

GRANT F. WALTON
(1924-1988)



Grant F. Walton on Prince Patrick Island, 1965.

Grant F. Walton, Professor Emeritus, Rutgers University, died on August 4, 1988. He was born in Philadelphia in 1924. After completing his B.Sc. and M.Sc. degrees at Rutgers University, he worked for various conservation and land use organizations in New Jersey. In the early 1960s he joined the faculty at Rutgers, where he taught introductory soils and land use planning.

While pursuing his Ph.D. degree at Rutgers University he wrote his thesis on soils of the High Arctic. Accordingly, he made studies in Alaska, Prince Patrick Island, Bathurst Island, Cornwallis Island, Banks Island, Baffin Island, the Hudson Bay area, northern Greenland and Siberia. His Ph.D. thesis was a comprehensive (480 pages) circumpolar treatment of soil zonation and soil geography in the High Arctic. He was particularly interested in the effect of glaciation and isostatic rebound on the soil pattern.

It became evident to the university during the late 1960s and early 1970s that Dr. Walton also had considerable organizational and administrative talents. Accordingly, he formed and became chairman of the Environmental Resources Department. In 1972 he went on a one-year university leave to become the first director of the Department of Environmental Protection for the State of New Jersey. Shortly after returning to Rutgers University he was appointed dean of Cook College and director of the

New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, a dual post he held for eight years.

After a sabbatical year at the Scott Polar Research Institute in Cambridge, England, in the early 1980s, he returned to the Environmental Resources Department at Rutgers. He was immediately asked to serve as interim director of the newly formed Technology Extension Center for Aquaculture and Fisheries at Rutgers. When he retired in 1987 he held the title of Professor II (Distinguished Professor).

He was a member of Alpha Zeta, Sigma Xi, Soil Science Society of America, Arctic Institute of North America, American Polar Society, Soil Conservation Society of America, among others. Among his signal awards were the Rutgers Medal, the George H. Cook Award and the Gold Medallion of the New Jersey Agricultural Society.

He is survived by his wife, Joan Heusser Walton, sons, Daniel and Matthew, and daughter, Beth Walton Best.

*J.C.F. Tedrow
Rutgers University
Cook College
Department of Environmental Resources
New Brunswick, New Jersey 08903
U.S.A.*