Memorial Resolution for

MYRON LOUIS BEGEMAN

Myron Louis Begeman was born in Corydon, Iowa, on September 9, 1893. He was the son of Dr. Louis and Magdelene (Thuman) Begeman. Dr. Louis Begeman, who worked as a student under Michelson in the measurement of the velocity of light, headed the Physics Department of Iowa State Teachers College for 50 years. Myron Begeman attended grade school for one year (1899-1900) at Fairfield, Iowa, and then completed his elementary and high school studies in the Iowa State Teachers Practice School (1900-09) at Cedar Falls, Iowa. He attended Iowa State Teachers College for 2 years (1910-12) and then transferred to the University of Michigan (1912-15) where he obtained the Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering degrees in 1915.

He worked for a year (1915-16) as an apprentice for the Studebaker Corporation in Detroit and then a year for Ransom and Randolph Company (1917) at Toledo, Ohio, as Assistant Superintendent.

He entered the U.S. Army Air Force in September 1917 as a private and served until December 1918, leaving active duty as a Second Lieutenant. He transferred as a 2nd Lieutenant to the U.S. Army Ordnance Reserves at that time.

He served as Assistant Superintendent for the Wagner Manufacturing Co. of Cedar Falls, Iowa, during the period of 1919-21.

He and Hazel Lucile Flagler, who graduated from Iowa State Teachers College, were married on July 15, 1919, and to them were born a son, Robert Louis, and a daughter, Jean Lucile (Mrs. J. B. Robitscher).

He returned to the University of Michigan where he became an Instructor in Mechanical Engineering and studied toward a degree of Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering, which he obtained in 1922. He worked as a designer for Richards-Wilcox Co. of Aurora, Illinois, during the summer of 1922 and in a like capacity for the Ford Motor Company of Detroit during the summer of 1923. He served as an Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Michigan for the school year of 1923-24.

He was the Chief Mechanical Engineer for Carey and Esseltyn of Detroit during 1924-25 and then became the Chief Mechanical Engineer for the Mississippi Glass Company at St. Louis, Mo., where he remained for seven years. He obtained patents for two glass processing machines during his period of work with this company. He had shown an interest in materials handling and his first publication appeared in Mechanical Engineering in 1924. In that paper, he discussed the advantages of handling materials mechanically without reference to particular types of equipment and dealt with the necessity for the substitution of mechanical handling of materials for labor, and the economies to be gained by such substitution.
He became an Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering at The University of Texas with the beginning of the school year of 1932-33, with the additional title of Superintendent of Shops. As such, he was the principal teacher and in charge of the machine shop, pattern making, and foundry courses for the Mechanical Engineering Department. All electrical and mechanical engineering students were required, at that time, to take these courses. He became a Professor of the Department with the school year of 1938-39.

Professor Begeman became interested not only in the handling and teaching of the courses in the metal processing area but also in the industrial management course and ferrous metallurgical course which had been offered in the Department for several years. He revised the management course and caused the ferrous metals course to be expanded from a 1-hour part of an introductory course in Mechanical Engineering to a separate course in metallurgy. Each of these areas was expanded during his later years into options in the Department as Industrial Engineering and as Materials Engineering.

He also became interested in the preparation of a textbook for the Materials Processing and his book, "Manufacturing Processes", was first published by John Wiley and Sons in 1942. This book was an immediate success and was adopted as a textbook by most of the engineering colleges in the United States. It was revised by him in 1947, 1952, and 1957, and then with Dr. B. H. Amstead in 1963 and 1968. It was translated into Spanish in 1960 and adopted for use in India in 1962 and later for general Asiatic and European use.

Professor Begeman was involved in much of the pre-World War II manpower training programs, and in June 1942, he obtained a leave of absence from the University for active duty with the U.S. Army Ordnance Department. He served on an active status as second in command at the Ordnance Proving Grounds at Hope, Ark., until October 1944, when he returned to teaching at the University. He had entered active duty as a Captain and left it as a Lieutenant Colonel. He remained in the Ordnance Reserves from October 1944 until September 1953, and had the status of U.S. Army Retired from this time until his death on October 25, 1970.

He served as Chairman of the Department of Mechanical Engineering for the period 1947-'49 and again in 1953-'57. However he did not permit the assumption of this added responsibility to interfere with either his writing or his research endeavor.

