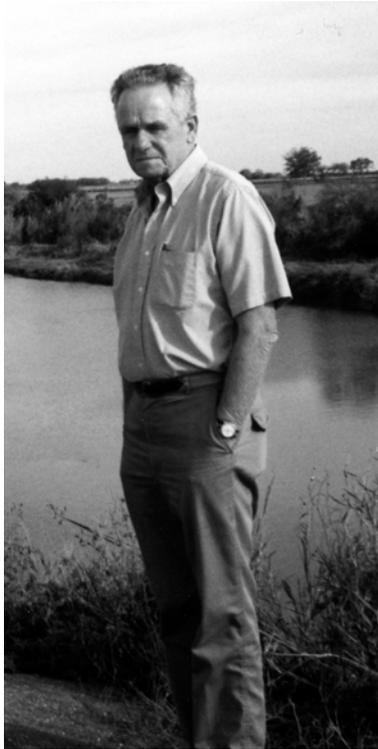


**In Memoriam**  
**JAMES ESTILL IRVINE**  
**February 2, 1928 - May 3, 2004**



After confronting his cancer for more than two years, James Estill Irvine, 76, peacefully succumbed to the malady at his Golden Palms residence in Harlingen, Texas, Monday, May 3, 2004.

This native of Charlottesville, Virginia was born there February 2, 1928. In passing he leaves behind his wife of 52 ½ years, Martha Memory Speer Irvine, two daughters, Mrs. Virginia Campo of Hammond, Louisiana and Dr. Diane Duncan of Fort Collins, Colorado, son Frank S. Irvine of Montegut, Louisiana, and five grandchildren.

Before going on to college, Jim Irvine entered the army at age 17 ½ and for 2 ½ years served primarily in the 11th Airborne Division. In 1951, he was graduated from the University of Miami with a B.S. degree and a major in biology. He stayed on to be awarded a M.S. degree in the same discipline. Concurrent with instructing at two Virginia colleges, he completed his PhD. requirements in 1957 for a major in biology at the University of Virginia.

Irvine then commenced a professional career which would eventually take him around the world. Nine years were spent as a USDA plant physiologist in Puerto Rico and Houma, Louisiana. At the U.S. Sugarcane Field Station in Houma, he was then promoted to Superintendent/Director. For eighteen years, 1966-84, he held these positions. With a total of 27 years with the USDA, Dr. Irvine then retired from this entity. His next

four years were spent as a technical advisor to Copersucar, Brasil, that country's largest sugarcane consortium. South Texas was then fortunate to benefit from the knowledge, experience, and services of this researcher and communicator. For more than a decade at the Texas A & M University Experiment Station, Weslaco, he helped the area's sugarcane industry remain strong and viable. For a period he was the station's acting director.

Dr. Irvine was known around the world, for he visited/consulted in Puerto Rico, Pakistan, Morocco, Nigeria, Iran, India, Colombia, Cuba, Argentina, Thailand, Myamar (Burma), Hawaii, El Salvador, Mexico, Costa Rica, Mauritius, South Africa, the West Indies, and Indonesia, where he nearly died after contracting typhoid fever. If someone in the world of sugar did not know him personally, he was known through over 145 science papers which he authored or co-authored or through his voluminous correspondence. For many years he served on the panel of referees for the *International Sugar Journal*, *Sugar Cane*, and other society journals.

Many of his friends and associates will remember him best for his mentoring and his admirable personality traits. These included amiability, dependability, his strong work ethic, tact and civility, innovativeness and creativity, helpfulness, dedication, and possession of a great sense of dry humor.

Dr. Irvine was recognized in his long career by the many professional societies of which he was a member. The ASSCT and ISSCT were among the professional societies of which he was a member. He was one of the conceivers of the International Consortium of Sugarcane Biotechnology and was first ad-honorem secretary of it. In 1999, the Inter-American Sugar Cane Seminar recognized him for his outstanding contributions to the world of sugar.

Upon his retirement, he and his wife took great pleasure in their long-time hobby of bird watching and their volunteer work for nature reserves. Even in retirement, he always remained available to assist growers and researchers in overcoming problems.