

From the Oat Newsletter, volume 37, 1986:

HENRYK JEDLINSKI, February 15, 1924 - April 4, 1987
IN MEMORY

Henryk Jedlinski was born in Bialystok, Poland February 15, 1924. He married Helena Malinowska December 31, 1958 in Lincoln, Nebraska. Surviving are his wife Helena; son Michael; daughter Jeanine; two brothers, Jerzy of Bialystok and Stanislaw of Johannesburg, South Africa; and one sister, Halina Wielgosz of Toronto, Canada. His wife Helena resides at their family home of many years, 1610 W. Green Street, Champaign, Illinois 61820.

Henry received a diploma from Lyceum No.1, Luebeck, Germany, in 1946. Higher education began at the University of Bonn, West Germany, from 1947-1949, where he obtained a Half Diploma in Agriculture. He then came to the U.S. and obtained his B.S. degree in Agriculture at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, in 1950. Continuing his advanced studies there, he worked as a Graduate Research Assistant, obtaining his M.A. in 1954 and his Ph.D. in 1959 both in Plant Pathology under the guidance of W. B. Allington.

Henry was appointed a Research Plant Pathologist with the USDA and joined the Department of Plant Pathology, College of Agriculture, and Agriculture Experiment Station in March 1959, through their Memorandum of Agreement with the U.S.D.A., to help solve the serious barley yellow dwarf virus disease problem. He was appointed Collaborator, then Assistant Professor in 1966, and Associate Professor in 1979. Henry was appointed a life member of the Graduate Faculty, University of Illinois, in 1973. Henry guided, as major professor, thesis programs for several M.S. and Ph.D. students and served as thesis committee member for many graduate students in the Departments of Plant Pathology and Agronomy.

At the time of his death, Henry was enthusiastically and carefully preparing his final 5-year plan of work for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The focus of his research for over 30 years has been on how insects transmit viruses to plants. He was a world authority on the barley yellow dwarf virus (BYDV) and the disease it causes in oats, wheat and barley. Henry has been a close colleague and partner with C. M. Brown in the small grains improvement program at the University of Illinois. Together they formed an integral and inseparable research team incorporating genetic resistance against infection by BYDV into oats and more recently into wheat. Oat varieties developed and released from their program have been and continue to be widely grown in the U.S. and Canada.

Henry was the expert to whom many plant pathologists and plant breeders across the U.S. and from other parts of the world sent winter wheat germplasm and breeding materials when they needed to test for genetic resistance against the soil-borne wheat mosaic virus. Henry graciously donated many hours each year to maintain the unique soil-borne mosaic nursery on the Agronomy/Plant Pathology South Farm, and to

provide this much sought, indispensable service. In addition to testing against viruses, he was active in testing germplasm for resistance to rust and smut diseases of cereal crops. He was a close cooperater with oat breeders throughout the world in testing their oat lines for resistance to the BYDV.

Henry has published over 60 scientific journal articles, technical reports, book chapters and abstracts of presentations at meetings in addition to more than one dozen variety releases in which he participated. Those who knew Henry well can attest to the fact that few scientists were as up-to-date and as well informed about all aspects of plant virology. He was stimulating and thought-provoking in his discussions, and always asked penetrating questions.

Early life for Henry was not easy. Henry's knowledge of and ability to speak five languages helped him through some unusually difficult times and circumstances in the early 1940's. Those experiences made him a tough, yet a humble man appreciative daily of the many privileges of freedom and democracy that most of us who were born and raised in the U.S. take for granted.

Henry, generous with his time and assistance, was always quick to help anyone in need of personal or professional assistance or advice. Small grain workers across the nation will miss the ready, friendly help he provided. All of his friends and colleagues will miss his friendly smile, his wit, and his wise counsel. We have lost a respected colleague and friend.