



DONALD C. MERRIAM HONORED

Donald C. Merriam has spent most of his life in the heart of Maine's potato country, Presque Isle, Maine, where he was born on August 16, 1912. He completed high school at the height of the depression and spent the next few years as a farm laborer and potato warehouse worker.

In February of 1935 Don began his career at the Maine Agricultural Experiment Station working first with the late Wesley F. Porter whom he credits as his early teacher in potato disease diagnosis. He sharpened his eye in seed certification work, seed testing in Florida and foundation seed plot work, all of which contributed to the development of a keen

interest in potato disease research. The late Dr. Reiner Bonde recognized his potential and convinced him to spend full time on research. As Dr. Bonde's assistant Don found time to work on some of his own research ideas and was able to make many independent contributions. One of the most notable of these was the discovery that the spindle tuber virus could be transmitted mechanically by "top-switching." This work unlocked the then perplexing puzzle of how PSTV was transmitted so readily in the field. It also provided the key to finding diagnostic hosts for this virus.

Other potato pathologists who gratefully acknowledge the value of Don's talents are Drs. E. S. Schultz and Donald Folsom. These men are well-known in potato research, particularly in the area of virus study, Don's specialty.

In addition to authoring or co-authoring over 30 scientific publications, Don is known to many as a willing cooperator and provider of valuable research material. Maine growers also know him well as a ready and reliable source of help and advice. His practical knowledge of potato diseases and his uncanny ability to recognize their symptoms have meant the measure of success to many seedsmen.

It is indeed a great pleasure to present Donald C. Merriam as an Honorary Life Member of The Potato Association of America.

F. E. MANZER