IN MEMORIAM

WERNER WILLIE DORNBERGER

Werner W. Dornberger, Professor Emeritus of Architectural Engineering and nationally recognized as a pioneer and leader in education for the building industry, died October 6, 1971 in Austin, Texas, after a long and distinguished career at The University of Texas at Austin. He is survived by his wife, Johanna Fehler Dornberger, his daughter Betty Jo Cogswell and his son Werner W. Dornberger, Jr. all of Austin.

Born May 26, 1899 in Bellville, Texas, son of Bernhard and Lena Rummell Dornberger. Werner W. Dornberger received the degree of Bachelor of Science in Architecture and Structural Option in 1922 and Master of Science in Architectural Engineering in 1937 from The University of Texas.

Werner W. Dornberger was instrumental in the development of the Department of Architectural Engineering. He brought it from a nebulous ill defined status to that of a degree granting entity with Departmental Status that has produced over 1000 alumni. In 1945 Professor Werner Dornberger became the first full time teaching staff member of what was to become the Department of Architectural Engineering. Previously he had served as a part time teacher in Architectural Engineering in addition to his duties in the Office of Supervising Architect at a time when the University was experiencing a strenuous building expansion program at all of its branches. He was acting supervising architect from 1932 to 1936 and was architect and engineer for the buildings at the McDonald Observatory near Ft. Davis, Texas. His teaching duties had increased gradually over the years until in 1942 he left
the office of the supervising architect to become full-time assistant to Dean Woolrich, who was regional director for the Engineering Science and Management Defense Training and War Training Programs of the U.S. Office of Education for the states of New Mexico, Texas, and Louisiana. In addition to his duties in Washington, Professor Dornberger made periodic visits to every participating engineering college in the three states. As part of the ESMWT program, Professor Dornberger organized basic courses in naval architecture and ship production in Austin, Houston, Beaumont and Orange. These courses were a distinct contribution to the war production effort in the Southwest.

Professor Dornberger believed that teaching involved much more than the transmission of technical information. In his classroom lectures he succeeded in making the students aware of the real world and the value of occupying a productive place therein. Uppermost in his thoughts was the desire that all students should prepare themselves for positions of leadership and responsibility in professional and community affairs. In his own unique and dynamic manner he stressed the need for engineering students to further their interest in classic and contemporary literature and other humanistic studies to achieve their goal or objective.

The needy student was of particular interest to Professor Dornberger. It is impossible to estimate the number and amount of personal loans Professor Dornberger has made to deserving students.

The love and respect of his students and their desire to remain in contact with him was expressed by an appreciation dinner given for him in 1969. Over two hundred and fifty former students gathered at the Westwood
Country Club in Austin to honor Professor and Mrs. Dornberger. After much merrymaking and comradery they were presented with round trips to Europe together with complete sets of matched luggage, cameras, spending money etc. The role Professor Dornberger played and his contribution to The University of Texas at Austin is expressed in the words of one of his students.

"Professor Dornberger was known as 'Dr. D' by the students and they will remember him as a good-humored, witty, common-sense engineering professor. His knowledge of the real world and his ability to convey the information will be forever emulated by his students. He had a story for every situation encountered during his lectures. 'Dr. D's' time was always available and his advice was candid. He truly possessed qualities which are often sought but seldom found".

Lorene L. Rogers, President at Interim
The University of Texas at Austin

James L. Kinneavy, Secretary
The General Faculty

This Memorial Resolution was prepared by a Special Committee consisting of Franklin B. Johnson (chairman), Leonardt F. Kreisle, and J. Neils Thompson.