IN MEMORIAM

RINALDO ALBERT BACON

Rinaldo Albert Bacon was born on August 13, 1905 on a farm near Randolph, Nebraska. He was the second son and fifth child in the family of six children of Florence Twogood Bacon and Charles C. Bacon. Young Rinaldo attended rural schools until March, 1917 when the family moved into Randolph.

He graduated from the Randolph High School in 1923 and attended Wayne State Teachers College in Wayne, Nebraska for two years. He worked on assorted jobs during all his school days; to realize his dream of becoming an engineer he knew he would have to earn money while away from college training. For a decade he taught science and mathematics in public schools in Cedar County, Sholes, Coehner, and Lincoln, Nebraska, serving also as basketball coach at Lincoln. These were the great depression years in our national economy. In spite of this he attended the University of Nebraska intermittently between 1929 and 1939, and received the Bachelor of Science in Education Degree in 1937 and the Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering Degree in February, 1939.

In the meantime, Rinaldo had spent three summers with the Citizens Military Training Camp at Camp Ripley, Minnesota, and Fort Snelling, Minnesota, and two summers with the Yellowstone National Park staff. All of his friends heard first hand of Riny's experiences with the grizzly bears whom he knew to respect from a distance.
Now he was ready to become an engineer. Armed with his engineering degree, he worked in 1939 for Hennington Engineering Company of Omaha, Nebraska on a field party staking out power lines for six months.

But now that Rinaldo was an engineer, he realized the real interest in his life was the teaching of the young. In September, 1939, he came to the University of Texas as an Instructor in Mechanical Engineering. He left in 1943 to serve with the United States Naval Reserve and spent most of his service years at the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. Here Lieutenant Bacon taught marine engineering, with a few special short-term assignments in the Ship Superintendent's section of the Norfolk Navy Yard dealing with repair and alteration of ships. He entered the Naval Reserve with the rank of Lieutenant (Junior Grade), was promoted to Lieutenant and then to Lieutenant Commander.

The war over, Rinaldo Bacon taught at Purdue University at Lafayette, Indiana as Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering, with summer appointments in 1946 and 1947 at the University of Texas. In February 1948 he resigned his Purdue appointment, rejoined the University of Texas faculty and served until his retirement in May, 1968. He received the Master of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University in 1951. His thesis was entitled "Evaporative Cooling of Residential Roofs for Hot Weather Comfort".

Colleagues and Deans said of him that he always gave careful preparation to his lectures. Throughout his teaching career, for the benefit of his students, he kept "over twice" as many office hours as required by University custom. Indeed, full empathy for students was one of his strong characteristics.
The students responded well to this trait of his character. They chose him to be the Faculty Advisor of the University of Texas Student Branch of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, Faculty advisor of the Texas Chapter of Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity, and faculty leader of the Student Orientation Council, positions which he filled for many years. The University also recognized his capacity to deal effectively with students -- he served as a member of the University Discipline Committee, the Power Show Committee, the Naval Scholarship Committee, and the Henry Beckman Engineering Scholarship Committee. Professor Bacon's professional affiliations were concentrated in the American Society for Engineering Education and the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. In this latter group he served with student groups as already noted, with the South Texas Section and on national committees. He was Austin area vice-chairman and later Austin area chairman for the South Texas Section and served on committee assignments over the years. Because of his continuing interest in the possible use of solar energy, in 1965, he was appointed a member of the National Solar Energy Applications Executive Committee of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, and served as its secretary from 1967 until his retirement. He regularly attended the annual meetings of both the American Society for Engineering Education and the American Society for Mechanical Engineers. He was member of Pi Tau Sigma, the scholastic honor fraternity for mechanical engineers.

Professor Bacon's research interests caused him to participate in various projects through the Bureau of Engineering Research. He was also a Research Associate in the Research Village Project of the National Association of Home Building. A list of his papers delineates fairly
well his continuing interest in Solar Energy Applications. The following bibliography lists the major publications resulting therefrom but does not list the short-term progress reports and similar items.
PUBLICATIONS

1. Contributor to Part IV, "Naval Reciprocating Steam Engines" in NAVAL MACHINERY, Pages 1-105, 1946 edition, (being a revision of 1941 edition), United States Naval Institute, Annapolis, Maryland. (This item was due to his Naval service.)


4. "Effect of Evaporative Roof Cooling on Room Temperature of a House", THE MID-SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE ON TROPICAL HOUSING AND BUILDING PROCEEDINGS, April 8-9, 1952, pages 76-82, with discussion on pages 83-84. This report was also distributed by the Bureau of Engineering Research, The University of Texas, Austin, Texas.


6. "Cooling Effect of a Spray on a Ceramic House", AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS, RESEARCH REPORT ON LIVABILITY IN WARM CLIMATES, File Number 30A dated January 23, 1953. This has been reissued and renumbered as ACME Ceramic Housing Research Project, Austin, Texas, report #7, 1965.
Outside the academic community Rinaldo Bacon also had many friends. His chief recreation was fishing and all fishermen have friends. No doubt Riny's fishermen friends believed many of his fish stories, for he was an interesting conversationalist and his stories were always creditable and he was not given to exaggeration or improvisation for effect.

Ill health (which had curtailed his fishing) brought about early retirement for Rinaldo Bacon in May, 1968. He was honored by his colleagues along with other recent retirees on May 25, 1969; his students still honor him. His health worsened and he died in Austin, Texas on August 9, 1969.

At his service held at the University United Methodist Church on August 12, 1969, the Reverend Sanford Coon chose words from the Prophet Micah and pointed out how Rinaldo Bacon had done justice, loved kindness (which in Micah's day had strong overtones of mercy), and walked humbly with his God. Many hearing this sermon realized how aptly this description applied to Riny Bacon.

His older brother Ralph preceded him two years in death. He leaves four sisters, Miss Glennie Bacon of Laramie, Wyoming, Mrs. Mildred B. Rutherford of East Williston, New York, Mrs. Bessie Friedberg of Beresford, South Dakota, and Mrs. Kathryn Hannah of Cottage Grove, Minnesota, in addition to four nephews and nieces. No one knows how many thousands of students he leaves.

Norman Hackerman
President of the University of Texas at Austin

Eugene W. Nelson
Secretary of the General Faculty

These Resolutions were prepared by a Special Committee consisting of Professors Howard E. Brown, Venton L. Doughtie, Leonhardt F. Kreisle, Byron E. Short and Robert E. Greenwood, Chairman.