In Memoriam

Roger Bruce Parsons
1932–1984

On Oct. 6, 1984, soil scientists lost a true friend when Dr. Roger Bruce Parsons, research soil scientist, Soil Conservation Service (SCS), West National Technical Center, died at his home in Beaverton, OR. Dr. Parsons is survived by his wife Alice, his sons Russ and Jim, and his daughter Sharon. They reside at 14365 S.W. Lisa Lane, Beaverton, OR 97005.

Dr. Parsons was born Dec. 19, 1932 in Ft. Dodge, IA. In 1951, he graduated from high school in Ft. Dodge. He attended Iowa State College and received a B.S. Degree in agronomy in 1955.

Roger and I first crossed trails in Knoxville, TN in 1955 where we were both attending the University of Tennessee. Roger was in quest of his Master’s Degree. He was an associate agronomist at the University and was also in charge of the soil survey party in Loudon County, TN. Roger’s major professor was the well-known Dr. Eric Winters. His thesis was titled, “Characterization of Dewey and Fullerton Soils.” He received his M.S. Degree in agronomy in 1957.

Roger returned to Ames, IA to pursue a Ph.D. Degree in soils. Here our paths crossed again, with both of us working and studying at the same school. Roger had a fellowship and taught some courses in soils at the undergraduate level. During this period, Iowa State officially became Iowa State University. Roger received his Ph.D. Degree in soils with a minor in geology in 1960. His major professor was the prominent and highly respected Dr. Frank Riecken. Roger’s thesis was titled “Soils Of Indian Mounds In Northeast Iowa As Benchmarks For Studies Of Soil Genesis.”