appropriate.

"Dr. Vaughan's graduate students received a broad education in class, in the field and about life in general. As a way of helping students learn foreign languages, he frequently left notes written in Spanish or German in the mailboxes. Often the note was a question or suggestion concerning the individual's research. Other times it might be about an upcoming trip to the field."

"Attending scientific meetings with Ed was always an experience—not only did students work hard at the meetings, but they also worked hard at exploring and enjoying the community they were visiting."

"Ed's ability to instantly fall asleep in the car was legendary. His students always had the duty of driving, whether it was downtown or across the state. Ed always arrived fresh and ready to tackle the task to be done."

"'Doc', as many growers called him, was a favorite and highly respected scientist and representative of OSU. Ed was always sincerely interested in growers' problems and did everything he could to solve them. Thus, by personal example, he taught us our responsibilities to serve the agricultural industries, as well as science, wherever our careers took us."

To his students, Ed was a friend as well as a teacher and counselor. His students and professional associates will miss him.