
Profile

DICK BALDWIN



Time is a precious commodity to Dick Baldwin.

His hours are husbanded the way a wise farmer cares for his fields—they are used wisely, enriched for larger harvest, and sown for maximum production.

"Dick's father was a very energetic man; it bothered him if he couldn't see everybody work," Dick's wife Eleanor says. "I guess a lot of that rubbed off on Dick."

Dick met his future wife, Eleanor Warner, at John B. Stetson University in De Land, FL, where both were transplanted northerners. Dick was born in Palmyra, MI, where his father farmed. Eleanor was the daughter of a railroad official in Minnesota.

"He came up to me in a chemistry lab and said, 'Hi, I hear you're from Minnesota; I'm from Michigan,'" Mrs. Baldwin recalls.

Besides being a college student, Baldwin played semi-pro baseball in the Central Florida league, pitching three days a week and playing third base on other days.

"I had a chance to try out with what was then the Washington Senators (at a DeLand Training camp)," Baldwin says, "but decided to concentrate on being a student. Those Washington Senators are now the Minnesota Twins and Dick is now director of research for Cargill Inc. in Minneapolis. He remains a sports fan, his wife says, especially enjoying opportunities to watch televised baseball or football on weekends (and doing some reading during commercials).

Dick attended the Florida school partially because of boyhood illnesses—which he diagnoses in retrospect as allergies. From 1925 on (when he was 7), his family spent part of every year in Florida to safeguard Dick's health. Eleanor attended the Florida university because her father believed the University of Minnesota was too big, and she had an aunt living in Florida.

Baldwin entered the field of fats and oils at the University of Pittsburgh where he went after receiving his B.S. degree from Stetson in 1940. He and Eleanor were wed in 1942.

At Pittsburgh, he met Herb Longenecker and "three or four other guys all working in this ambitious lipids program. I thought, 'There's an ambitious crew, I'll join them.'" He received his doctorate in 1943 and did a year of postdoctorate research on the relationship of Vitamin C to metabolism as the first Nutrition Foundation fellow.

In 1944 he joined Corn Products Refining Co. in Argo, IL., as a research chemist working "package product research, corn oil, process development, extraction studies on corn germ—lots of plant work. I became kinda Mr. Mazola," Baldwin says.

It was also in 1944 that he became an AOCS member with Longenecker and H.C. Black as his application endorsers. He quickly became active in AOCS committee work, joining the Journal committee in 1946. He has been Journal editor since 1949.

Baldwin took a leave of absence from Corn Products during the summer of 1948 to run the family farm in Michigan. He still owns that corn-and-soybeans farm and two others like it in Michigan. A fourth farm near Min-

neapolis began as a Christmas tree farm, but the trees have outgrown that use—"it's more like a park now," Baldwin says.

In 1951 he became the first non-German to receive the Normann Medal from the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Fettwissenschaft in recognition of his work as editor of the Journal. The award followed his presentation of a paper to the DGF on fats and oils developments in the United States.

In 1954 he left Corn Products to join Cargill which hired him to "set up a research department," in Baldwin's words. At this time he and Eleanor had two children. Eleanor Louise Lieu now lives in Woodbridge, VA, near Washington, DC; Arthur Christian is a student at the Colorado School of Mines and a second son, born after the move to Minneapolis, Richard Lawrence, is in his third year of pre-med studies at Johns Hopkins University.

During 1960-61, Baldwin served as AOCS vice-president and in 1961-62 as president. He continues as an ex-officio member of the governing board as AOCS Director of Publications.

In the mid 1960s, rock fever struck the Baldwins intensively. They had been collectors since his days with Corn Products when they used to keep a cutter and polisher under the kitchen table in their Berwyn, IL, apartment. In the mid-60s, however, the Baldwins visited The Colvin Museum in Minneapolis, a lapidary showplace they had heard was for sale. They bought the museum and renamed it Northstar Gems and Minerals.

"For seven years my wife worked weeks and I worked weekends," Baldwin says. "However, we ran out of time and began to trim our sails. One thing that had to go was the museum and lapidary shop."

Rock fever is contagious. Several AOCS member now pursue the hobby as a result of being exposed to it by the Baldwins. Their elder son's interest in mining was sparked by the family's lapidary interests, Dick believes. Nowadays, it is once more just a hobby—if "several tons" of collection (Mrs. Baldwin's estimate) can be termed a hobby.

