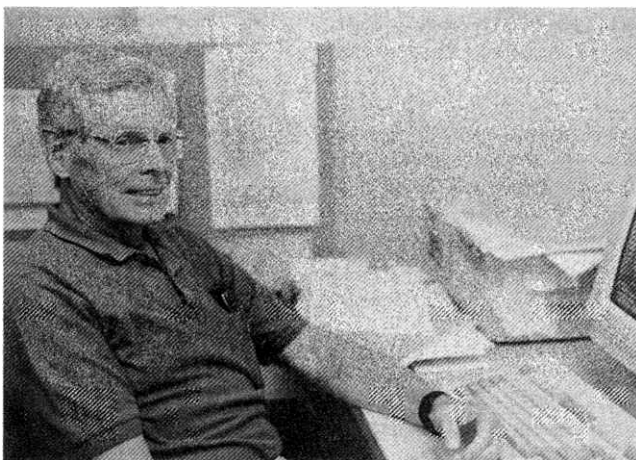


In Memoriam
RICHARD L. HOLMES
1934–2003



For nearly four decades Richard L. Holmes was a colleague and good friend to faculty, staff, students, and visitors, at the University of Arizona's Laboratory of Tree-Ring Research until his passing on July 8. Richard began as a student assistant in the early 1960s. In the 1970s he was a key team member of Dr. Valmore LaMarche's field work in South America. Through the 1980s and 1990s Richard worked with Dr. Harold Fritts and many other professors in Tucson. Throughout Richard's long tree-ring career he developed friendships and collaborations with scientists working at other laboratories in many countries. Richard was, perhaps more than anyone else, a member of the international dendrochronological community. His final illness resulted in cancellation of a trip to Barcelona, but he had extensively worked in tree-ring labs in Argentina (Mendoza), Germany (Hamburg), as well as in the USA (both Lamont-Doherty and LTRR). He traveled extensively for non-dendrochronological purposes, working in Mexico, and returning from one of several vacations in Costa Rica just a few months ago.

Although he participated in several important fieldwork projects (including helping establish Professor Fritts' pioneering chronology network in the

western US), Richard's most significant contributions were to data analysis, culminating in the dendrochronology program library, which has for many years been presented as the standard toolkit for manipulating chronologies from the International Tree-Ring Databank. In part, this consists of pre-existing tools such as Ed Cook's ARSTAN, but Richard contributed many irreplaceable components (most notably the COFECHA quality control program), and reworked everything to a uniform style. He was responsive to the innumerable requests for improvements and updates, and would not only collaborate with people using the programs in their own work, but also worked with them himself as a participant in many projects in dendroclimatology.

Above all else, he will be remembered here for his kindness and generosity, the generations of graduate students that have benefited from his advice, and the much higher value he placed on human friendship than material possessions. He has many friends both here and elsewhere who will be sad that he is gone. A celebration of his life was held on July 20 in Tucson.

—Contributed by Martin Munro
and Tom Swetnam