MEMORIAL RESOLUTION FOR LUCILE EVANS SWENSDEN

Lucile Evans Swennden, Emeritus Associate Professor of Biology, died September 10, 1970, of cancer at the age of 74, in Salem, Oregon. When she retired in June, 1956, she had completed 27 years of teaching biology at the Wisconsin State College, Milwaukee, a predecessor of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Professor Swensden was born in Ada, Michigan, on August 18, 1896. Most of her youth, however, was spent in Milwaukee, Wisconsin where she attended West Division High School and the Milwaukee-Downer Seminary. She received an A.B. degree from the Milwaukee Downer College (now merged with Lawrence University of Wisconsin, Appleton) in 1920. Graduate study took her to the campus of the University of Chicago where she received the M.S. degree in 1925. Further graduate work was carried out at the University of Chicago and Marquette University.

Her teaching career began in 1920 at Wausau High School. Three years later she accepted a position at the Oshkosh High School where she taught for five years and became chairman of the Biology Department. In 1929 she accepted a position as a biology teacher at the former State Teachers College, Milwaukee, where she remained until her retirement. While here she taught courses in botany, zoology, evolution, ferns and their allies, history of biology, economic plant geography and methods of teaching biology. She also served on many faculty committees and, with many others, assisted in the growth of this institution through the successive stages of Teachers College, Wisconsin State College and the present University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Throughout her tenure, and despite poor health and caring for an invalid mother for many years, Professor Swensden found time to maintain an active interest in a number of educational and scientific organizations in her academic field. She was a long-time member of the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters, and served as a judge of Junior Academy talent contests. Other organizations with which she was affiliated include: American Association for the Advancement of Science, American Fern Society, American Nature Society, Botanical Society of America, National Audubon Society, National Education Association, Sullivant Moss Society, Wisconsin Education Association, Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, Milwaukee Entomological Society and the National Association of Biology Teachers. In the last listed organization she held the offices of first and second vice president, national membership chairman and state membership chairman.

In addition to serving the University faithfully, she had deep religious convictions and a fine sensitivity for human relations. For eleven years she was an advisor to the Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship group on this campus. Through this organization she met many foreign students and enjoyed working with them. She also taught American citizenship classes for immigrants. One of her students, who worked as a laborer with a pick and shovel for most of his life, was taught how to hold a pencil and to write his name using a wax stencil. Many others of different nationalities were instructed and advised in good citizenship conduct.

Retirement for Professor Swensden meant greater participation in religious work. In Vallejo, California she became active in the Billy Graham Crusade and served as chairman of the Solano County Cottage Prayer Group. She also was active in the Christian Business and Professional Women's Council of Vallejo and conducted weekly religion classes for children in public schools in the Released Time Religious Education Program. After moving to Salem, Oregon, in 1964, and in
spite of increasingly failing health, she continued her Bible teaching and Christian Fellowship work until her death. Her husband, Harold, cites this scripture reading (2 Timothy 4:7-8) to characterize her life:

"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith; henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day."

To those who have known Lucile, there will always be a deep loss of her vibrant faith, patience and her devotion to others of all ages. Her colleagues and friends extend to her husband, Harold, their sincere sympathy and their appreciation for her service to this University.

Memorial Resolution Committee

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