

IN MEMORIAM
THOMAS ULVAN TAYLOR

Thomas Ulvan Taylor was born of pioneer parents on January 2, 1858, on a farm near Weatherford, in Parker County, Texas.

The first school he attended was held in the open air under a large tree around which the boys stacked their rifles, which they brought daily for protection against marauding indians. The pupils sat on split-log benches, had no black-boards, and few books. Thomas was an earnest, attentive student with an unusually alert, receptive, and retentive mind. He enjoyed attending school; and being ambitious, energetic, strong, and courageous he determined to obtain a good education. Soon after leaving the farm, he became acquainted with Mr. James B. Clark, who later became Secretary of the Board of Regents, Registrar, and Proctor of this University. Judge Clark encouraged Thomas to continue his studies and helped him in other ways. Thomas entered the Sam Houston Normal at Huntsville, Texas, and became a member of the first class which was graduated there. He then attended the University of Virginia from which he received the degree of Civil Engineer in 1883. Immediately afterward he was appointed Professor of Physics and Mathematics at the Miller School in Albemarle County, Virginia. He came to the University as Assistant Professor of Applied Mathematics in 1888 and was soon advanced to Professor of Applied Mathematics. This title he held until 1903, when it was changed to Professor of Civil Engineering. In 1905 he was made Dean of the Engineering Department. In 1920 this was changed to Dean of the College of Engineering, an office he held until he was made Dean Emeritus in 1936. He died on May 28, 1941, in his eighty-fourth year, having been for fifty-three years a member of this faculty. During this time he gave continuous service to the University with the exception of the long session of 1894-95, which he spent as a graduate student at Cornell University. From Cornell he received the degree of Master of Civil Engineering in 1895.

Professor Taylor was interested in research and carried on investigations regarding the

quantity of water discharged by Texas streams, the underground waters of Texas, the silting of reservoirs, irrigation in Texas, and other hydrographic studies. He was the author of several books on engineering subjects, and a larger number of articles and bulletins published principally by the University of Texas, and the U. S. Geological Survey in its Water Supply Papers. In his later years he was greatly interested in writing of his fifty years on the forty acres, and of the life of the Texas pioneers and trail drivers. He was a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Tau Beta Pi, Sigma Xi, and other honor societies. He was also the only honorary member of the American Society of Civil Engineers in the Southwest.

Not all that Dean Taylor accomplished during his more than a half century of service on the campus can be recorded here. He was a hard worker and required hard work of his students. He was an inspiring and successful teacher, a leader in the faculty, and in student affairs. Under his energetic and enthusiastic leadership Engineering was expanded from a subject, taught in the Department of Applied Mathematics of the College of Arts and Sciences, to a College having Departments of Architecture and Architectural Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Civil Engineering, Drawing, Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, and Petroleum Engineering.

Probably his most outstanding characteristic was his interest in self-supporting or partially self-supporting students, and his desire to help them. Having been entirely dependent upon his own efforts while a student he had a tender place in his heart for those who were having a similar experience. He encouraged them, found employment for them, aided them in securing loans from others, or loaned or gave them money himself. No one will ever know the full extent of his helpfulness in this direction. Through his efforts and leadership the Big Brothers' Fund, and the Engineer's Loan Fund were established. The former, which has now been renamed the T. U. Taylor Foundation, makes small donations to worthy self-supporting senior engineers. By constant solicitation of subscriptions from engineering students and graduates, he accumulated for

the Engineer's Loan Fund assets of approximately thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000). Through these two agencies his good work will live after him and continue indefinitely. His assistance was not limited to engineering students, nor to men only. Law students, and academic students, including many young women, are deeply indebted to him for greatly needed assistance.

Dean Taylor possessed the art of making strong and lasting friendships. He was true and loyal to his friends, who, knowing this, were devoted to him. He had the generous hospitality that was characteristic of the Texas pioneers, of which group he was by early training, by association, and inclination, a member. He won and held the genuine friendship, loyalty and esteem of men and women in all walks of life, from the highest to the lowest, in the faculty, among the students and ex-students, and in the engineering profession. All of these sincerely mourn his passing.

Special Committee on Memorial Resolutions

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