



William Weaver Hartman

February 2, 1897 - October 16, 1975

Born in Chicago, William Weaver Hartman was educated at Northwestern University and the University of Chicago, completing his courses in 1918. From June to December 1918 he worked at the Bureau of Mines in the Chemical Warfare Service, World War I, Washington, D.C., and as a chemist for Morris and Co., Union Stock Yards, Chicago, from July to October 1919.

In 1918 Dr. C.E.K. Mees, Eastman Kodak's 1st director of research, wrote a letter to George Eastman about a critical situation facing American chemistry. War had shut off Germany as a supplier of synthetic organic reagents, and the only American source was a small laboratory at the University of Illinois. Dr. Mees said, "The continuance of effective research in pure organic chemistry is largely dependent upon the establishment of a satisfactory source of synthetic organic reagents. No such source is at present in sight. . . . Unless something is done immediately, organic research will languish. . . ." He proposed establishing a nonprofit department of synthetic chemistry as part of the Eastman Kodak Research Laboratory. Mr. Eastman simply note "Approved." This WM the one word that launched Kodak into the chemistry business.

The new synthetic chemistry department was placed under Hans T. Clarke, who had a very small staff of a few assistants. The first man he hired as an organic chemist, on October 22, 1919, was W. W. Hartman, who was just out of the army. On July 10, 1929, he became an assistant superintendent, then superintendent on September 1, 1947. He retired on January 1, 1959. The current title of the department is the Synthetic Chemistry Division of the Research Laboratory.

He was elected to *Organic Syntheses* in 1931 and was Editor-in-Chief of Vol. 14 in 1934. During his 10 years of active participation on the Board he submitted 23 preparations and checked 38. Hartman was one 1939 and served as Treasurer for 17 years until April 1, 1957.

He had considerable financial skill and was well informed on the stock market. When

the surplus from the sales of *Organic Syntheses* became more than was anticipated for a nonprofit organization, he was on the committee that arranged for its investment.

He never tired of playing bridge. An inveterate practical joker, he always did things in a big way. Among his hobbies was woodworking - he had a shop filled with all kinds of power tools. He had a very successful farm, where he raised both Guernsey cattle and cherries. As a spectator he enjoyed sports, such as major league baseball; when he attended American Chemical Society national meetings he attended any available game. In later years he followed horse racing. He bought a condominium at Daytona Beach, Florida, where he and his wife stayed for 6 months of the winter, returning to Rochester for the summer season. It was there that he died.

Charles F. H. Allen
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