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THE 1977 OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD

Roy Unruh

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Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613

The Iowa Science Teachers Section has selected Dr. Robert E. Yager, Professor of Science Education, and Head of the Science Education Department at the University of Iowa, as its recipient of this year's Outstanding Service Award. The award was initiated in 1970 to honor persons who had contributed significantly to the services of the Iowa Science Teachers Section and to the needs of Iowa science teachers. The award was presented at the evening dinner meeting of the Science Teachers Short Course, Ames, Iowa, on March 4, 1977.



Outstanding Service Award presentation to Robert Yager (left) from ISTS President, Roy Unruh (right).

Dr. Yager is widely known for his contributions to science education, not only in Iowa but throughout the United States. He is the director of Project ASSIST which has established centers in the State of Iowa from which services are rendered to school systems. Dr. Yager was actively involved in the Visiting Scientist Program from 1960-66. He served as editor of the *Iowa Science Teachers Journal* from 1963-75 which is the official publication of the Iowa Science Teachers Section.

Prior to 1963 the Iowa Science Teachers Association existed as an affiliate of the Iowa State Education Association and not the Iowa Academy of Science. At this time Dr. Yager served as Chairman of the Academy's Science

Teaching Committee. Together with Dr. Yager's leadership and the work of the officers of the Association, the Association and its entire membership was transformed into the Iowa Science Teachers Section of the Iowa Academy of Science.

In addition to serving the Iowa Academy of Science as its president in 1973-74, he has been heavily involved with the promotion of the Iowa Junior Academy of Science through funding from the National Science Foundation for a variety of student program activities. These activities have included research opportunities and field studies in various locations in the United States for secondary school students. Dr. Yager was also responsible for organizing the first Articulation Conference for Iowa two and four year college science teachers in 1966.

As evidence of Dr. Yager's influence in science education at the national level he has served the following national organizations as president: School Science and Mathematics, 1969-70; National Association of Biology Teachers, 1970-71; Association for the Education of Teachers in Science, 1973-74; and the National Association for Research in Science Teaching, 1974-75. He has also served on numerous boards associated with science education at the national level and has published nearly fifty papers in plant physiology and science education.

Dr. Yager, a native of Carroll, Iowa, received his baccalaureate degree from the University of Northern Iowa and his master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Iowa. Dr. Yager and his wife, Phyllis, have two children, Stuart and Laura. Dr. Yager's interest in plant physiology continues to be exemplified in his enthusiasm for gardening.

* * *

The Anti-Science Syndrome

“... the average person will be reluctant to admit that a work of art is beyond his level of comprehension; but he will, in the same breath and with certain pride, confess his complete ignorance of the principles which make his radio work; the forces which make the stars go round; the factors which determine the heredity of his children; and the location of his own viscera and glands.

One of the consequences of this attitude is that he utilizes the products of science and technology in a purely possessive, exploitive manner without comprehension or feeling. . . By being entirely dependent on science, yet closing his mind to it, he leads the life of an urban barbarian.”

Act of Creation
Arthur Koestler