

WALTER McCLELLAN LAUER  
1895 - 1976

Walter M. Lauer died November 11, 1976 of a heart attack in St. Paul, Minnesota at the age of 81. He was born July 18, 1895 at Thomasville, Pennsylvania. He attended Ursinus College in Collegetown, Pennsylvania and received his A.B. degree in 1913. During the school year 1913-1914 he served as an instructor in mathematics and physics at the Dassel High School in Dassel, Minnesota. From 1914-1917 he was a graduate assistant in organic chemistry and received his M.S. degree in 1917. He served from 1917-1919 in the U.S. Army Ordnance Department in Pennsylvania. In 1919 he returned briefly to the University of Minnesota as the Shevlin Fellow but left to work for du Pont Company for 18 months during 1919-1920. In 1920 he returned to studies at the University of Minnesota and received his Ph.D. degree in 1924. In 1925 he was promoted to associate professor and to full professor in 1939.

During his career Professor Lauer served as a consultant to the 3M Company Central Research Laboratory, and the Abbott Laboratories. He was a member of the Organic Research Panel of the Office of Naval Research. In WWII he served as a civilian investigator with the Committee of Medical Research of the Office of Scientific Research and Development. He was a charter member of the Board of Directors of the Hormel Institute and served until his retirement in 1964, and thereafter served as a consultant. He was active in the Minnesota Section of the American Chemical Society and served as chairman during 1955 - 1956.

Awards which were granted to Professor Lauer were: a Guggenheim Fellowship, the Sigma Xi Distinguished Service Award from the University of Minnesota Chapter of Sigma Xi and the Outstanding Achievement Award of the University of Minnesota. Dr. Lauer's research covered a wide scope in the field of organic chemistry from microanalytical methods of analyses to the syntheses of unsaturated fatty acids. He was author of over 70 chemical papers and patents.

Walter Lauer is survived by his wife, Kathryn of St. Paul and a daughter, Jean (Mrs. David R. Milton) of Houston, Texas; a brother, Luther M. Lauer of Orchard Park, New York; and a sister, Carrie (Mrs. Guy Preston) of Alexandria, Minnesota.

LAUER MEMORIAL FUND ESTABLISHED

A memorial fund has been established by the Lauer family to honor Walter's memory. Those who wish to contribute may send their contributions to the Walter M. Lauer Library Fund, Department of Chemistry, University of Minnesota, 207 Pleasant Street SE, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455.