

Profile: Lloyd M. Smith

It almost happened: Lloyd M. Smith, businessman, instead of Dr. Lloyd M. Smith, active AOCS member and a leading food scientist at the University of California, Davis.

But, as Dr. Smith explained, attending the Garbutt Business College in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, after his graduation from high school was a decision dictated by the economy rather than personal interest.

"I was interested (in business) in the sense that you have to remember we were in a depression," he explained. "When I got out of high school, the work prospects weren't very good."

After graduating from the business school, he, like most of the other alums, spent his time looking for jobs and working in the school's model office at no salary to obtain work experience. After he took various civil service exams, he joined the Canadian Federal Grading Service as a lab assistant in 1937.

His new job, which involved the grading and analysis of butter and cheese for export and domestic consumption, renewed an interest in agriculture which had been sparked in his boyhood by his father's millwright business. The job also gave him the impetus to pursue a degree in agriculture, with a specialty in dairy science, from the University of Alberta in Edmonton.

"I found out that in order to progress in the field, you really needed a degree," he said.

After obtaining his B.S. degree and three years of overseas service in the Royal Canadian Artillery during World War II, he took advantage of Canada's GI bill which offered financial assistance to veterans attending college, and began work on his master's degree. In addition to his studies, he held a full-time position as lecturer, teaching bachelor's and master's level courses, plus a six-month diploma course to European refugees.

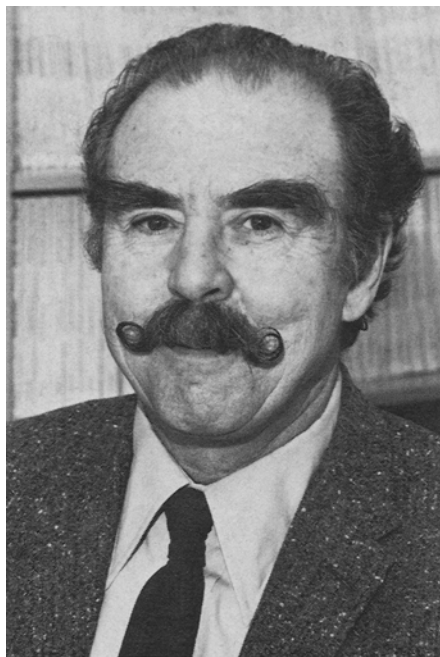
"The master's degree was a more difficult thing to get at that time in Canada than in the U.S. because Canada had no Ph.D. program," he said. "It took me three years to earn a master's degree under those circumstances. The days weren't long enough."

During this time, Dr. Smith was also busy with a new marriage. He met his wife-to-be, Edythe C. Dodds, through mutual friends and they married in 1948.

After receiving the M.S. degree, he decided in 1949 to work toward a Ph.D. in agricultural chemistry.

"The union ticket for academic employment then, as it is now, was a Ph.D.," Dr. Smith said.

Since he could not obtain a Ph.D. in Canada, he took the first of several leaves of absence from the University of Alberta to attend the University of California, Davis. What followed was a three-year period in which he and his wife



moved from Alberta to California 10 times in order to fulfill a teaching commitment at the University of Alberta. The result, besides plenty of traveling, was a doctoral thesis researched at the University of California and written at the University of Alberta.

After receiving the degree in 1953, Dr. Smith returned to the University of Alberta. Then, in 1954 he accepted a position as assistant professor in the Department of Dairy Industry at the University of California. Although he and his wife always liked California, he admitted they missed Canada to a certain extent. But at the time the decision to move to the U.S. was made, he said, academic benefits, salaries and opportunities were better in the U.S. than in Canada. However, he added, Canadian education opportunities now are equal or even better than those in the U.S.

With a home in California, much of Dr. Smith's free time is spent outdoors. In addition to riding his bike daily to the university, "and home for lunch," he adds, he and Edythe are frequent swimmers either at the University pool or at the homes of neighbors.

Their home is situated on a corner lot, which means "plenty of lawn to look after," he said, plus space for a small garden, grapes, and a few nectarine, lemon and orange trees. When they are not outdoors, they also spend some of

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their time playing bridge with a club that has been active for many years. The Smiths have raised two sons, Michael, 28, and Douglas, 26.

