Memorial Resolution for Associate Professor Harold W. Knutsen

The many friends of Harold Waldemar Knutsen deeply mourn his death which occurred on July 28, 1962. His association with the University extended back nearly 40 years as student, part-time instructor and member of the Faculty.

Harold Knutsen was born in Milwaukee on December 20, 1904, the son of Christian Jorgen Knutsen and Martha Thorsen Knutsen. In 1923 he enrolled as an engineering student at the University of Wisconsin Extension Division in Milwaukee, but, in 1925, because of financial difficulties, he was forced to interrupt his formal education. There followed a period of uncertain employment until in 1927 he became an engineer with the Harbor Commission of the City of Milwaukee where he was employed until 1946. During these years Mr. Knutsen continued his education, and in 1944, Marquette University awarded him the degree of Bachelor of Civil Engineering. Meanwhile his competence as an engineer was recognized by the Wisconsin Registration Board of Architects and Professional Engineers which certified him, in 1942, as a registered Professional Engineer.

Mr. Knutsen's life was greatly influenced by the admiration and respect he held for his teachers. Thus it was natural for him to develop a hope that he might someday be able to utilize his technical knowledge in the field of teaching. His longing to teach found expression, during his employment with the Harbor Commission, in the opportunity to teach an early morning class in mathematics at the University of Wisconsin Extension Division. He would then hurry the few blocks to the City Hall to begin his day's work as an engineer.

In 1946, with the rank of Instructor, Harold Knutsen began to realize his dream of devoting his life to teaching. At first with the University of Wisconsin Extension Division, and continuing with the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee, he taught engineering students. His versatility and wide range of knowledge in the field of engineering are attested to by his being chosen to teach such varied subjects as engineering drawing, statics, dynamics, strength of materials, railway surveying, mathematics, and graduate courses in mechanics.

During his tenure at the University, Mr. Knutsen was promoted to Assistant Professor in 1948, earned the M.S. degree in Engineering Mechanics at the University of Wisconsin in 1953, became Associate Professor Mechanics in 1959, and at the time of his death was Chairman of the Department of Mechanics and Mechanical Engineering at the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee.

His busy life in the academic world was paralleled by a busy life in the community and in his profession. He was treasurer and vestryman of St. Luke's Episcopal Church, a member of the examining board of the Stationary Engineers Licensing Commission, an associate member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, and held membership in the Engineers' Society of Milwaukee, The Society of American Military Engineers, and the American Society for Engineering Education.

To those of his family who mourn his loss, his wife Gertrude, his daughter Karla, and his sons Victor and Neil, this faculty and its members extend their deepest sympathy.

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