

In Memory of Dr. M.L. Jackson ...

Being now retired from active research I often review my past, and Dr. Jackson looms prominently as one of the few men who influenced my life greatly. Though I spent only three years under his tutelage, the lessons I learned not only professionally but as a human being have remained with me through all these years.

Firstly, without Dr. Jackson's concern, I would not have been able to continue my pursuit for an advanced degree. As an undergraduate I had been once denied admission to re-register because I had failed a non-credit course in "oral English." This program, which was later admitted to be prejudicial against American-Japanese, required me to speak midwestern English - it exempted westerners who may have southern or New England or even foreign accents. I was allowed to complete my education through the intervention of several chemistry professors who challenged the arbitrary regulation; however, my failure was recorded on my transcript as an "F" in oral English (which has since been removed from my record with an apology from the president of the university). It was Dr. Jackson who cared enough to contact my listed references to learn about my ability to communicate orally, and who accepted me "in spite of the reservation of the registrar's office of the University of Wisconsin." This special effort by him "to get to the bottom of things" was characteristic of M.L. During my formal training under his tutelage he constantly urged me to explore deeper and to look for the larger implications of the experimental results. This form of mentoring served me well all during my professional career.

Dr. Jackson's reputation was indeed widely known. Even as I worked for many years in soils and mineral research, it was a badge of honor when I told colleagues that I had studied under him. Even during my active career Dr. Jackson made me feel he cared about me as an individual as well as a scientist. At professional meetings he would arrange for coffee sessions with several former students and would inquire about our families as well as our research. To this day I am convinced that it was his letter of recommendation that was instrumental in electing me a Fellow of the Soil Science Society of America and the American Society of Agronomy. I shall be eternally grateful for his endorsement.

His numerous valuable contributions in soils, agriculture, and to the world food situation have been well documented and his honors for these contributions are all well deserved. It was, however, as a caring human being that I shall remember him from the beginning of my career and throughout the lifetime I had the good fortune to know him. While the world has lost a great scientist, I have lost a respected and valued friend.

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