The time saved was already committed to other activities. In their home community the Baldwins for years have been active members of Grace Presbyterian Church. In professional organizations, he has served as president of the Agricultural Research Institute of the National Academy of Sciences, and as a member of several groups: American Association for the Advancement of Science, American Association of Cereal Chemists, American Chemical Society, Institute of Food Technologists, National Flaxseed Processors Association, National Soybean Processors Association, Soybean Council of America and others. He is now a very active member of the Space Applications Board of the National Assembly of Engineering, representing agriculture on that panel.

He has received numerous award and citations and served as chairman of various professional groups.

"While the president of ARI, Dick made it a point to visit all the major USDA research facilities and the regional meetings of State Experiment Station Directors," Mrs.

Baldwin says. "He's still doing that for his company, visiting research facilities around the work looking for ideas with commercial value that are coming to the top."

Baldwin's intense search for ideas extends to everything he's involved in.

At AOCS committee meetings or planning sessions, he continually is asking questions—who, what, why, how—goading others into determining what problems need solving, what questions need answering. Mrs. Baldwin says her husband is more diplomatic in motivating people than his father was.

"Let's make this session so full of information that a businessman will realize he can't afford not to attend," he urged at one early planning session for the World Conference on Soaps and Detergents. "We need to bring the industry and supply folks together. The general idea is to present to people from industry what is being done and what changes are coming so that each can get ready for his next step."

Baldwin is a firm believer in management by objectives—setting fixed goals and timetables to achieve those goals.

Each nook and cranny of his activities is milked for productivity. In mailing Journal manuscripts from his Minneapolis office to the AOCS office in Champaign, Baldwin selects which U.S. postage stamps are to be used. AOCS staffers have instructions to clip the postmarked stamps and return them to Baldwin. "With all the traveling I do, I put together stamps from all over the world in packets and give them to kids at various places," he explains. "It gets them interested in the United States and in stamps."

Baldwin is almost perpetually in motion—participating in welcoming a Hungarian agricultural trade mission in Washington, chairing an ARI session, serving as secretary of Cargill's Long Range Planning Committee. Mrs. Baldwin doesn't know how often he is gone, but does recall that he was home "most of August" last year.

How does he find time for all this activity?

"Well, we all grow a little at a time," Baldwin says. "You look at a new car and wonder at how it got built, but it didn't develop all at once."

Baldwin has an inner drive to derive the most from each day. In 1961, he wrote an editorial for JAOCS dealing largely with benefits members received from the society. The introductory section read, in part:

"Time is one of the most precious gifts one can give. How? By saving a few minutes, hours, or days for someone else you are contributing to their effective life, to their productive years, to their spiritual, moral, or intellectual growth, or to their enjoyment of the fruits of their labors. Conversely, of course, wasting someone's time is almost like stealing part of life itself.

"It has been said that on the average, each of us completely loses at least three hours a day. This lamentable waste of human resources is quite appalling. Think, for example, of some of the things that could be done in those hours! Good books could be read for intellectual and personal development; hobbies and sports could be developed for retirement interest; church work or community services could be done for rewarding experiences; and extra money could be earned for rainy days or special projects."

Time—a precious commodity for Dick Baldwin. ●

Send articles to:

Editor of News
American Oil Chemists' Society
508 South Sixth Street
Champaign, Illinois 61820



**ECONOMY,
VERSATILITY,
FLEXIBILITY and
PERFORMANCE.
Get full details by
sending in
the coupon.**

**LUIS SPITZ
U.S. & CANADA SALES AND
TECHNICAL REPRESENTATIVE**

9407 NATCHEZ AVENUE
MORTON GROVE, ILLINOIS 60053
PHONE 312/965-5151

**Please send me information
on the following:**

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PRETREATMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> FAT SPLITTING |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FATTY ACID DISTILLATION | <input type="checkbox"/> GLYCERINE REFINING |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BLEACHING | <input type="checkbox"/> HYDROGENATION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GLYCERINE RECOVERY FROM
SPENT LYES & SWEETWATER | |

Name _____

Title _____

Company _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

G. MAZZONI S.p.A.
P. O. Box 421 • 21052 Busto Arsizio, Italy