In 1961 and 1962, Dr. Parsons worked as a research soil scientist at the SCS, Soil Survey Laboratory in Riverside, CA. From 1962 to 1973, he was part of the soil-geomorphology research project team at Oregon State University in Corvallis and held the titles of associate professor and research soil scientist. From 1974 until his death he was research soil scientist at the West National Technical Center in Portland, OR.

Dr. Parsons was well known in scientific circles, having published 34 papers and presented papers at the Soil Science Society of America Meetings in St. Louis, MO; Stillwater, OK; New Orleans, LA; Detroit, MI; Knoxville, TN; and Houston, TX. He was a member of several scientific societies and held Oregon Geology License no. 787.

Since 1975, Dr. Parsons was the associate editor of the Western Region for Soil Survey Horizons. Based on private and telephone conservations and correspondence with Roger over the past 5 years, I know first hand of his dedication to our publication. He believed strongly that soil scientists should have the right to freely express their scientific views and observations concerning the study of soils in the field. He encouraged good observations and letting others know about them. Roger had the respect of those with whom he worked and was always in demand.

Dr. Parsons was a courageous and brave man. After finding out about his illness, he faced the inevitable by making preparations for his departure. Roger will be missed, but his contributions will remain.

James F. Brasfield
Editor, Soil Survey Horizons

Articles

Requiem for a Soil Scientist

Kerry D. Arroues

In the Fall 1984 issue of Soil Survey Horizons there was an article titled “Thoughts on Professionalism” (Young, 1984) which I felt thoroughly exemplified a professional soil scientist. In the same issue of Soil Survey Horizons there was another article, less than three pages long, that contained a wealth of information pertinent to soil surveys. This article, titled “Field Identification of Lithologic Discontinuities,” (Parsons, 1984) was written by the late Dr. R. B. Parsons, or “Doc” as I knew him. Doc was a professional soil scientist in every sense of the word. When I head of Doc’s death I immediately thought of the two articles mentioned previously.

My acquaintance with Doc helped me develop a different philosophy of mapping and a better way of looking at soils. Some people might find it