



University of California: In Memoriam, 1985

Harold George Reiber, Chemistry: Davis

1901-1981

Professor Emeritus,

Dean of the Graduate Division Emeritus

After a long and wasting illness which he met with grace and patrician courage, this fairminded and gentle man died in his home in Davis on June 13, 1981, thus ending an association with the University of California that spanned more than half a century. He is remembered with kind thoughts by his family, his colleagues, and thousands of former students.

Harold was born on December 6, 1901, in Stratford, Ontario, the second of six children of Martha and Henry Reiber, and was educated in the public schools in Alberta, at the University of Alberta (B.Sc. 1927; M.Sc. 1930), and the University of California (Ph.D. 1933). Before he joined the faculty of the University of California, Davis, in 1937 as Instructor in Chemistry and Junior Chemist in the Experiment Station, he was a teacher and vice principal or principal at high schools in Three Hills (1920-22), Claresholm (1922-24), and Calgary (1927-28), Alberta; assistant provincial analyst for the Province of Alberta (1928-30); and research chemist for Union Oil Company (1933-37). During World War II, Harold was associated with the Radiation Laboratory while he investigated the chemistry of uranium compounds.

He retired in 1969 but was recalled continuously to teach the Survey course in Organic Chemistry through 1974.

His discipline, colleagues, and students were well served by Harold. His published writings included contributions in the diverse fields of mechanistic organic chemistry, solution chemistry, chemistry of herbicides, and biosynthesis as well as several patents on motor fuels and the preparation of higher chlorides of uranium that resulted from his industrial and government work. He was an active member of the Sacramento Section of the American Chemical Society and the Pacific Southwest Association of Chemistry Teachers. Because of his character, he was in constant demand for University service and he gave exemplary service on more than a hundred Senate, college, departmental and administrative committees including five to ten

— 343 —

years' service on the Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools and on the Student Conduct Committee.

He was chairman of the Department of Chemistry from 1951-58 and was primarily responsible for the initiation of the Ph.D. program in chemistry at Davis. He served as associate dean of the Graduate Division from 1962-67 and as dean from 1967 until his retirement. More than 10,000 students received not just effective instruction in organic chemistry from Harold; those willing to learn received from him a gracious and unlimited willingness to help; and all received respect as individuals. Each of us has met many former UCD students, near and far from Davis, who have asked about Harold very shortly after being introduced; invariably he has been remembered by them with fondness and respect.

Harold was active in community affairs and he served for many years on the Planning Commission of the City of Davis. Golf gave him welcome recreation in his later years, and he played the game as long as he was able. The staff and graduate students in Chemistry will long remember the annual Reiber Invitational Golf Tournaments sponsored by Harold.

Norma Margaret Holmes was Harold's bride in 1930 and his complement until her death in 1967. Her loss was deeply felt by Harold.

With Harold at his death were his survivors: daughter, Margaret (Mrs. Kent K. Steward); son, Norman, and his

seven grandchildren.

Albert T. Bottini Raymond M. Keefer George F. Stewart

About this text

Courtesy of University Archives, The Bancroft Library, University of California at Berkeley, Berkeley, CA 94720-6000; <http://bancroft.berkeley.edu/info>

<http://content.cdlib.org/view?docId=hb4d5nb20m&brand=calisphere>

Title: 1985, University of California: In Memoriam

By: University of California (System) Academic Senate, Author

Date: 1985

Contributing Institution: University Archives, The Bancroft Library, University of California at Berkeley, Berkeley, CA 94720-6000; <http://bancroft.berkeley.edu/info>

Copyright Note:

Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by copyright beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owner. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

University of California Regents

Academic Senate-Berkeley Division, University of California, 320 Stephens Hall, Berkeley, CA 94720-5842

[Home](#) | [Themed Collections](#) | [California Cultures](#) | [JARDA](#) | [Terms of Use](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Site Map](#)

Calisphere is a service of the [UC Libraries](#), powered by the [California Digital Library](#).

Copyright © 2011 The Regents of The University of California.