In Memoriam:
Clarence Leland Scrivner

R. David Hammer and Robert W. Blanchar

Clarence Leland “Connie” Scrivner passed away of heart failure August 2, 2005 in Columbia, Missouri. Alleen, his wife of sixty years, had preceded him in death on June 2, 2005. They are survived by a son Alan, daughters Carol Busaker and Janet Gross, and granddaughters Christine and Meredith Gross, and Julie Brodie.

“Scriv,” as he was known to friends and associates, was an effective, inspirational soil science teacher and student advisor whose passion for life spilled into his work. Dr. Scrivner was born July 7, 1921. He was a pilot during World War II. After the war he earned the B.S. degree in Agriculture in 1946 and the M.S. (1953) and Ph.D. (1960) degrees in Soil Science from the University of Missouri.

He began working at the University of Missouri in 1947 as an Assistant in Soil Survey, and was the Agricultural Experiment Station participant in the Cooperative Soil Survey. From 1953 until 1960 Scriv taught an undergraduate course in Soil Survey, Field Mapping, and Land Appraisal. He was promoted to Assistant Professor of Soil Science in 1960 after earning his Ph.D., and then taught and conducted research in soil genesis, soil survey, forest soils, and rural real estate appraisal. He supervised 19 graduate degree projects, published many peer-reviewed papers, and completed two overseas assignments. He was the University of Missouri representative to the National Cooperative Soil Survey, North Central Regional Committees concerned with soil survey, the Soil Survey Technical Committee, and Soil and Water Conservation Program of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. Dr. Scrivner was a member of Soil Science Society of America and was chair of the S-5 Division in 1969.

Dr. Scrivner contributed to the understanding of Missouri soils through his field observations, research, and an extremely popular extension publication, Soils of Missouri. He developed a Productivity Index for Missouri soils based on soil attributes regulating root growth and water depletion with depth in the soil profile. This model is both a conceptual and practical approach to understanding the soil system and its productivity as a consequence of soil attributes.

Upon retirement, Scriv and Alleen, whom he once described to a visiting soils class as “the love of my life,” established SGB Farms on the rolling Menfro soil near the Missouri River, where they applied Scriv’s land use philosophy to producing Christmas trees, blueberries, and shiitake mushrooms. The blueberry and Christmas tree operations were “pick your own.”

1 R. D. Hammer (email: david.hammer@lin.usda.gov).