



*The Walter F. Snyder Award for 1985*

*presented to*

**WILLIAM G. WALTER**

William G. Walter is being honored for his more than 43 years as a professor, researcher, educator, author, editor, and leader in microbiology and environmental science.

Bill, as he is known to his family and friends, was born in Lake Placid, New York and in the years of his youth had part-time employment in a creamery. Upon graduating from high school, he attended a 12-week course in Dairy Industry at Cornell University which inspired him to seek a degree at Cornell. There he earned his B.S. degree — and went on to receive his master's in bacteriology in 1941.

While earning his M.S. at Cornell, he worked as a special investigator at the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station in Geneva, where one of his most important discoveries was Mary Hawkes, who was working on bacteriological media at the station. They were married and, in 1942, moved to Montana State College in Bozeman, where shortly after their arrival Mary had to leave the classrooms and

laboratories for the birth of the first of their four sons.

Walter arrived at Montana State with a one-year assignment which lasted for 38 years, and included teaching bacteriology to students in a new cadet nursing program during World War II.

In 1952 he forsook Montana long enough to earn his PhD in bacteriology and public health at Michigan State College.

As a science educator, Bill Walter has been anything but a humdrum lecturer and laboratory overlord.

In the 1960's, responding to an increase in the number of students taking microbiology, Walter turned to television as a teaching tool. He modified a four credit lecture-laboratory course for use on closed circuit television, and introduced the use of video tape with zoom cameras to present the never-before-screened experiments in the subvisible realm of microbiology. Even today these TV courses, now in color, enrich and enlighten public and academic audiences.

At one of his summer institutes

in bacteriology for high school teachers, sponsored by the National Science Foundation, William Walter taught the educators how to build replicas of microscopes invented more than 300 years ago by Anthony Leeuwenhoek, the father of microscopy.

Dr. Walter's scientific curiosity has led him into such diverse interests as microbiological sampling of hospital carpets, standard methods for the examination of dairy products, bacterial investigations of mountain streams, sanitation studies of the mouthpieces of musical instruments, and spore contamination from stainless steel surfaces.

He is the co-author or editor of seven major books on microbiology and a principal writer of more than 80 articles for scientific publications. In 1980 he served as editor of the *Journal of Environmental Health*, published by NEHA.

He is an active committee member of the American Society for Microbiology and a Diplomate of the American Board of Microbiology. In 1962-63 he served as president of the National Environmental Health Association. Dr. Walter is a Diplomate of the American

Academy of Sanitarians, a Fellow of the American Public Health Association, and active in such various organizations as the Boy Scouts (scoutmaster), the Bozeman Symphony Society, the Gallatin Stamp Club, and the United Methodist Church. For 3 years he was a trustee of the Bozeman Deaconess Hospital at Retirement Home, and two governors appointed him to the Montana Environmental Quality Council.

Some of the honors which have been bestowed on him are:

- Distinguished Teaching Award of the Montana State College Alumni Association, 1960
- Distinguished Service Award, Montana Association of Sanitarians 1960
- The Mangold Award from NEHA, 1972
- The Carski Distinguished Teaching Award for 1973 from the American Society for Microbiology

In recognition of his life-long commitment to the environment and microbiology, William G. Walter has been selected by a committee of his peers to receive the Walter F. Snyder Award.

*Past Recipients of the Walter F. Snyder Award*

*Callis F. Atkins  
Ralph C. Pickard  
William A. Broadway, Jr.  
James E. Jump  
Charles L. Senn  
Charles C. Johnson, Jr.*

*Larry J. Gordon  
Ray B. Watts  
John G. Todd  
Charles H. Gillham  
Emil T. Chanlett  
John R. Bagby, Jr.  
William Nix Anderson*

