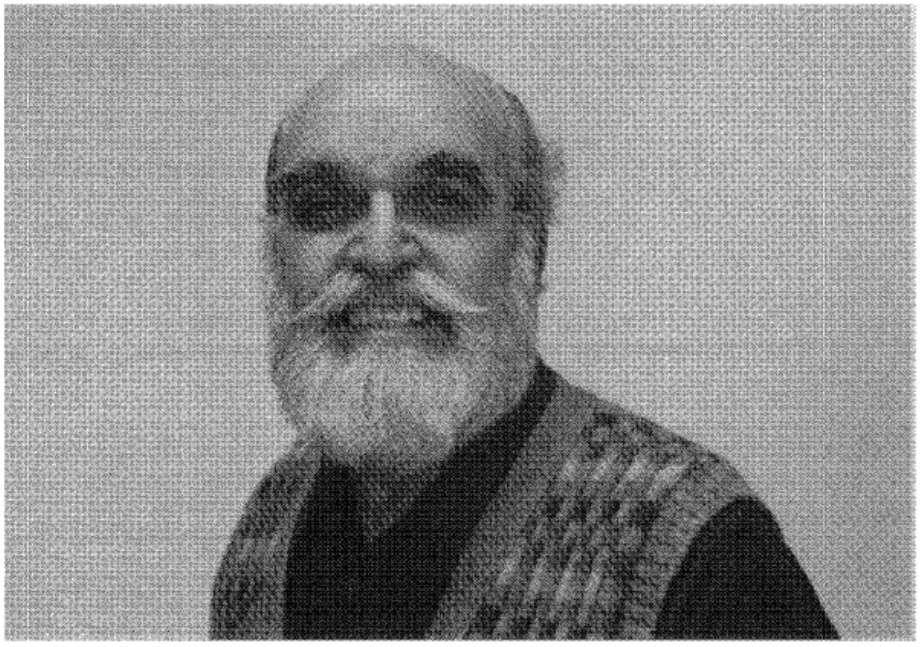
From the Oat Newsletter, volume 39, 1988:

JOHN (JACK) F. SCHAFER



John F. Schafer, Research Leader at the Cereal Rust Laboratory (USDA-ARS), University of Minnesota, retired August 31, 1987. He continues as a Collaborator at the Cereal Rust Lab and an Adjunct Professor in Plant Pathology at the University. Dr. Schafer first worked in plant pathology, on wheat bunt studies, as a high school student assistant to the late C. S. Holton at Pullman, WA, in 1936. Following graduate study in plant pathology and agronomy at the University of Wisconsin he began his professional career as an Assistant Professor of Plant Pathology at Purdue University, in 1949, advancing to Professor in 1958. Subsequently, he has served as Plant Pathology department chair at Kansas State and Washington State Universities and, briefly, Integrated Pest Management Coordinator for the USDA Science and Education Administration and Acting National Research Program Leader in Plant Health for ARS, prior to joining the Cereal Rust Lab.

During 19 years at Purdue, Dr. Schafer was co-leader of a research team that developed 30 disease-resistant cultivars of small grain crops, including the oat cultivars, Bentland, Clintford, Clintland, Clintland 60, Clintland 64, Diana, Dubois, Newton, Norline, Putnam, Putnam 61, Tippecanoe, and Tyler. Several of these cultivars were resistant to crown rust, stem rust, and smut and some provided a degree of protection from the yellow dwarf virus. They were particularly noted for their resistance to lodging and physical grain quality. This research team was featured with other oat breeders in the 1961 edition of the ASA monograph Oats and Oat Improvement.

Dr. Schafer taught the general graduate course in plant pathology for many years, and was the plant pathology advisor to numerous Purdue plant breeding graduate students. As a department head he initiated and developed funding for research programs in wheat streak mosaic resistance; remote sensing; resistance to barley yellow dwarf, leaf rust, and dwarf bunt of wheat; and biological control of weed pests.

While on sabbatical leave at Duquesne University in 1965-66, Dr. Schafer participated in ultrastructural investigation of wheat rust infections in the research program of Drs. Howard and Mary Ehrlich. With his Purdue associates, he earlier demonstrated that a high rate of mutation to virulence occurred in the crown rust fungus. Later, at the Cereal Rust Lab he co-proposed a possible theoretical basis for obtaining more durable resistance from pyramiding rust resistance genes.

Dr. Schafer is a long-time member of ASA and CSSA and a past-president and fellow of The American Phytopathological Society. He has authored or co-authored over 200 publications and technical reports and co-authored a section "Genetic Resistance for Crop Protection" in the ASA Modern Crop Science Series book Introduction to Crop Protection in 1979, and was the author of a section "Rusts, Smuts, and Powdery Mildew" in the second edition of the ASA monograph Wheat and Wheat Improvement in 1987.

He and his wife, Joyce, remain in St. Paul participating in University activities and enjoying opportunities for travel.