

WILLIAM EUGENE PARHAM
1922 - 1976

William E. Parham died May 21, 1976 of a coronary occlusion near his summer home on Deer Lake near Deer Lake, Minnesota at the age of 53. Bill Parham was born in Dennison, Texas, and attended Highland Park High School in Dallas, Texas from 1935 - 1939. In 1943 he graduated with his B.S. degree from Southern Methodist University. He obtained his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Illinois at Urbana in 1944 and 1946 respectively. In 1946 he joined the faculty of the University of Minnesota as an assistant professor in the Department of Chemistry. He became an associate professor in 1950 and a full professor in 1955. In 1958 he became Chief of the Organic Division of the Department. In 1972 he joined the faculty at Duke University, North Carolina as the R. J. Reynolds Professor of Chemistry.

During his career Professor Parham served on the advisory boards for the National Science Foundation, the Army Office of Ordnance Research, the National Institutes of Health, the Office of the Surgeon General and the Petroleum Research Fund. He was a consultant for the E. I. du Pont de Nemours Company, the Sinclair Oil Company and the Atlantic Richfield Company. Professor Parham was very active in the American Chemical Society. He served as Chairman of the Organic Division in 1961 in addition to serving on many other national A.C.S. committees. His service on boards of publications include: Treasurer and Member of the Board of Directors of the Advisory Board of Organic Syntheses; member of the editorial Advisory Board of the Journal of Organic Chemistry, Chemical Reviews, Advances in Chemistry. He authored the text book: Synthesis and Reactions in Organic Chemistry and was associate editor of volume 13 of Organic Reactions.

Awards which were granted to Professor Parham were: Guggenheim Fellowship, Honorary Doctor of Science Degree from Southern Methodist University, the Kresge-Hooker Lectureship at Wayne State University, the Robert A. Welch Foundation Lectureship, and the Minnesota Award of the Minnesota Section of the A.C.S. Dr. Parham's research spanned the field of heterocyclic compounds, a field in which he published over 100 scientific papers.

Professor Parham is survived by his mother, Mrs. James Hall, and his sister, Mrs. William Kirkham, both of Dallas, Texas, his wife, Billie Lou, two daughters, Dr. Janice Jean (Mrs. Thomas A.) Ophoven, Judy (Mrs. Robert Olein) both of Saint Paul, Minnesota and three grandchildren.

PARHAM MEMORIAL FUND ESTABLISHED

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