

# George Gordon Pohlman



George Gordon Pohlman, for thirty years Professor of Agronomist, and Chairman of the Department of Agronomy at West Virginia University, was born at Doon, Iowa, October 6, 1902. He received his B.S. degree in 1923 and M.S. degree in 1924 from Iowa State University and immediately began his teaching career as Instructor and Assistant in Agricultural Chemistry and Soils at the University of Arizona. After four years at Arizona he returned to Iowa State University to complete his work for the Ph.D. degree which he received in 1930.

It was this same year, 1930, which Dr. Pohlman came to West Virginia and began his long and illustrious career in the College of Agriculture, West Virginia University. He held the position of Assistant Professor and Assistant Agronomist from 1930 to 1938, Dr. Pohlman was appointed Professor and Chairman of the Department of Agronomy, a position he held until his retirement in 1968. His promotion to Professor and Head of the Department at age 36 is an indication of his ability and leadership in his profession.

Dr. Pohlman's contributions to his profession, the University, the State, the community, and to the training of a large number of students, are extensive and outstanding. He is recognized as an excellent teacher by his colleagues and former students. His great personal interest in the programs and achievements of students has been a source of encouragement and inspiration to them.

Since 1924, when he received his master's degree, he has been actively engaged in research on pasture production, soil bacteria, soil fertility; land classification, soils mapping, and soil conservation. His articles have been numerous in the journals of the American Society of Agronomy, and Journals of the Soil Science Society of America, and as research circulars and bulletins of the West Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station. He was the joint author of "History of the American Society of Agronomy."

Dr. Pohlman's participation and service in professional organizations is particularly notable. He served as Secretary-Treasurer of the American Society of Agronomy from 1938 to 1948. In recognition of his outstanding performance, he was awarded the first lifetime membership in the ASA in November 1950. He was president of the American Society of Agronomy in 1955. Dr. Pohlman is a Fellow of the Society, a recognition which is awarded to only a few outstanding Agronomists. He is a member of the Soil Conservation Society of America and a member of Sigma Xi, Phi Kappa Phi, Gamma Sigma Delta, and Alpha Zeta. Dr. Pohlman has served on numerous college and University committees.

He is active in community affairs, a member of Kiwanis, and has been active in the programs of Boy Scouts. He is a member of the First Baptist Church and actively engaged in its programs, having served as teacher, moderator, and a member of the Board of Trustees.