

ARF Honor Roll

Robert Henderson

In 1948, ARF Secretary Ralph Besse announced that he would be absent for three months. Robert “Bob” Henderson, Assistant Director of the Agricultural Experiment Station, was appointed as assistant and acting secretary in his place. In 1955, Henderson was approved as a continuous member of the Board where he served until his death at age 91 in 2006. This term of 51 years, not including his service in the late 1940’s and early 1950’s, was the longest in the history of ARF.

During his long term on the Board, Henderson served in many capacities. On those occasions when the secretary position was vacant, he volunteered to fill that position on an acting basis. He was a constant source of knowledgeable and thoughtful advice. In 1968, the Board voted an expression of appreciation for his leadership and work for the Foundation. The 1976 Annual Report was dedicated to him for his years of service to ARF, OSU, and the Agricultural Experiment Station.

Bob was widely known for a constant activity - taking pictures. This resulted in a collection of more than 50,000 slides, hundreds of them of ARF Board meetings and activities. As one of his contributions to Oregon agriculture, Bob developed an informative slide show entitled “Magic of Research.” In a two-year period, he presented it to more than 75 groups across the state, peppering it with his well-known sense of humor. Besides his ARF and campus activities, he was involved in an incredible number of civic activities. A few include the Board of Directors of the Children’s Farm Home, the United Fund, Oregon Museum of Science and Technology, American Field Service, and many more. He became a recognized expert in coin collecting and gave many presentations to schools and service clubs on that subject.

Bob was a 1938 agronomy graduate of Oregon State College, now Oregon State University (OSU). He received MS and PhD degrees in plant breeding and genetics from Cornell and the University of Minnesota, respectively. He worked on domestication of Russian dandelion as part of his PhD work – an area of work that has been resurrected in recent years.

During his time at OSU, Bob served as Associated Students President and Vice-President, Associated



Men's Hall President, was on the Intercollegiate Athletics Board as well as the Memorial Union Board of Directors, to name just the most prestigious of his many activities. He was a person of many talents and boundless energy.

Bob enjoyed people and life. He loved telling jokes and showing slides, whether of a sway-backed horse or an upright chicken laying an egg ("a standing ovation"), he brought a smile to the face of everyone he met.

ARF Honor Roll

2011-12: Roger Detering

2012-13: William Schoenfele,
R.L. Clark, and Ralph Besse

2013-14: Judge Guy Boyington

2014-15: Robert Kerr

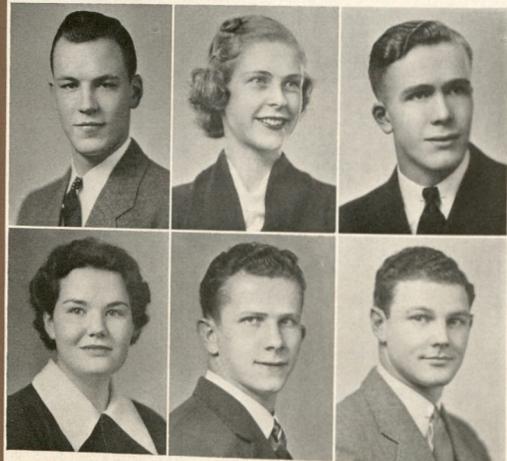
2015-16: Robert Henderson



Robert Henderson, President

INDEPENDENTS scored a victory over campaigning Greek factions this year when a solid independent vote placed Bob Henderson in the president's chair and Jean Whitelaw, active YWCA president and grade-getter, in the role of student body secretary. Scott Valentine was replaced by Bill Pitney, independent sophomore of Poling hall, as third vice-president when Valentine failed to return to school. Greeks garnered the two remaining offices with Janet Hinkle, Alpha Chi Omega activity girl and junior prom queen, in the office of second vice-president and Ivan Bierly, Alpha Gamma Rho's varsity debater, taking over the first vice-president's duties.

Bob's characteristic perseverance came to be recognized when, having begun his college work during the depression, he took upon himself the job of financing his venture in the realm of higher education. Wielding an influence from his advantageous position in Cauthorn Hall, he was one of the leaders to organize the independent groups into a strong unit. First vice-president of the student body served as a stepping stone to his present position.



Bierly
Whitelaw

Hinkle
Martin

Pitney
Edwards

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