

RAY H. CARTER (1984)



Ray H. Carter was born in Washburn, Maine on January 22, 1902. His primary and secondary education was received in the Washburn school system. He earned his B.S. Degree in Agronomy at the University of Maine in June 1924. Mr. Carter taught vocational agriculture of 13 years at Fort Fairfield High School where he trained many Aroostook County boys in the art of roguing potatoes. He also coached tennis and basketball, and developed a very active Future Farmers of America Chapter. Mr. Carter retired from teaching in 1937 and joined a very large (1200-acre) potato seed producing firm located in Washburn, Maine. He was one of the early exhibitors of Maine seed potatoes at the Pennsylvania Farm Show, a practice which his son continues. In 1938, he entered into a partnership to grow tuber unit seed. This partnership terminated in 1944 and the "Carter Seed Farm" was founded. In 1966, his son, James, joined his father in the seed business. Ray retired from farming in 1968, but still does his share of roguing for his son, James.

Mr. Carter was interested in new varieties, production of virus free seed stocks, and a great salesman for Maine certified and foundation seed. Ray was also very active in soil conservation, serving as State President, and Supervisor and Director of the Central Aroostook Soil Conservation District. Mr. Carter, as an early member of the Maine Potato Council, served on the board of directors and as Vice-President in 1954 before resigning because of a heart attack. Mr. Carter was also active in several civic organizations, his local church, and the local school board. He has been a long time member of The Potato Association of America.

Because of Mr. Carter's influence on so many young men who are now successful potato growers; and because of his many contributions to improve potato culture, The Potato Association of America is pleased to bestow on Mr. Ray H. Carter, Honorary Life Membership.

~Paul J. Eastman