

NECROLOGY

**Blanton Mercer Bruner**

The Academy is saddened to announce to its members the death of Blanton Bruner. Those of us who knew and worked with him as our Executive Secretary-Treasurer, knew of him as a thoughtful, meticulous and skillful force in the Academy. We truly missed him when he retired from Academy service. The following is the Richmond Times-Dispatch news obituary from, Thursday, February 3, 2000, page B3, By Jenifer V. Buckman, Times-dispatch Staff Writer (Reproduced by Permission, Richmond Times-dispatch)

A memorial service for Blanton Mercer Bruner, former executive secretary of the Virginia Academy of Science, will be held Thursday at 2 p.m. at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 6004 Three Chopt Road. Burial will be private.

Mr. Bruner, also a retired American Tobacco Co. executive, died Saturday at the age of 95.

Mr. Bruner, a Richmond native, joined the tobacco firm's department of research and development in 1928. That year he also became a member of the Virginia Academy of Science. He worked for American Tobacco for 31 years and at his retirement was director of technical information and community relations coordinator.

In that role, Mr. Bruner served as a director of the National Tobacco Festival and led the company's civic involvement in the local Red Cross, the March of Dimes and the American Heart Association. He was also a former director of the Richmond Thanksgiving Festival.

After his retirement, he began a second career with the Virginia Academy of Science in 1967 as business manager of the Virginia Journal of Science and later as Executive Secretary-Treasurer. He served in that post until 1996 and retired at the age of 91.

He was named a Fellow of the Academy and was given the Distinguished Service Award from the Virginia Junior Academy of Science. In 1992, the 14,000 (sic) member academy, awarded him its highest honor, the Ivey F. Lewis Distinguished Service Award.

A 1926 graduate of the College of William and Mary, Mr. Bruner, a chemist, was a member of numerous professional organizations including The American Chemical Society, The Virginia State Chamber of Commerce, Richmond Chamber of Commerce and Richmond Public Relations Association.

Mr. Bruner was the widower of Alice Massey Bruner, who died in 1980. Survivors include two daughters; Sandra Bruner Hague and Carol Bruner Fleet, both of Richmond; a sister, Elizabeth Bruner Smith of Roanoke; four grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.