At the University of California, Dr. Smith's current responsibilities include teaching, research and public service. He teaches a graduate course, "Chemistry of Food Lipids," and an undergraduate course, "Chemistry of Milk and Dairy Products." In addition to the classroom role he has held for over 25 years, Dr. Smith admits his greatest satisfaction as an educator has come from encouraging young people to earn a better education and to learn about the challenges and opportunities in the food industry.

Directing the research of graduate students and obtaining grants to fund research have been other major responsibilities over the years. But, increasingly, food science and technology research is being conducted in government or private labs and is not being supported at universities.

"The financing of basic food research is a mess in this country," he said. "A fact of life in academic work is that universities are in a bind as far as providing financial assistance to graduate students to assist with the work. We are dependent on non-university sources of funds to support graduate students."

Dr. Smith has been or currently is involved in research projects that include the effects of consuming polyunsaturated beef, lamb and dairy products produced by feeding ruminant animals "protected lipid" feeds; the influence of different food emulsifiers and processing variables on stability of emulsions; and improved techniques to determine *trans* and other isomeric unsaturated fatty acids.

Dr. Smith also has received special recognition from the Institute for Scientific Information for his paper on the preparation of fatty acid methyl esters. This paper was among the 101 chosen out of 60,000 research articles on biochemistry and molecular biology as being the most cited during the period 1961 to 1978. During the 18-year period, his article was cited by fellow scientists in their writings at least 819 times.

Public service, another of his tasks at the University of California, means simply disseminating knowledge about food science and technology to interested groups, who in turn share the information with the general public. A good example of this is the Western Food Industry Conference, held annually at the University of California, Davis, which attracts the participation of local sections of the California Dairy Industries Association (CDIA), the AOCS, the Institute of Food Technologists, dairy sanitarians, faculty, students and others. Dr. Smith has been instrumental in expanding the conference from the original annual meeting of the CDIA to its current broader focus.

Although Dr. Smith has always had a special interest in dairy science, changes in the dairy industry over the years have brought accompanying changes in university departments and have added to his interests. Following the war, improved transportation, refrigeration and machinery meant a gradual consolidation of many small dairy plants into fewer larger processing plants. Employment opportunities for trained dairy technologists began to decrease, he said, with a parallel decrease in dairy students. As a result, dairy industry departments in universities all over the U.S.A. combined with food technology, animal science or nutrition departments. An era of "Food Science and

Technology," or similarly named departments, was born. These newly reorganized departments offered studies in dairy science, in addition to other types of food production and processing courses.

The shift in philosophy and the new name, "Department of Food Science and Technology," came to the University of California, Davis, in 1959, five years after Smith had arrived. The change, which he said "expanded his horizons," offered him an opportunity to become more involved with milk lipids, in addition to dairy science, and eventually edible fats and oils, as well as basic work in interactions between lipids and proteins.

But even before the shift at Davis, Dr. Smith was working with fats and oils. An AOCS member since 1952, he has seen several changes in the society over the years. A major development has been the interest in more biochemically oriented subjects, compared to a former emphasis on fat technology and soaps and detergents.

"The greatest interest in the '60s was the controversy regarding the role of fat in human health and this has had tremendous impact in our society," Dr. Smith said. "I think the association has taken the lead in encouraging this kind of information exchange."

One of the AOCS' most valuable contributions has been to offer a scientific forum to a wide variety of interest groups.

"It's the best combination of industry people and academic, and of course, government people. It's marvelous the way the three groups have worked together."

Although it encompasses a variety of interests and backgrounds, AOCS is still small enough to encourage cooperation and communication when factions in other groups might be competing with each other, he said.

"I value the broad variety of membership in this organization," he said. "I belong to a number of scientific societies, but I attend more meetings of the AOCS than any of the others."

And although the membership is not extremely large, the society still encourages any interests related to fats and oils, whether they be plant or animal, basic or applied.

As AOCS continues to develop, it must meet some of the challenges it faces, he said. To encourage young people to participate in the Society and to finance worthwhile food research which may not be particularly well-supported, he recommended that AOCS consider funding in the form of research grants, scholarships and fellowships. Also, the AOCS and its individual members could play a more important role in pressing for legislation that would provide tax incentives for industry funding of fats- and oils-related research. He said that closer cooperation is needed between educators and industry employers to identify job opportunities and to insure that educational programs prepare students for these opportunities.

