

Philip Raup, 97, Agricultural Economist at University of Minnesota



Dr. Philip M. Raup of St. Paul, Minnesota, died on July 21 at the age of 97. He was a professor in the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics at the University of Minnesota, St. Paul campus, from 1953 until 1984. Following his retirement, he remained an active professor emeritus, participating in conferences until shortly before his death. Dr. Raup played an important role in post-World War II Germany in securing food supplies for the population of West Berlin. From the early 1950s to the 1980s, he studied and advised land reform efforts in countries ranging from the Philippines to Iran and El Salvador. A particular focus of his

work was on Soviet agriculture, and in 1958 he joined with several University of Minnesota professors on a groundbreaking interdisciplinary study trip to the USSR, one of the first openings after the peak of the Cold War. The next year, Soviet premier Nikita Khrushchev traveled to the United States, including a visit to an Iowa farm. The same U of M group returned again to the Soviet Union in 1968 and 1978 for follow-up studies. In the 1970s and '80s, Dr. Raup wrote on agricultural policy in Western Europe. Throughout his career he analyzed land tenure issues in the U.S. as a strong advocate of the family farm as against the growing domination of corporate farms.

Philip Raup was born and raised on a farm in western Kansas in January 1914, where his father was a pioneer in agricultural mechanization. Phil worked his way through college during the Great Depression by raising turkeys, receiving a B.A. in economics from the University of Kansas in 1939. He received an M.A. in agricultural economics from the University of Wisconsin in 1941 and a PhD in 1949. During World War II he served as an officer in the U.S. Naval Reserve supervising merchant marine shipping in the Atlantic. At the end of the war, he was among the first U.S. military administration teams to arrive in Berlin, Germany in July 1945, serving as chief land officer and acting chief of the food and agriculture branch of the U.S. military government of Germany from 1945 to 1949. Even as the Potsdam conference was going on, Raup and Soviet agricultural officers commandeered several tons of spinach seed which were immediately planted and harvested by late autumn, avoiding a looming danger of severe vitamin deficiency in the devastated German capital. This earned him "such monikers as the 'Spinach King' and the 'Berlin version of Popeye'," as the U.S. military government paper reported.

After working on reforming land holdings in the U.S. occupation zone of West Germany, Dr. Raup did his PhD thesis on *Land Reform in Post-War Germany: The Soviet Zone Experiment*. As an assistant professor of agricultural economics at the University of Wisconsin in Madison between 1949 and 1953, Dr. Raup served as secretary of the first World Land Tenure Conference and co-editor of the Proceedings, which posed land reform issues in Asia, Africa and Latin America. In subsequent years, he served as a consultant to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Rome, Italy, and as a guest professor at the Technical University of Berlin on several occasions. Following his retirement, he participated in U.S. Department of Agriculture and World Bank study missions to the USSR, Belarus and post-Soviet Russia.

Dr. Raup's studies encompassed Western Europe, East Europe and the former Soviet Union, North Africa and Asia, including India, Thailand and Taiwan. He continued to closely follow

developments in Iran and Libya up until his death. While writing on global issues, his views were always rooted in his own experience. In the U.S., he was concerned that economic developments posed a danger of losing the commitment to the family farm, embodied in such legislation as the 1862 Homestead and Land Grant College Acts, which in fact made possible his father's farm and his own education, as well as the very existence of state universities.

Testifying in U.S. Senate hearings on the economic role of giant corporations in March 1972, Dr. Raup argued that "there is no persuasive technological reason why farms should get bigger," and that the growth of agribusiness is largely due to tax policy, market control and land speculation. In addition, giant corporations can force the cost of environmental damage and pollution onto the public while exporting poverty by laying off workers without having to pay for their welfare, destroying the structure of rural communities so that "the symbol of the large corporate farm becomes the trailer house."

As part of his commitment to family farms, Dr. Raup published annual reports on the rural real estate market in Minnesota from 1954 through 1993. He took an active interest and participated in legislative commissions on tax policy. He was a member of the editorial board of *Land Economics* over a period of several decades as well as a leading member of the American Agricultural Economics Association. His career was the subject of a fellows' retrospective at the 1999 AAEA meetings. Dr. Raup received a President's Award for Outstanding Service to the University of Minnesota in 2007.

Professor Raup was above all an educator. He mentored several generations of graduate students, a number of whom received their PhDs under his supervision and are now dispersed across the globe in places as diverse as Nigeria, China, Germany and elsewhere. He was politically liberal with wide-ranging interests including everything from population growth to a love of modern architecture and opposition to "creationism" in his home state of Kansas.

Philip Raup was married to Marian Louise Getter in 1941, and after several years in postwar Berlin, from 1953 on the couple lived in the University Grove area of Falcon Heights. Their last years were spent at the Sunrise of Roseville, an assisted living community, where Marian died in June 2009. Marian was active in (including president of) Twin Cities Alliance Française. As a couple Phil and Marian were active in the United Nations Association of Minnesota, as well as being active congregants at the St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ. He is survived by his three children, Philip Jr., Martha and Gordon, by his grandchildren Christopher Raup, Kaarin MacKinnon and Joe Ward and great grandchildren Cosima Raup and Roswell MacKinnon. Another grandson, David Raup, died in 1994. Phil Raup will be missed by hundreds of former students, associates, colleagues, neighbors and family members whose lives he enriched.

Visitation will be from 4 to 8 p.m. on Saturday, July 30, at Roseville Memorial Chapel, 2245 Hamline Ave. North, Roseville, and from 1 to 2 p.m. on Sunday, July 31 at the St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ, 2129 Commonwealth Avenue, St. Paul, followed by a memorial service at the church at 2 p.m.

The Raup Family
22 July 2011

