

VII EPILOGUE 1/B. Rodney Bertramson 2/

The State of Washington has a wide range of climate and soils--matching many similar situations from Florida to Alaska and from California to Maine. The Columbia Basin Irrigation Project with waters from Grand Coulee Dam has increased irrigated acreage in Washington to about two million acres. More than 200 crops have been grown commercially in the State. World record yields have been obtained here for wheat, potatoes, grapes, alfalfa seed, sugar beets and other crops. The people of the State are imbued with the pioneer spirit. The government and institutions are progressive and supportive of education, research, and extension. The combination of circumstances has brought together a faculty in the Department of Agronomy and Soils that is outstanding in ability and with a mind-set for cooperation and innovation. A situation has prevailed where good things could happen.

Under these circumstances, a very strong department of agronomists--crop scientists and soil scientists--was a natural development. The Department has maintained close contacts with people in the agricultural arena, and has been well supported by them. The faculty has worked closely with academic colleagues nationally and internationally. There have been close working arrangements and cooperation with neighboring colleagues at the University of Idaho--only eight miles away to the east-- and also with colleagues on the southern boundary, Oregon State University, and colleagues at the University of British Columbia to the north.

There have been outstanding accomplishments which established state, regional, national, and international reputations. Students--especially

---

1/ Part of History of Agronomy and Soils, WSU. 1985.

2/ Former Chairman and Professor Emeritus. Department of Agronomy and Soils, WSU. Pullman, WA 99164-6420.

graduate students--from 'round the world have sought training at the WSU Department of Agronomy and Soils. Alumni seeking employment in the private sector (non-academic) have been imbued with the spirit of professionalism and have served well as practicing agronomists.

Faculty members have been prominent in the affairs of their professional societies. They have served in the highest offices and in all committee functions. They have been accorded numerous national recognitions and awards. On campus, the agronomists have been progressively active in the affairs of faculty, served in prestigious and responsible positions of University government and administration. They have gained the respect and esteem of their colleagues across the campus.

The Department exemplified and pursued the land-grant traditions and concepts--ever mindful of its mission-orientation, yet also exploring the unknown in areas of basic research. The Department may well be proud of its first century accomplishments and anticipate with relish its role of continuing service and leadership within its range of expertise in both the applied and academic areas.