

Proceedings of the Iowa Academy of Science

Volume 66 | Annual Issue

Article 7

1959

In Memoriam: Louis Begeman; Edmund W. Cheng; Frank A. Stromsten; Orland R. Sweeney; Robert Bradford Wylie

Let us know how access to this document benefits you

Copyright ©1959 Iowa Academy of Science, Inc.

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.uni.edu/pias>

Recommended Citation

(1959) "In Memoriam: Louis Begeman; Edmund W. Cheng; Frank A. Stromsten; Orland R. Sweeney; Robert Bradford Wylie," *Proceedings of the Iowa Academy of Science*, 66(1), 67-73.

Available at: <https://scholarworks.uni.edu/pias/vol66/iss1/7>

This General Interest Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Iowa Academy of Science at UNI ScholarWorks. It has been accepted for inclusion in Proceedings of the Iowa Academy of Science by an authorized editor of UNI ScholarWorks. For more information, please contact scholarworks@uni.edu.

IN MEMORIAM

LOUIS BEGEMAN

1865-1958

Dr. Louis Begeman, Professor Emeritus of Physics at Iowa State Teachers College, passed away May 18, 1958, at Cedar Falls, Iowa. Dr. Begeman

joined the faculty in 1899 as an instructor in physics and in 1912 became Head of the Department of Physics and Chemistry, in which capacity he served until his retirement in 1935. He continued to serve the college on a part-time basis until shortly before his death, thus completing a service to the college of nearly sixty years.



Dr. Begeman was born in Evansville, Indiana, March 1, 1865. He graduated from Evansville High School in 1882. He taught in rural schools from 1883 to 1895. From 1895 to 1899 he was professor of physics and chemistry at Parsons College, Fairfield, Iowa, after which he came to Iowa State Teachers College. As already indicated, he served the college for the remainder of his life.

He was married to Magdalene Thuman of Evansville, Indiana, in 1892. She died in 1906, and in 1915

he was married to Mary Alice Whitworth, who died in 1957. He is survived by one son, Dr. Myron Begeman, Professor of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Texas, and a daughter, Mrs. Ralph Jourdan of Ridgewood, New Jersey.

Dr. Begeman received the B.S. degree from the University of Michigan in 1889 and the M.S. degree from the same institution in 1897. He later continued his graduate work at the University of Chicago and received the Ph.D. degree, *magna cum laude*, in 1910. While at the University of Chicago he studied with the distinguished physicist and Nobel Prize winner in physics, Dr. Robert Millikan. His doctoral dissertation was entitled "The Determination of the Charge of the Electron." This was at the beginning of the research in this field, a field of physics which has developed new concepts of the nature of matter. Dr. Begeman can well be considered a pioneer in the study of the electron and its properties.

Dr. Begeman was a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science; a Fellow of the Iowa Academy of Science, serving as its president in 1911-1912; a member of the Central Association of Science and Mathematics Teachers; and a member of the Iowa State Teachers Association. He is listed in *Who's Who in America* and in *American Men of Science*. He was the author of *Principles of Physics*, published in 1922, and *Everyday Physical Science*, published in 1923. He contributed numerous scientific articles to various journals.

Dr. Begeman was a forceful and inspiring teacher who demanded of his students work of a high grade and who was always fair and considerate of the opinions of students. His scholarly teaching and personality made a lasting impression on all who were privileged to have studied with him.

E. J. CABLE
C. W. LANTZ
H. A. RIEBE

EDMUND W. CHENG

1916-1958

Edmund W. Cheng, assistant professor of animal husbandry at Iowa State University, died near Iowa City on October 6, 1958, as the result of an automobile accident. Cheng was born in

Tsungkao, China, on November 24, 1916. He received the B.S. degree in biology from Southwest Associated University in China in 1940. Also while in China he received the M.S. degree in physiology from Tsing Hua University in 1943. On July 17, 1940, he was married to Dorothy Wei Cheng who survives him, as well as his mother and four brothers.



Edmund, or "Ed" as he was familiarly known to his friends, came to Iowa State University in 1946 as a graduate student in animal husbandry where he earned the M.S. degree in 1948 and the Ph.D. degree in animal nutrition in 1952. He joined the animal husbandry staff as a research associate in ruminant nutrition in 1951 and advanced to the rank of assistant professor in 1956. He was the author of more than 30 scientific papers, the majority of which

dealt with rumen physiology and the nutritional significance of estrogens in fattening cattle and lamb production.

