

WILLIAM E. PARHAM

September 9, 1922 - May 21, 1976

William Eugene Parham, Treasurer and Member of the Board of Directors and of the Advisory Board of Organic Syntheses, died May 21, 1976 of a coronary occlusion near his summer home on Deer Lake, near Deer River, Minnesota, at the age of 53. Dr. Parham joined the Board of Editors on September 7, 1958 and served as Editor-in-Chief of Volume 44 of Organic Syntheses in 1964. He became a member of the Advisory Board and was elected to the Board of Directors in 1966, and served as Vice President from 1969 to 1974 at which time he succeeded Richard S. Schreiber as Treasurer. As Treasurer, Dr. Parham was very effective in securing competent legal counsel for Organic Syntheses and in clarifying its Foundation tax status with the Internal Revenue Service.

Born in Denison, Texas on September 9, 1922, he was the son of Charles Eugene Parham and Jewel Looney Parham. He attended Highland Park High School in Dallas, Texas from 1935-1939, and then attended Southern Methodist University and received his B.S. degree in 1943. He was later (in 1959) elected to Phi Beta Kappa after a local chapter was established there. He then attended the University of Illinois in Urbana, obtaining his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in 1944 and 1946. He carried out his Ph.D. research with Professor Reynold C. Fuson (Editor-in-Chief of Volume 18 of Organic Syntheses). While at Illinois he married Wilma Louise (Billie Lou) Johnston on March 9, 1946. In 1946 he went directly to the University of Minnesota as an assistant professor, becoming an associate professor in 1950, and a full professor in 1955. In 1958 he succeeded Professor Lee Irvin Smith (Editor-in-Chief of Volumes 22 and 23 of Organic Syntheses) as Chief of the Division of Organic Chemistry at

Minnesota, continuing to serve in a comparable capacity until 1971. In 1972 he became the R. J. Reynolds Professor of Chemistry at Duke University, and continued in that position until his death.

Dr. Parham served as a chemical consultant to E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Company beginning in 1953, to the Sinclair Oil Corporation from 1952 to 1969 and to its successor company, the Atlantic Richfield Company, since 1969, and to the Surgeon General, on anti-radiation drugs, from 1959-1961. He served on advisory boards for research grants, including those of the National Science Foundation, Army Office of Ordnance Research, National Institutes of Health, the Office of the Surgeon General, and, at the time of his death, of the Petroleum Research Fund. His national activities in the American Chemical Society included being Secretary-Treasurer and Member of the Executive Committee of the Organic Division (1954-1959) and its Chairman-Elect (1960) and Chairman (1961), Member (1954-1957) and Chairman (1956-1957) of the Committee of the Divisional Officers Group, membership on the Council (1954-1957), Committee on National Meetings and Divisional Activities (1954-1957), Committee of Visiting Associates of the Committee on Professional Training (from 1957 on), and the Canvassing Committee for the A.C.S. Award for Creative Work in Synthetic Organic Chemistry (1959). In addition to Organic Syntheses, he served on the editorial advisory boards of the Journal of Organic Chemistry (1954-1959), Chemical Reviews (1959-1968), and the Advances in Chemistry series of the American Chemical Society (1969-1972). He served as the Associate Editor of Volume 13 of

Organic Reactions, published in 1963, and was the author of the advanced textbook, Syntheses and Reactions in Organic Chemistry, published in 1970. His awards included a Guggenheim Fellowship for study at the California Institute of Technology and the University of Groningen in the Netherlands in 1961-1962, the degree of Honorary Doctor of Science from Southern Methodist University in 1966, the Kresge-Hooker Lectureship at Wayne State University (1968), a Robert A. Welch Foundation Lectureship (Texas, 1969), and the Minnesota Award of the Minnesota Section of the American Chemical Society (1970). In 1966 he served as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Saint Anthony Park Congregational Church, Saint Paul, Minnesota (where a Memorial Service was held for him on May 26, 1976).

Dr. Parham's research interests included the syntheses of heterocyclic compounds, including new sulfur-containing ring systems, the chemistry of divalent sulfur, bisalkylating agents, carbenes leading to dihalocyclopropanes, and their use in preparation of strained aromatic ring systems. He discovered the use of dihydropyran as a method of protecting hydroxyl groups in basic media, and the use of dihalocarbenes in ring expansion reactions via 1,1-dihalocyclopropanes which he applied extensively, and published well over 100 scientific papers. He 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.

We shall sorely miss this warm friend, adviser, and contributor to so much of the success of Organic Syntheses.

-Wayland E. Noland