

## SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO GLENN A. PETERSON

North Dakota State University and North Dakota lost one of its most outstanding and productive scientists upon the death of Dr. Glenn A. Peterson, professor of agronomy, on March 26, 1974. He was a superior plant breeder-geneticist.

He practiced the art as well as the science of plant breeding in producing five superior varieties of barley. Each of the varieties Trophy, Dickson and Larker occupied or yet occupy, large percentages of the barley acreage in North Dakota, Minnesota and South Dakota as well as in other states — each new variety partially displaced the older, although each still holds its loyal growers. The newest varieties, Nordic and Beacon, have newer and better qualities than some of the older varieties and no doubt will take their place in occupying barley acres of the upper midwest.

Dr. Peterson named his last variety, Beacon, from his hospital bed about one year ago and its name is symbolic of the plant breeder's influence on barley in the Dakotas and Minnesota and upon his associates. His varieties have brought many millions of dollars of new wealth to North Dakota and adjacent states. Higher yields, plumper kernels, disease resistance and other superior traits give producers more grain to sell and processors better quality than from older varieties.

Dr. Peterson made these many advancements only with the help of his many associates at NDSU and those working on barley research in the United States and other countries, as he would be the first to say, and with the support of the Legislature and the people of North Dakota.

Glenn Peterson was a native of Oberon, North Dakota, and a graduate "with honor" from North Dakota State University. He received the Ph.D. degree in Agronomy and Plant Genetics from the University of Minnesota in 1957 and then returned to North Dakota. He knew and loved his native state and served it with vigor as a teacher as well as a barley researcher.

Dr. Peterson liked to teach students — both undergraduates in a grain crops course and graduate students in advanced plant breeding. He was skillful in communicating difficult plant breeding subject matter with ease to his students in the classroom, in the field or greenhouse, or in the oral examinations — wherever teacher and student met. Glenn delivered high competence in his teaching and expected the same of his students. He was especially effective in training young



plant breeders from the United States or foreign countries in the art and science of plant breeding. He instilled confidence in his students, the same as the farmer had confidence in the barley varieties he produced.

Dr. Peterson was not only a skillful teacher in the classroom, but he could "tell about barley improvement, production and processing" clearly and eloquently, and with great enthusiasm and competence, to farmers, scientists, barley processors or his own students. He always gave a top performance in the role of an "extension agronomist" at field days or farmer meetings. North Dakota was truly his classroom and better barley and better teaching were always his goals. His work and contribution to North Dakota agriculture has been great and significant. He will be sorely missed by his NDSU associates and all of North Dakota, and by his associates in barley research around the world who recognized his outstanding competence as a plant breeder and him as a person.

Dr. Peterson not only worked in his primary area of responsibility as a barley breeder and teacher, but also contributed greatly to many departmental and University activities and objectives. He was an expert and popular counselor to his faculty associates as a scientist and friend. His associates at NDSU have established an undergraduate scholarship in his honor in the Department of Agronomy at NDSU, along with the help of his many friends in North Dakota and other states, in recognition of this truly outstanding native son.

— J. F. Carter