MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

FOR

PROFESSOR HERBERT W. WESLE

Herbert W. Wesle, Professor of Civil Engineering and a member of the University faculty for 38 years, died of a stroke at the age of 83 on November 8, 1971. He had retired in 1959, having continued, at the request of the administration, beyond the usual retirement age.

Professor Wesle was born in Medford, Wisconsin, and graduated from the University of Wisconsin in 1915 with a degree in Civil Engineering, having majored in Hydraulics. He worked as a computer, draftsman, and hydrographer on the Miami River Valley flood control project at Dayton, Ohio. He regarded this project proudly and viewed it as a wiser venture than the later development of the Tennessee River Valley. He also worked for the Union Pacific Railroad. He served in the U.S. Army Engineers ordnance and artillery corps during World War I and until 1921.

After his term in service, he joined the Milwaukee Extension Division as an instructor of surveying theory and field practice. He saw the Extension Division move from rented quarters on Van Buren Street, to Second Street, and finally to their own buildings on the Civic Center Campus. During the 38 years of his service, he taught all of the surveying classes.

From 1921 to 1952, Professor Wesle spent each summer with the Civil Engineering Department from the Madison campus at a summer camp at Devils Lake, teaching advanced surveying. The hazards in that area provided him and Mrs. Wesle with material for anecdotes which were more amusing in retrospect than in reality.

Professor Wesle exemplified to the ultimate the saying that a teacher's duty is to teach, not to be popular. Nevertheless many students long after graduation so appreciated his insistence on excellence that they sought him out to express their gratitude and tell him how he had helped them. Naturally this was a great source of gratification to him. There are few teachers who will be so long remembered as Professor Wesle.

Joseph G. Baier
Leonard F. Hillis
Elisabeth K. Holmes
Lee E. Lawrence
Raymond Myers
James G. Van Vleet