



The Virginia Academy of Science
Ivey F. Lewis
Distinguished Service Award



Blanton M. Bruner

A professional industrial chemist, talented administrator, and long time servant of the Virginia Academy of Science, Blanton Mercer Bruner has been honored by the Virginia Academy of Science by being presented with the Ivey F. Lewis Distinguished Service Award for 1992. Officers may come and go, sections may wax and wane, but, as has been said many times during Council meetings, the rock on which the Academy rests, the source of its stability, is the dedication of its Executive Secretary, Blanton Bruner.

A native of Richmond, Virginia, Mr. Bruner was graduated from the College of William and Mary in 1926 with the degree of Bachelor of Science. He joined the American Tobacco Company in 1928, working in the Department of Research and Development on such problems as the quality of paper and the analysis of maple sugar. He rose through the ranks of management to become Assistant to the Vice President of Research and Development. At the time of his retirement from this first career he was serving as Director of Technical Information and Community Relations Coordinator.

During his years with the American Tobacco Company Mr. Bruner was active in the field of public relations. He chaired the Virginia Public Relations Conference of 1955 and served as President of the Richmond Public Relations Association in 1959. He also served as the Director of the Richmond Thanksgiving Festival and Director of the National Tobacco Festival.

Always active in the Virginia Academy of Science, Blanton Bruner found in retirement a new career of service. In 1969 he joined then Executive Secretary-Treasurer Rodney C. Berry as an Associate, succeeding to the full office in 1971. He has therefore served for more than twenty years as the principal executive officer of the Academy. During that time he has established a reputation for absolute reliability. With patient good humor he has shepherded a succession of officers through their duties, reminding the forgetful and encouraging the faint-hearted.

It is a measure of the esteem in which he is held by his colleagues that Blanton Bruner has received virtually all of the honors that is in the power of the Academy to bestow. He is a Fellow of the Academy and an Honorary Life Member. He is the recipient of the Distinguished Service Award of the Virginia Junior Academy of Science. In awarding him, as well, the Ivey Lewis Distinguished Service Award of the senior Academy, we hereby recognize his competence as an executive, his even-handedness as an administrator, and his devotion to the ideals of the Virginia Academy of Science.