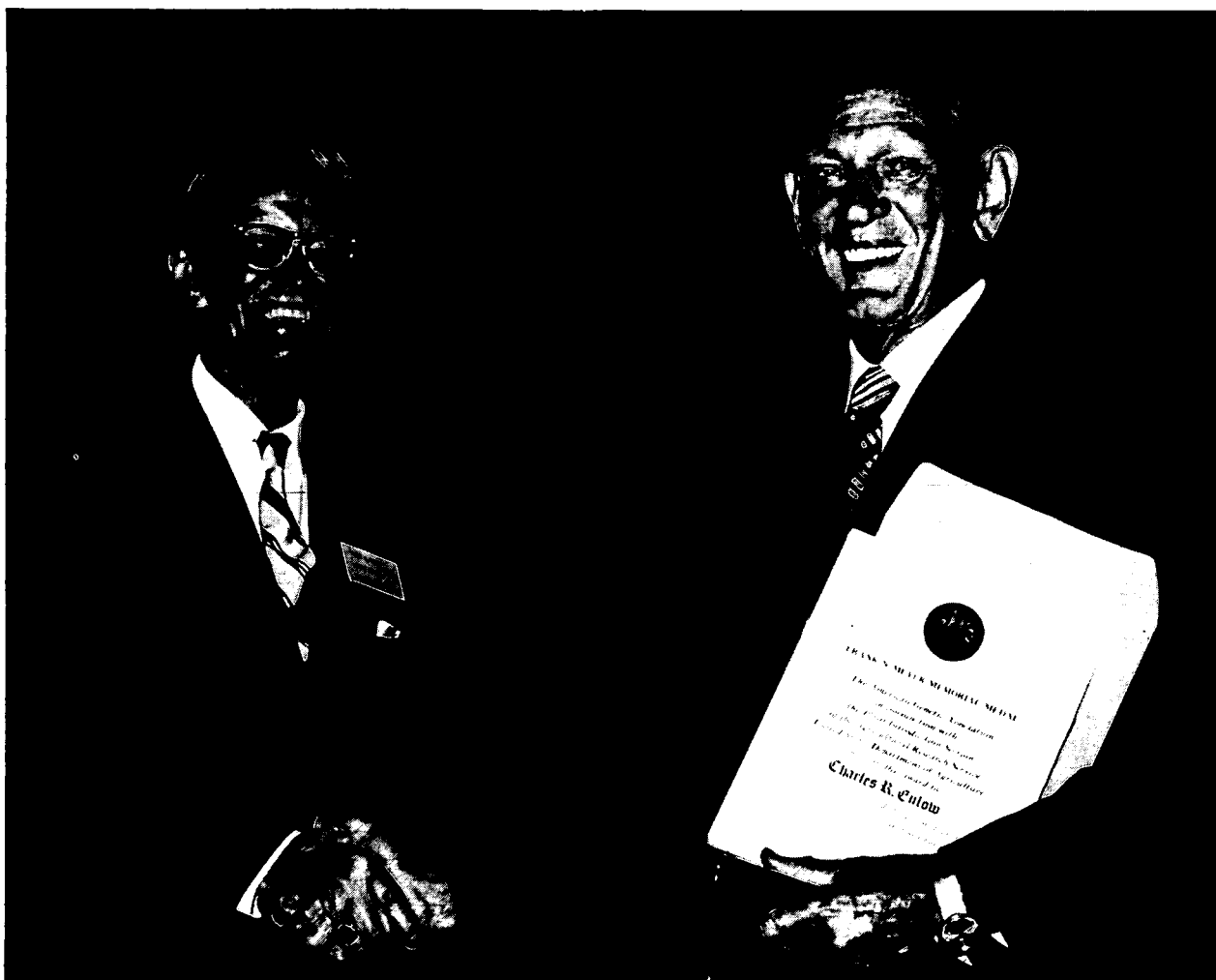


Frank N. Meyer Memorial Medal

Charles R. Enlow receives award



CHARLES R. ENLOW, an agronomist whose distinguished career in agriculture has spanned more than 40 years, was awarded the thirtieth Frank N. Meyer Memorial Medal on August 25, 1970 in ceremonies preceding the Key lecture at the annual meeting of the American Institute of Biological Sciences at Indiana University, Bloomington.

The presentation was made by Dr. Harold H. Plough, immediate past president of the American Genetic Association.