One of the early changes which he proposed for the shop courses was the introduction of arc-welding into the program of study, and from this grew, in a very short period, a research program in arc and resistance welding which involved studies of many things which could affect the procedures of making the welds and the resultant strength of welded joints for many materials. He had an average of a published technical paper a year, with his students, from this area of his research for a period of nearly thirty years. He obtained financial support for this research from the American Welding Society and from the Scientific Division of NATO, which he was able to maintain until his retirement from full time on the faculty.
He served as a Consulting and Contributing Editor for the "Production Handbook" published by Ronald Press for both the 1946 and 1958 editions. He was also Field Editor for the Tool Engineer from 1956 to 1959, which was the publication of the American Society of Tool and Manufacturing Engineers.

His interest in the field of management was almost as extensive as his research in welding. He, along with the former Dean of the College of Business Administration, W. R. Spriegal, organized the Texas Personnel and Management Conference, which has been held annually on the University of Texas Campus since the late 1940's, and he was the Chairman of this Conference from 1956 to 1958. He remained on the State Advisory Board until 1966.

He served on the Board of Directors of the University Co-Operative Society and was its Chairman in 1958.

He served on the University's Committee for Intercollegiate Athletics, being its Chairman for the school years of 1959-60 through 1963-64. As its Chairman, he represented the University on the South-west Athletic Conference and on the National Collegiate Athletic Association affairs.

His technical and professional society membership was extensive. He had been named a Fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He was a member of the American Society of Tool and Manufacturing Engineers and was on its national education committee, serving as its vice-chairman for 1956-58. He was a member of the American Welding Society, serving on its national education committee for 1954-58, and a member of its resistance welding committee from 1956 to 1966. He was a member of the Coordinating Committee on Projection Welding Research with the British Welding Research Association (Cambridge, England) and the Technische Hochschule of Aachen, Germany. He was a delegate to the International Institute of Welding Congress at Vienna (Austria) in 1958, at Liège (Belgium) in 1960 and at Helsinki (Finland) in 1963. He was a member of the American Society for Engineering Education and Chairman of its Industrial Division for 1948-49.

Professor Begeman was elected to membership in numerous honorary fraternities including Phi Kappa Phi, Tau Beta Pi, Pi Tau Sigma, Sigma Xi, and Phi Mu Alpha.

He was a member of the University Presbyterian Church, serving both as Deacon and Elder. He was a very active member of the Austin Rotary Club, a member of University Lodge No. 1190, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and was given a 50-year member award in 1970, a member of Lone Star Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, a member of Colorado Commandery No. 4, Knights Templar, and a member of the Ben Hur Shrine Temple.

Besides his widow, Hazel Lucile Begeman of Austin, he leaves a son, Robert Louis Begeman of San Antonio, Texas, and a daughter, Jean Lucile (Mrs. J. B. Robitscher) of Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, and five grandchildren.
PUBLICATIONS


Field Editor, "The Tool Engineer", 1956-59

"Fundamental Economies of Materials Handling" Mechanical Engineering, Vol. 46, No. 7, 1924


"Correlation of Machine Design and Shop Laboratory Courses" S.P.E.E. Bulletin, 1938

"Hard Surfacing Processes and Materials" Mechanical Engineering, Vol. 60, No. 12, 1938


"Recent Development in Personnel Work" Southern Power and Industry, Vol. 58, No. 12, Dec. 1940


Publications (Cont'd)


"Unions for Engineers?", *The Tool Engineer*, Vol. 34, No. 6, June 1955


Publications (Cont'd)

"Projection Welding Quality Determination Based on Dynamic-Displace-


"Effect of Projection Height Upon Weld Quality and Strength" with A. M. Cunningham, Jr., The Welding Journal, Vol. 45, No. 1, January 1966


Patents

1,791,263, February 1931, Glass Machine
1,904,118, April 1933, Manufacture of Wire Glass

Bryce Jordan
President ad interim of the University of Texas at Austin

Forest G. Hill
Secretary of the General Faculty

This Resolution was prepared by a Special Committee consisting of Professors Carl J. Eckhardt, Harry L. Kent, Wayne E. Long and Byron E. Short, Chairman.