

George L. Drake Jr. To Receive Olney Medal

GEORGE L. Drake Jr. of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Southern Regional Research Center at New Orleans is the 1976 recipient of AATCC's OLNEY MEDAL for outstanding achievement in textile chemistry.

The award is presented annually in recognition of technical and scientific contributions to the advancement of textile chemistry. Named in honor of the late Louis Atwell Olney, the founder of AATCC, it consists of a gold medal, a scroll and a \$1,000 honorarium.

A Career In Research

A research scientist throughout his career, Drake is research leader for protective finishes in the cotton textile chemistry laboratory at Southern Regional. He joined USDA in 1949 as an organic chemist, was named a supervisory organic chemist in 1961, and became head of special finishes investigations in 1968. He has served in his present post since 1971.

A native of Georgiana, Ala., he grew up in Georgia, graduating from high school at Cordele and receiving a diploma from North Georgia College. He also holds BS and MS degrees in chemistry from the University of Georgia, and has completed the course work and language requirements for a doctorate from Tulane University in New Orleans.

Internationally Prominent

Drake is recognized internationally for his ability and leadership in conceiving, formulating, directing and coordinating highly specialized and complex programs in chemical research, particularly in the fields of organic and inorganic chemistry on cotton and its products, and on the chemical modification and finishing of cotton textiles.

Both on his own and as a group leader he has developed chemical finishes that provide cotton products with flame resistance, rot resistance, weather resistance, water repellency, wrinkle resistance, wash-wear and other properties.

His accomplishments include the discovery and development of impor-



George L. Drake Jr., thirty-third recipient of AATCC's highest award for outstanding achievement in textile chemistry.

tant new classes of phosphorus-containing compounds and polymers; basic and applied research leading to the development of finishes for cotton based on the acid colloid of methylol-melamine; significant contributions to the development of soil release and soil resistant finishes for cotton; development of new perfluoro compounds having oil and stain repellency without water repellency (reduces soil redeposition during laundering); development of multiple functional finishes for cotton; and discovery of a new cellulose ether for cotton.

Especially noted for his expertise in the development and application of flame retardants, Drake has presented more than a hundred papers at technical conferences not only in the United States but also in Canada, England, Scotland, France, Germany, Sweden, India, Thailand, Hong Kong, The Philippines, Taiwan, Korea and Japan.

Among credits that include some 240 technical papers, patents and other publications, he is the coauthor of two books on textile flammability, and the author or coauthor of portions of three other books on fire resistant textiles.

He frequently serves as a technical advisor to industry, government and educational institutions, and has served as an expert witness in a number of lawsuits involving flammability.

AATCC Activities

A member of AATCC since 1959, Drake has served in a number of posts at both local and national levels. He is currently serving a third two-year term as a national councilor for the Gulf Coast Section, and he is the current chairman of the association's Intersectional Technical Paper Competition.

He is also presently a member of the following national committees: RA56, Stain Resistance; RA82, Flammability and Fire Resistance; RA83, Soiling of Household Textiles Other Than Floor Coverings; and RA88, Home Laundering Technology.

He was chairman of the dining and entertainment committee for the association's 1967 national technical conference, and chairman of the technical program for the 1974 conference. Both were hosted at New Orleans by the Gulf Coast Section.

Other Activities

In addition to his AATCC activities, Drake holds membership in the American Chemical Society, The Fiber Society, the Scientific Research Society of North America, Gamma Sigma Epsilon (Honorary Chemical Fraternity, University of Georgia), Pi Mu Epsilon (Honorary Mathematics Fraternity, University of Georgia) and Sigma Xi (Scientific Research Society).

He is married to the former Jeanette Woodruff Pickens of Monroe, Ga., whom he met at the University of Georgia. The couple has two sons—George III who received a Master's Degree from Louisiana State University last month; and Lee who will enter law school at LSU this month.

An amateur magician, Drake frequently performs at hospitals for crippled children, at homes for the aged, and before other groups. ☺☺

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