

JAMES D. SMITH

on his retirement

**An appreciation
by David Hole***

James D. Smith has been known to students and colleagues simply as JD for as long as any of us can remember. JD was born on December 14, 1927 to Stuart N. and Ann Smith on a Paullina, Iowa farm. He began his scientific career under the tutelage of his father in the cornfield when he began pollinating

father was also mayor in Ames, Iowa, and the town showed its esteem for him by naming one of the city parks, the Stuart Smith Park, after him. JD graduated from Ames High in 1946 and played guard on the Central Iowa championship football team – a feat made more remarkable because he couldn't see



JAMES D. SMITH (JD)

corn for ten cents an hour at the age of 11. His father obtained his Ph.D. with Dr. E. W. Lindstrom in the Genetics Dept. at Iowa State College. Soon after, he became a breeder of sweet corn and owned a sweet corn firm which was later acquired by Asgrow. JD's

without his glasses, and the goggles he wore kept fogging up.

JD was mentored in his graduate work by Professors Peter Peterson and Joseph O'Mara at Iowa State College, later, Iowa State University. His Ph.D. thesis included a luteus mutant (chromosome 4) that originated in the Bikini-A-Bomb tests and was uncovered in the screening of this material by Dr. E. G. Anderson at the California Institute of Technology. His

* Plants, Soils, and Biometeorology, Utah State University, Logan, UT 84322, U.S.A..



FIGURE 1 - JD's lab in the old animal industries building could get pretty crowded (circa 1969). Individuals are: 1. Jim Fuchs, 2. Lucille Young (Technician), 3. & 4. Student workers, 5. Clint Magill, 6. Rich Stockert, 7. John Womak, 8. Gerry O'Donovan, 9. Ted Rosario, 10. JD.

