Zaehringer, Sawyer Nominated as Honorary PAA Life Members

DR. MARY V. ZAEHRINGER

It is indeed an honor and a pleasure for me to present Dr. Mary V. Zaehringer for honorary life membership of The Potato Association of America.

Mary, as most of her friends call her, started working on potatoes in the mid-fifties and was continuously involved in research on potatoes until her retirement in April 1976. She is well-known for her exceptionally high standards for planning, executing and reporting research. Her work is nationally and internationally recognized and she has been widely cited by other researchers.

As a result of Mary’s mother passing away, her professional career started a little later in life than that of most of us. At this time she stopped her university education and became responsible for raising her younger
sisters. With this task completed, she returned to her education and completed her B.S. degree in 1946. She then entered graduate school at Cornell and received her M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Foods in 1948 and 1953 respectively. After spending one year at Montana State University, she came to the University of Idaho as head of the department of home economics research. When the department of home economics research was combined with the department of bacteriology and biochemistry, Mary became research professor with the department with her main emphasis on food research.

As a result of her research, she has authored or co-authored over fifty publications with over twenty of them directly concerned with potato quality and potato constituents. She was responsible for the sensory evaluation of potato texture for a USDA contract with the Western Utilization Research and Development Laboratory at Albany, California. During her sabbatical some six years ago, she spent the time as an affiliate professor at the Potato Research Laboratory at Wageningen, The Netherlands.

Mary has been a strong supporter and long-time member of the PAA. Four abstracts and ten research papers bearing her name have been published in the American Potato Journal. She has served on several PAA committees, in fact, this year she is on the site-selection committee. She is a member of the Institute of Food Technology, American Association of Cereal Chemists, American Chemical Society, Idaho Academy of Science, and American Society for Horticultural Science. Her achievements have resulted in election to Sigma Xi, Kappa Delta Epsilon, and Omicron Nu. Her biography is listed in American Men of Science, Leaders in American Science, Who's Who in the West, and Who's Who in American Women. Mary has, and certainly deserves, the respect of her coworkers and the potato and food industries for her excellent research work in the fields of nutrition, quality, and sensory evaluation and it is indeed a privilege and an honor for me to present Dr. Mary V. Zaehringer to The Potato Association of America for honorary life membership.

Walter C. Sparks