

Jackson, Marion L.

MADISON - Dr. Marion L. Jackson, emeritus professor of soil science, University of Wisconsin-Madison, died on Saturday, Dec. 21, 2002, at age 88. He was born in Reynolds, Neb., on Nov. 30, 1914. He attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, earning his B.S. in 1936, graduating summa cum laude with high distinction, and receiving his M.S. in 1937. He was granted the Ph.D. in soil science at the University of Wisconsin in 1939. In 1974 he was selected Franklin Hiram King Distinguished Professor. He was awarded an honorary doctor of science degree in 1974 from the University of Nebraska. He was conferred the Distinguished Career Award of the Soil Science Society in 1986 and the Bouyoucos Soil Science Distinguished Career Award in 1986. In 1987 Professor Jackson was elected to the National Academy of Sciences. Marion married his sweetheart Christie Marie Bertramson on Sept. 2, 1937, in Potter, Neb. Through his research Professor Jackson, in the decade 1944-54, carried out extensive field experiments using a combination of liming with high rates of fertilization with phosphate and potassium. Corn yields were raised from a statewide average of 44 to more than 140 bushels per acre. He developed the leading weathering sequence for clay minerals and a widely used set of methods for soil mineral analysis. He made many other contributions to the understanding of soil minerals, their chemical properties, and their roles in the environment. His scientific contributions are documented in 241 scientific publications including two books, "Soil Chemical Analysis" and "Soil Chemical Analysis - Advanced Course" and 14 chapters in other books on soil chemistry, soil mineralogy and other topics. By 1956 Dr. Jackson was well known nationally and internationally. He gave many distinguished lectures at scientific meetings including the Pioneer in Clay Science Lecture and the George W. Brindley Lecture for the Clay Minerals Society. He addressed the National Academy Sinica in Nanking and Peking, China, and the European Academy of Sciences and Medicine in West Germany. The latter lecture was on the geochemistry of elements as related to health. A significant contribution of studies with China were on the benefits of selenium to health. He was visiting professor at Cornell University in 1959 and distinguished visiting professor at the University of Washington-Seattle in 1973. Also, he was a panel member on disposition of radioactive wastes for the National Academy of Sciences 1976-1977. Professor Jackson trained 59 Ph.D. students and 18 M.S. students who occupy numerous positions of importance in clay and soil science in industry and in academia. Also, he advised 37 postdoctoral scholars from countries around the world who now hold key university positions. Dr. Jackson also served as external reviewer of Ph.D. theses from Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Egypt and India. Dr. Jackson was a member of the American Society of Agronomy, the Soil Science Society of America (president, 1967-68), the International Society of Soil Science, the Clay Mineral Society (president, 1966-67), the International Clay Mineral Society, the Mineralogical Society of America, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the Environmental Geochemistry and Health Society. Basic research activities have led to listing in "Who's Who in the World," "Who's Who in Frontiers of Science and Technology," "Leaders In American Science," "World Directory of Mineralogists," and "The National Register of Scientific and Technical Personnel." Dr. Jackson was a fellow in the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Soil Science Society, the American Society of Agronomy and the Mineralogical Society of America. A Soil Science Award Fund was established by Marion and Chrystie Jackson for mid-career soil chemists recognizing contributions of excellence in the

soil science and related fields. Professor Jackson is survived by his wife, Chrystie (Bertramson) Jackson; three children, Marjorie Jackson of Omaha, Neb., Ginny, V. L. (Bruce) Conlon of Dallas, Texas, and Stan Jackson (Beth) of Fairfax, Va.; and daughter-in-law, Lorrie Leja Jackson, Cheboygan, Mich. His son, Douglas M. Jackson, M.D., predeceased him. He is also survived by seven grandchildren, Daniel and Thomas Conlon, David Jackson, Angela (Jackson) Michaels, and Andrew, Becky and Christopher Jackson; and two great-grandchildren, Joseph and Peter Michaels. A service in memory of Dr. Jackson will be held on Saturday, Feb. 1, 2003, at 10 a.m. at ASBURY METHODIST CHURCH, Madison. Memorials may be directed to Oakwood Retirement Fund, Asbury Methodist Church or the Department of Soil Science at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.