IN MEMORIAM

EDWARD KARL MCGINNIS

Edward Karl McGinnis, Professor Emeritus of Business Administration, died in an Austin hospital on January 18, 1960, following a short illness. He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Helen Campbell McGinnis of Austin, a son, Robert C. McGinnis of Austin, five grandchildren, two brothers, John H. McGinnis of Dallas, Texas and Arthur M. McGinnis of New York City, and one sister, Mrs. Alberta Price of Yates Center, Kansas.

Although Professor McGinnis retired from active work in the University on February 1, 1958, he remained active as a student of law and finance until his death. He was born at Waynesburg, Pennsylvania, May 5, 1887. He received his B.A. degree from Misouri Valley College in 1907 and his J. D. degree from the University of Chicago in 1923. Among the honors which he received were membership in the Order of the Coif and in Beta Gamma Sigma. He ranked in the top ten percent of his graduating class at the University of Chicago and had a long record of recognized scholarship in law as applied to business.

Professor McGinnis was one of the original incorporators of the First Federal Savings and Loan Association of Austin, Texas. He was very active in the management of that firm, becoming its Vice President, and remained a member of the Board of Directors until the time of his death. He was recognized as one possessing unusual foresight and ability in the area of finance and real estate.

After a number of years of teaching experience in the public school systems of several midwestern states, including the Oak Cliff High School of Dallas, he began his long and distinguished career at The University of Texas in January 1918, as an adjunct professor of business administration. Early in this period he introduced work in secretarial science for the first time in the University. Later he taught business law, marketing, and principles of real estate. In 1925-1926 he served as secretary of the faculty and acting dean of the School of Business Administration. In 1948-1949 he served as chairman of the Department of Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate. In the summer of 1927 he taught as a visiting professor of business law at the University of Pittsburgh, and was a visiting professor of law at the University of North Carolina in 1927-1928.

At the time of his retirement in 1958 a large number of ex-students and faculty colleagues gave a dinner for Professor McGinnis in the Crystal Ballroom of the Driskill Hotel. On this occasion many remarks of appreciation for his untiring work and assistance to both staff and students were expressed. He was sought for advice not only upon course work, but upon the problems of making ends meet in pursuit of objectives desired in planning a career. His words of practical advice and encouragement helped many a troubled student through his difficulties.

Professor McGinnis was widely recognized as one of the outstanding teachers in the history of the college. His lifelong interest he found in the student and the classroom. His teaching was never hackneyed or routine. Inert materials seemed to come to life under his hand. His method was so to state a problem as to accentuate its perplexities and encourage the student to accept the challenge and work out the solution for himself.

His writings although not numerous were significant and always well received. One of his earlier contribution was a series of twenty articles on law as a part of The Popular Educator, a book edited by Lingard Loud. He also contributed articles to the American Law Review, the North Carolina Law Review, and the Southwestern Social Science Quarterly. He wrote a great many papers for presentation before business and professional groups.
He was much in demand as a speaker, particularly by ex-students of the University. He served on numerous committees of the University and his college. He also served the community at large as a member of the City Planning Commission. He was a member of the University Presbyterian Church.

Though quiet, gentle and retiring, Karl McGinnis had the gift of inspiring friendship not only among his colleagues and business associates but among all people, high or low, with whom he came in contact. He was always interested in other people and especially in their problems, and his wisdom and common sense were always at their service. His originality of approach gave interest and charm to all he said. He was kindly, humorous and a good listener. He was without guile or malice. To know him was a blessing. To spend an hour with him was an enriching and heart-warming experience.

Dean J. A. White, Chairman
Dean L. L. Click
Dr. C. T. McCormick

Filed with the Secretary of the General Faculty by Dean J. A. White, Chairman of the Special E. K. McGinnis Memorial Resolution Committee, February 15, 1960.

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