Memorial Resolution

Professor Ross Bardell

We have the sad duty to report to the faculty the death of one of the leading figures of the pre-merger days. Ross Harvey Bardell, Emeritus Professor of Mathematics, died in Milwaukee on May 20, 1974.

Ross Bardell was born June 10, 1903 in Chester, South Dakota. He studied at the Madison South Dakota High School from 1917 to 1921 and then enrolled in the University of South Dakota, which awarded him a B.S. degree in electrical engineering in 1925. He then went to the University of Chicago, receiving a Master's degree in Mathematics in 1926, after which he returned to the University of South Dakota to become an instructor of mathematics for one year.

He resumed his graduate studies at the University of Chicago in 1927. Ultimately, in 1936, he was awarded a doctoral degree in the subject of Calculus of Variations under the late Professor Gilbert A. Bliss. His doctoral studies had been prolonged because of the necessity of supporting himself through full time teaching. He served as a mathematics instructor at Northwestern University from 1928 to 1935 and at the Milwaukee Extension Division from 1935 to 1938. In 1938 the Milwaukee Extension Division promoted him to Assistant Professor of Mathematics; in 1946 to Associate Professor and in 1951 to Professor of Mathematics.

In 1940, when Dr. George Parkinson was called to active duty in the U.S. Navy, Ross Bardell took over Parkinson's two responsibilities: Chairman of the Mathematics Department and Assistant Director of the Milwaukee Extension Center. Subsequently in 1942, on the retirement of the then director, Dr. Charles Purin, Bardell was appointed Acting Director. As top administrator he was well liked by the faculty. Under his direction a number of war programs were initiated. He attempted to change the name of the Milwaukee Center to the more appropriate one of University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee, but this move was opposed by the Madison administration. Indeed, the University is indebted to Ross Bardell for maintaining the vitality of the institution when the future did not look promising.

At the end of the war in 1945, Parkinson returned to the position of Director of the Milwaukee Extension Center and Bardell continued for one year as Assistant Director. As department chairman, however, he continued until 1957, and again from 1961 to 1963, a total of 19 years. As a member of the Committee of Thirty, Bardell was active in the negotiations which led to the merger of the Milwaukee Center with the Wisconsin State College in Milwaukee. Bardell became Emeritus Professor of Mathematics in 1966.

With Professor Abraham Spitzbart he co-authored a series of widely accepted textbooks in freshman algebra and trigonometry. His other academic interests were in astronomy, which he occasionally taught. He also participated as an officer and director in the affairs of the Milwaukee Astronomical Society and of the Mathematical Association of America.
As to his personal life, he married Nellie L. Arms in Madison, South Dakota on June 10, 1927. She died August 1, 1971. He married Professor Eunice R. Bonow on November 23, 1972, in Evanston, Illinois. He was known to be an "active and faithful member" of the United Methodist Church, serving on various local and state-wide Church conference boards, and in the capacity of president of the Methodist Manor, Inc.

In 1966 the Church cited him for being a "skillful leader, wise counselor, inspiring teacher, loyal friend, and dedicated churchman." To this, we might say, Amen. For these are among the very qualities for which Ross will long be remembered by his former colleagues and friends at UWM.

We propose that copies of this resolution be sent to his widow, Mrs. Eunice Bonow Bardell and to his nephew, Rev. Walter Wagener, and to other living relatives.

Edmund Feller
Morris Marden, Chairman
R. J. Mihalek
Oral Robbins
Abraham Spitzbart