IN MEMORIAM

CARL CLARENCE ALBERS

The intellectual and spiritual life of this university and community was suddenly diminished when Professor (Acting Dean) of Pharmacy, Carl Clarence Albers, died of a heart attack at Springfield. Ohio, on the morning of Labor Day, September 4, 1967. Characteristically, he was digging in a garden when his summons came; and although the event itself has saddened an innumerable company of friends and colleagues of long standing, one reflects that the setting and situation were altogether appropriate to the man. He was happily at work--for someone else. This too was characteristic; no one who knew him, even through such slight contact as becoming a beneficiary of his home garden of rare and beautiful plants from many corners of the world, could escape being impressed by the selflessness and modesty through which his influence was felt. The sympathy of innumerable friends has been expressed, and continues to be expressed, to his widow, Mrs. Johnnita N. Albers, two sons, Clarence and Kenneth, two daughters, Mrs. Manfred Holck and Mrs. Lorene Bliese, two surviving brothers, Mr. Gilbert G. Albers and Mr. Noah Albers, and a number of grandchildren.

Carl Clarence Albers was born January 4, 1898, at Lincoln, One of ten children in a farm family of limited means, he came to know early in life the meaning of hard work and the value of simple pleasures; and the basic virtues of such training never left him. After elementary and high school training he taught for a time in the public schools and attended Blinn Memorial College, Brenham, Texas. Work in a drug store at Giddings (arranged by the family physician. Dr. Mayfield, who also owned the store) suggested the possibility of pharmacy as a profession, and after attending the University of Texas College of Pharmacy (1921-23) he received the Ph.G., with subsequent B.A. and B.Sc. degrees in 1930. One member of this committee, Professor Henze, recalls that from 1921 to 1923 young Carl Albers was a student in his classes--one of the three brightest of all graduates of his fortysix-year connection with the school. He was appointed as an instructor in the College of Pharmacy, then located at Galveston, in 1923, coming to Austin when the college was moved here in 1927. He was the only graduate of the school to become a full professor in it, and well may be considered its No. 1 alumnus, as well as the person who served it longest.

Meanwhile (on June 18, 1924, at Brenham) he had married Johnnita Niederauer, whom he met at Blinn College. In 1923 he entered the graduate school of the University of Wisconsin, attending in summers and one long session and working under Professor Edward Kremers who at that time was the leading researcher in plant chemistry in this country.

Quite probably Albers's long-continuing interest in the phytochemistry of the genus Monarda (mints) was kindled at that time. Early training at making do with slender resources undoubtedly helped tide this graduate student and his now increasing family through the lean Depression years, and he left Madison with his doctorate in 1936. He had already achieved the rank of assistant professor (in 1928), and after his return to Austin received promotion to associate professor (1937-47) and at length professor (1947). During the years 1961-63 he was Visiting Professor at University College, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, where he organized a Department of Pharmacy; and not very long after his return to The University of Texas he was called upon to serve as Acting Dean of its College of Pharmacy. During his sojourn in Ethiopia he collected nearly a hundred species of plants of possible medicinal value, especially the aloe plant.

Professor Albers was not one to make much of the honors he received, but the records show that he was a member of Phi Beta Kappa, the Rho Chi Society, Kappa Psi and Phi Sigma; and his name appears in American Men of Science; Who's Who in American Education, and Who's Who in Texas Today. He was a member also of the American Pharmaceutical Association, American Association for the Advancement of Science, American Institute of the History of Pharmacy, Texas Pharmaceutical Association, and Texas Academy of Science. He was a charter member of the First English Lutheran Church of Austin, and played an active role

in its affairs, in religious activities on the campus, and in the national affairs of his church, serving two terms as a member of its national Board of Education. He had been a Danforth Associate since 1952. A list of his publications is appended to this resolution.

With Carl Albers, or "C. C." as he was familiarly known, acquaintance ripened so quickly and easily into friendship that one was scarcely aware of the process. To meet him, and speak with him for only a short time, was to become his friend; and for any of his friends, all of his resources lay open at any time. His energies flowed automatically outward into the lives of others. For many years he followed the custom of eating lunch from a paper-sack in the company of a few friends on the banks of Waller Creek. Not infrequently he was to be seen carrying two sacks--one for his lunch, the other full of seeds of flowering plants or ornamental grasses which he scattered along the banks; and he was closely observant of both the plant and animal life in this natural area. Students felt immediately the direct personal interest he took in them, and the friendships formed in the classroom lasted for many years. No member of the Pharmacy staff was so in touch with virtually every graduate and ex-student; they appreciated his continued interest in them as people and kept him informed of their whereabouts and fortunes. It was not at all uncommon, when one came to his office, to find him talking with an ex-student who had dropped in to visit with

him. He was called upon frequently by physicians, veterinarians, pathologists, druggists and others to answer questions about the effects of poisonous plants (on which he was the regional authority); and it was one of his ambitions, on behalf of the state and region, to help sometime with the establishment of a center for comprehensive information about all kinds of poisons, including those from plants. Similarly, the history of pharmacy and the history of science in general were subjects that interested him keenly. From the strictly professional viewpoint, it was perhaps a fault that he spent himself so generously in so many unselfish acts that his books remained unwritten, although not unplanned, for he had collected a great mass of data--his files were always open to anyone asking information, as many did--and had welladvanced plans for writing which death cut short. He knew, probably, as much about pharmaceutical botany as anyone in his profession, and his knowledge was not only wide-ranging but always practical. He wanted his students to know what he knew; and if it should come about at length that some rare and revolutionary discovery in materia medica emerges from this region, the pioneering work and transcendently devoted

teaching of Professor Albers will have helped bring it to light. Such a career as his must continue to transmit itself.

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These Resolutions were prepared by a Special Committee consisting of Professors Gunnar Gjerstad, H. R. Henze, L. F. Worrell, J. J. Jones, Chairman.

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