Dr. Smith is well-qualified to speak about AOCS; he has contributed to the Society in a number of ways for many years. He served on the National Program Planning Committee from 1975 to 1978, on the Nomination and Election Committee from 1976 to 1977 and as a Northern California Section Officer from 1972 to 1976. Currently, he is a member of the Honored Student Award Committee, the Bond

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Award Committee and is a liaison representative to the Institute of Food Technologists. His participation in these activities reveals few signs that he is slowing down, and retirement, he says, is not in the near future.

And to think the business world almost had him.

Appointments

Ralph Hayenga, senior vice-president of Honeymead Product Co., has been appointed executive director of the Sunflower Association of America and will serve as the association's public relations spokesman in the part-time position . . . Al Wohlman has been named director of materials and basic research for Frito-Lay, Inc. . . Fredrick V. Mosier was recently appointed national account executive—Midwest region of Durkee Industrial Foods Group/SCM Corporation. . . Firmenich, Inc. has announced the appointment of Evelyn De Ruiz to the new position of commercial information coordinator—Western Hemisphere. . . Jon H. Fisher has been named international business manager, catalysts, for Harshaw Chemical Co. . . Foster Wheeler International Corp. has elected Harold E. Kennedy senior vice-president. . . The American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) Committee D-24 has presented August O. Schmitz, vice-president of engineering for C.W. Brabender Instruments, Inc., South Hackensack, NJ, with a special certificate of merit and appreciation. . . A. David P. Harbourne has been named vice-president, corporate marketing and sales, of Neotec Corp. in Silver Spring, MD. . . Hodag Chemical Corporation has announced the appointments of Gene Brooks and Charles Foley as technical sales representatives. . . The Stepan Chemical Co., International Dept., has named Lilly Polak technical customer services representative for Stepan surfactants and food flavors in Canada. . . Dolores T. Kenney of Ken-Quest Ltd. has been elected president of the Chicago Chemists Club for 1980-81; other AOCS members elected officers includes Karen Douglas of UOP, Inc., secretary; David Holcomb, Kraft Inc., arrangements committee chairman, and Peter Noznick, Beatrice Foods, finance committee chairman. . . Robert W. Anderson has joined Emery Industries as a sales representative for the firm's plastics group and synthesized lubricants group. . . James O'Brien has been named a sales representative for Hodag Chemical Corporation in the eastern United States. . . Foster Wheeler Development Corporation's Walter Wolowodiuk has been appointed divisional vice-president of the firm's research and development division.

Kraft promotes Holcomb

David N. Holcomb, an AOCS member since 1973, has been promoted to manager of the Basic Food Science Laboratory at the Kraft Inc. research and development center in Glenview, Illinois. Dr. Holcomb is a graduate of the University of Nebraska and the University of Illinois. Before joining Kraft in 1966, he was with the USDA Eastern Regional Research Center in Philadelphia. He received his M.B.A. from Roosevelt University in Chicago where he also teaches part-time in the technical management area. □

Deaths



Eugene I. Marshack

Eugene I. Marshack, an active AOCS member for the past three decades, died Aug. 10, 1980, in California after an extended illness. He had recently retired from his international consulting activities.

When he first joined AOCS in 1950, he was chief engineer and an assistant vice-president for the Bunge Corporation in New York City. Later, he operated a private consulting service, initially from the East Coast. An active participant in the Northeast Section of AOCS, he was president of that group in 1962/63. When he moved his consulting business to California in the 1970s, he became an active member of the Northern California (NORCAL) Section.

Marshack also was active in national AOCS activities. He served on national meeting committees on the East and West Coasts, most recently as publicity chairman for the 1979 joint meeting of the AOCS and the Japan Oil Chemists' Society. Marshack had been a member of the advertising and membership committees, but devoted much of his time and energy to the chairmanship of the international relations committee.

He was well-suited to that assignment, being fluent in several languages and holding degrees from the Sorbonne as well as a technical university in Germany. He also had done postgraduate work at City College of New York and at George Washington University.

He was one of the best known members of AOCS internationally, having selected and recruited fats and oils researchers around the globe to provide semi-annual summaries to JAOCS on developments and events in their nations relating to the fats and oils industries. He ended a 15-year term as chairman of the committee this past spring when his health was limiting his activities.

Survivors include his wife, Martha.

Elmo L. Nash

AOCS has been notified of the death of Elmo Laurence Nash, a member of the society continuously since 1944. Mr. Nash was chief chemist for Western Chemical Co. in St. Joseph, Missouri, during that time.