

## OBITUARY

P. H. McGauhey, Professor Emeritus of Sanitary Engineering and Public Health and Director Emeritus of the Sanitary Engineering Research Laboratory of the University of California, Berkeley, passed away October 8, 1975 after a long illness. He is survived by his wife Margo, sister Mrs. Dorothy Carson, and brother David.

Professor McGauhey was a man of many talents – scientist, engineer, educator, humorist, poet, and humanitarian. He found outlets for them in memberships to technical and professional societies and associations concerned with every facet of his profession. He brought to these endeavors a love of people, an unequalled command of the language, and a keen understanding of human nature. These qualities, plus his rare ability to present complex and sometimes prosaic subjects in a way that was clearly understood and thoroughly enjoyed by his audience, combined to place him in constant demand as a speaker and consultant. As an educator, Professor McGauhey had an extraordinary gift for teaching and a special rapport with his students, spending enormous amounts of time counseling and working with them. As a dedicated teacher he was vitally interested in the education and growth of the whole person – an interest he demonstrated not only in contacts with students and professional associates, but also in his non-technical writings and in such recreational pursuits as photography.

From humble beginnings on a homestead in eastern Oregon he battled adversity in health to rise to an eminent position in his profession, respected and admired both nationally and internationally as an extraordinarily competent research engineer, an outstanding authority in his fields of endeavor, especially that of water quality problems, and an able administrator. His research, professional and teaching efforts, and publications have been honored repeatedly. He was the recipient of the Fuller Award of the Virginia Section of the American Water Works Association (1950), the Harrison Prescott Eddy Medal of the Water Pollution Control Federation for the best published research paper of the year 1960, the National Clay Pipe Institute's Distinguished Service Award (1964), the Gordon Maskew Fair Medal of the Water Pollution Control Federation for excellence in teaching and professional accomplishments in the training and development of engineers (1969), an honorary Doctor of Science degree from the University of Utah (1971), and recently was the first American to receive Honorary Membership in the Institute of Solid Wastes of the American Public Works Association. He was made Honorary Life Member of the American Society of Civil Engineers in 1971 for 'acknowledged eminence in engineering'. He was elected to the National Academy of Engineering in 1972.

Educated in Civil Engineering in hydraulic and sanitary engineering specialities at Oregon State University, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, and the University of Wisconsin, he went to Berkeley, California, in 1951 where he became actively involved in the work of the Sanitary Engineering Research Laboratory – a newly formed research arm of the University devoted to the study of environmental engineering

problems. In 1956 he was appointed Director of that Laboratory which had expanded to include the water and air environments as well as the land, and through the years has produced under his guidance much of the original research on such environmental problems as wastewater reclamations, resource recycling, pollution travel in soil systems, algal systems for resource recovery and eutrophication control, detergents and phosphates in the environment, air pollutants, composting of organic refuse, and pollution of surface waters. After retiring from the directorship of the Laboratory in 1969 he continued his research and professional activities, and in addition found time to write about the many other things that had always interested him. Although he had published more than one hundred technical papers and reports and numerous other articles on environmental subjects, his talents extended far beyond these professional and academic horizons. Besides being author of a text entitled 'Engineering Management of Water Quality' published by McGraw-Hill, he also published literary works such as his illustrated collection of poetry, 'Rimrock Ranch and Other Verse'.

Professor McGauhey was Chairman of the Board of Consultants of the Lake Tahoe Area Council – a board that managed the eutrophication research on the Lake Tahoe Basin. He served as a consultant to the Ford Foundation, to AID in Israel and India, and to the Water Resources Institute at Utah State University on topics of education in sanitary engineering. He was a consultant to the U.S. Public Health Service, California State Water Quality Control Board, and to industrial firms dealing with water quality problems. He was the principal consultant to Walt Disney Enterprises on wastewater management, to the District of Columbia on wastewater treatment, and to the National Academy of Science on the development of solid wastes planning policy.

Professor McGauhey was continuously active in professional associations. In the American Society of Civil Engineers he was President of the Sanitary Engineering Division of the San Francisco Section; he was a member of the National Committee on Refuse Collection and Disposal of the American Society of Civil Engineers' national research committee; a member of the Board of Control of the Water Pollution Control Federation and member of its research committee; President of the California Water Pollution Control Association; a diplomat of the American Academy of Sanitary Engineering; and many others.

From his own pen we find a most fitting epitaph,

He did not lose his zest for life  
 Nor judge the race not worth the run.  
 But he would have judged his duty shirked  
 If he failed to do – what must be done.

The work and life of Mack McGauhey are being provided a living memorial in the form of a graduate fellowship – the McGauhey Memorial Fellowship. Please make out checks to the Regents of the University of California, marked for the McGauhey Memorial Fund. Mail to Professor David Jenkins, SERL, Richmond Field Station, 1301 South 46th Street, Richmond, California 94804 U.S.A.