The Meyer Memorial was established in 1919 through a bequest left by Mr. Meyer, a plant collector and explorer for the U. S. Department of

Agriculture, who lost his life in the Yangtze River, China, in 1918. Originally, the bequest of \$1,000 was to be used by his USDA associates for an outing or to be divided among them. But they decided instead to honor Mr. Meyer with a medal to be awarded through the American Genetic Association in recognition of outstanding achievement and service in the field of plant introduction.

Since the first medal was presented in 1920 to Barbour Lathrop, 28 additional medals have been awarded to scientists in the U. S. as well as Australia, Brazil, Great Britain, France, Algeria, Cuba, Honduras, and Tripoli.

The citation accompanying Mr. Enlow's medal

reads, "... for his distinguished service to the United States and world agriculture through leadership in the collection, introduction, and establishment of plants for agriculture and conservation. In particular, special tribute is paid to you for your successful introduction of grasses that have proven to be outstanding in the dryland areas of the United States, your successful efforts to assist countries of Africa and the Near East in the development of plant introduction and conservation programs, and especially for your recent leadership of the USDA Plant and Seed Multiplication Team in Vietnam, wherein the eventual success of the improved rice varieties in Vietnam is largely credited to the initial introduction and testing program developed by you and your associates."

Mr. Enlow, now 77 years old, was only four years younger when he headed the Vietnam project, making him the oldest American assigned there. It was this team that introduced IR-8 rice into Vietnam and enabled the country to become an exporter of rice.

Also, many of the dryland grasses now used extensively in our country trace to the "Westover-Enlow" expedition to Russian Turkestan and Turkey in 1934.

Born in Kingman County, Kansas, Mr. Enlow earned a B.S. in 1920 and an M.S. degree in 1927 at Kansas State University. After field work for the Great Western Sugar Company, he taught agriculture in Kansas high schools. In 1924 he became assistant professor of agronomy at Kansas State University; then in 1927 he joined USDA's Bureau of Plant Industry, Gainesville, Florida.

Two years later he was transferred to Washington, D.C., to direct the Bureau's grass and lawn research. It was there that he collaborated with H. N. Vinall, A. T. Semple, and T. E. Woodward in preparing the first authoritative handbook on pastures to be published in the United States.

Mr. Enlow joined USDA's Soil Conservation Service in 1933 as chief agronomist in charge of its Nursery Division. And in 1934 he and H. L. Westover embarked on the 6-month expedition to Russian Turkestan and Turkey that proved extremely fruitful. Named grass varieties developed from accessions

obtained in the expedition include 'Largo' tall wheatgrass; 'Greenar,' 'Nebraska 50,' 'Rec,' 'Oake,' and 'Chief' intermediate wheatgrasses; Siberian wheatgrass; and 'Luna' and 'Topar' pubescent wheatgrasses.

In 1944, he transferred to the Foreign Service, U. S. State Department, as the first agricultural attaché in South Africa. During this assignment he assisted with establishing the Soil Conservation Service of South Africa and helped organize plant collection and evaluation programs. Also, as a guest of the Rhodesian government, he provided recommendations on a conservation program for that country.

Mr. Enlow retired from government service in 1950 and established a seed business in Fowler, Indiana. Before selling this business in 1960, he accepted several consulting assignments—a grassland survey in Nigeria, Northern Rhodesia, Nyassaland, and Kenya in 1954-55 for the British Colonial Office; 3 months in the Sudan for the Food and Agriculture Organization, making recommendations on grazing control which were incorporated in legislation; Kenyan agriculture improvement under a contract with the Government of Kenya; and in 1960 he was responsible for seminars on soil conservation in Turkey and Iran. From 1961 to 1965, Mr. Enlow was director for wheat market promotion work in African and Near East countries by Great Plains Wheat, Inc.

Then in 1967 he was appointed project leader for the USDA's Plant and Seed Multiplication Team sent to Vietnam in cooperation with the Agency for International Development. Before returning to the U. S. in 1968, Mr. Enlow developed procedures for introducing vegetables, fruits, and field crops into Vietnam. Hundreds of accessions were introduced, catalogued, and distributed for testing either by U. S. personnel or Vietnamese counterparts.

In his long career Mr. Enlow has made substantial contributions to agriculture throughout the world. He has been closely identified with plant introduction and exploration from the time of his employment in the Bureau of Plant Industry in 1927 to his last assignment in Vietnam.