Cheng was a member of the Presbyterian Church in Ames, Iowa. He was a member of a number of honorary and professional societies, including Sigma Xi, Phi Kappa Phi, Phi Lambda Upsilon, American Society of Animal Production, American Dairy Science Association, American Chemical Society, Iowa Academy of Science, New York Academy of Science, and the Society for Experimental Biology and Medicine.

His ability as a scientist in the laboratory and his friendly desire to assist graduate students and fellow associates made him a real champion to those he contacted. His untimely death marks the end of an outstanding scientific career and a real loss to those engaged in ruminant nutrition.

FRANK A. STROMSTEN

1872-1958

With the death of Associate Professor Emeritus Frank A. Stromsten, on November 26, 1958, Iowa lost the services of a devoted teacher and scholar.



Frank Stromsten was born at Corydon, Iowa, on April 5, 1872. He received his bachelor's degree from the State University of Iowa in 1900. For the next two years he held a fellowship in the Department of Animal Morphology and Physiology, under Professor Houser. After receiving his Master's degree in 1902, he served one year as an assistant instructor. For the next two years he held a fellowship at Princeton, from which institution he received the Sc.D. degree in 1905. He returned to Iowa to accept an instructorship in the newly formed Zoology department. In 1910 he was promoted to the rank of assistant professor, and in 1919 he was promoted to the rank of associate professor. He retired to half-time status in 1942.

Professor Stromsten's doctoral dissertation, published promptly after the award of his degree, was concerned with the anatomy and development of the venous system of turtles. Additional studies on this and closely related aspects of circulatory development, particularly the lymphatics, occupied his interest for many years. In 1910 he married Grace Swaney. They spent many summer sessions at the Iowa Lakeside Laboratory, during which Dr. Stromsten carried out a series of important limnological studies. Other published research from the laboratory at Lake Okoboji included the often-cited paper on "Nest digging and egg

laying habits of Bell's turtle". Over the years 1923 through 1926 he was acting director of the Lakeside Laboratory.

His major teaching assignments always included comparative and mammalian anatomy, and for a time histology as well. At the graduate level he offered seminars each term in vertebrate morphology. In connection with his meticulous scholarship in this field he revised Davison's *Mammalian Anatomy*, and saw this book through many additional revisions, the last in 1947. Dr. Stromsten was a member of The Society of the Sigma Xi, The American Association for the Advancement of Science, The American Association of Anatomists, and The Iowa Academy of Science.

Professor Stromsten was always gentle and kindly. He felt a personal involvement in the teaching process, which was expressed in unusual sympathy for the student and his problems. He had a love of teaching far beyond the ordinary, and after his retirement taught at both graduate and undergraduate levels continuously until the time of his serious illness in May, 1957. He was involved in departmental work each semester without regard to the intermittent periods of his appointments. His illness in 1957 led, finally, to an amputation of his left leg above the knee. Despite his advanced age he made a remarkable recovery, although he was never quite able to walk again. He faced his new situation courageously, but his inactivity was a trial to him.

He was preceded in death by his son, John, in 1945, and by his wife in February, 1958. His daughter, Mrs. Thomas Parsons, and three grandchildren survive. He was buried at Corydon.

His colleagues and friends will remember him with affection.

R. L. KING
E. WITSCHI
J. J. KOLLROS

ORLAND R. SWEENEY

1883-1958

The death of Orland R. Sweeney, former head of the Chemical Engineering Department, Iowa State College, took from the world an educator and research



worker known not only on the campus but over the whole country for his technical competence, original ideas, and attractive and forceful personality. He was admired and loved by his many students as well as countless other friends both on and off the campus. He was not simply interested in training students well but kept deep personal interest in them after they left the college. He also felt a strong obligation to aid in both the industrial and agricultural development of his adopted state.

Professor Sweeney was born March 27, 1883, at Martins Ferry, Ohio. He received his Bachelor of Science degree from Ohio State University, in 1909, followed by the Master's degree in 1910. He was awarded the Doctor of Philosophy degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1916.

He was an instructor in chemical engineering at Ohio State University in 1910 and at the University of Pennsylvania from 1910 to 1916. From 1916 to 1919 he was associate professor of industrial chemistry at North Dakota Agricultural College. He was head of the chemical engineering department at the University of Cincinnati from 1919 to 1920. In 1920 he became head of the newly established independent department of chemical engineering at Iowa State College, which position he held until his retirement in 1947. He was largely responsible for making the department the first one west of the Mississippi River to be accredited by the American Institute of Chemical Engineers.

During World War I, as an army major, he designed, built, and operated a chlorpicrin plant, the first of its kind in the United States, at Edgewood Arsenal. During World War II, he was a consultant to the chemical branch of the War Production Board in Washington, D. C.

Among other research problems he initiated an extensive research program at Iowa State on the utilization of agricultural by-products, as well as studies on water softening and solvent extraction of vegetable oils. This work resulted in numerous publications and patents, as well as the establishment of

new manufacturing plants. He was a consultant on various industrial operations and a director of the Iowa Coal Institute.

Dr. Sweeney was a member of various professional and honor societies including the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, American Chemical Society, Iowa Engineering Society, Iowa Academy of Science, Sigma Xi, Phi Lambda Upsilon, and Tau Beta Pi. He was a Mason and a member of the Presbyterian Church.

In 1920 he was married to Louella Smith. In addition to his wife, he is survived by two daughters, Mrs. Elizabeth Jester and Mrs. Jacqueline Kloss.

L. K. ARNOLD

H. A. WEBBER

ROBERT BRADFORD WYLIE

1870-1959

Professor Robert Bradford Wylie was born in Maquoketa, Iowa, on March 28, 1870, and died in Iowa City, Iowa, on June 9, 1959. He had been a member of the State University of Iowa faculty for fifty-three years.



Professor Wylie received his B.S. degree from Upper Iowa University in 1897 and his Ph.D. degree (*magna cum laude*) from the University of Chicago in 1904. He was awarded the LL.D. degree from Upper Iowa in 1925. He served as instructor of biology at Morningside College, 1897 to 1899, when he entered the University of Chicago. He was a fellow in botany at Chicago, 1900 to 1904. Returning to Morningside College in 1904, he taught there until 1906 when he was appointed assistant professor of botany at the State University of Iowa. He became professor in 1908, was named head of the department in 1919, and served in that capacity until he retired in 1940 as professor emeritus.

During summers away from Iowa, Professor Wylie taught at Eastern State Normal School (1901), the Marine Biological Laboratory at Woods Hole (1905), and at Friday Harbor Marine Biological Laboratory (1903, 1913, 1929). In 1913 he was associated with the U. S. kelp survey to find new sources of potash and iodine in the seaweeds along the southeast coast of Alaska. He was a member of the University of Iowa Fiji-New Zealand expedition in 1923. He served as director of the Iowa Lakeside Laboratory, 1919 to 1923.

Professor Wylie was actively interested in state and national botanical and scientific organizations. Becoming a member of the Iowa Academy of Science in 1901, he served as president (1922-1923), was active in various other capacities, and in 1956 received the highest honor of the Academy when he was made an Honorary Fellow. Professor Wylie published nearly sixty major papers on cytological and morphological subjects as well as a number of shorter articles. He was internationally known for his critical descriptive and quantitative work on wound responses, tissue organization and venation of foliage leaves. He was a faithful member of the Methodist church and of many botanical and honorary societies.

Survivors include his widow, Ada Blatherwick Wylie, one daughter, Mrs. H. Floyd Phelps, and four grandchildren. Two brothers also survive, Scott of Maquoketa and Clyde of Boise, Idaho. A third brother preceded him in death.

Statements by University officials reflect the high esteem in which Professor Wylie was held and it is fitting that excerpts from these tributes should constitute a part of this memorial note. President Virgil M. Hancher said, "His teaching and research and wise insights enriched the lives of many generations of students and endeared him to friends and colleagues within and outside the University. They constitute a rich contribution to the life and thought of this institution, which he loved so well and served so faithfully."

Dean Walter F. Loehwing, of the Graduate College of the University, wrote, "Professor Wylie was well known as an outstanding teacher, both for introductory and advanced courses at the University, and as a distinguished scholar of international reputation.

"He was the third head of the botany department, following Professors Thomas Houston McBride and Bohumil Shimek. During his long term as head of the department, Professor Wylie further developed its excellent reputation.

"Professor Wylie was a man of great personal charm and unusual generosity. He took a warm interest in his students, both graduate and undergraduate. His passing represents a great loss to the University and to the community."

Professor Wylie was especially respected and loved by his many graduate students for his high ideals, great personal integrity, and his unflinching, good humored patience with their problems. His students remain as a living monument to his greatness.

H. L. DEAN