

In Memorium

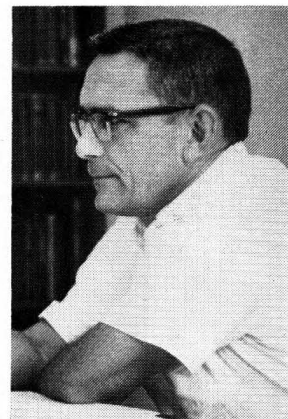
C. E. Littlejohn

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During the last week of May, 1975 many of us associated with Chemical Engineering were stunned and saddened with the announcement of the death of C. E. Littlejohn. To those of us who were aware of Charlie's condition, the news came as no great surprise but still left us numb with grief and disappointment. He is survived by his wife Doris and two daughters.

C. E. Littlejohn, Charlie or Doc Charlie as he was known to his colleagues and students, was born on September 28, 1918 in Spartanburg, S. C. His primary education was in the main undertaken at various schools in the South. He received his B. S. in Chemical Engineering from Clemson College in 1940; his M. S. from North Carolina State in 1941 and his Ph.D. from Virginia Polytechnic Institute in 1952. His professional activities include Chairman of the Western South Carolina Section of AIChE, Faculty Advisor to the Student AIChE Chapter, Member of AIChE-ECPD Accreditation Committee, Chairman of the Chemical Engineering Division of ASEE, and Chairman of the Publication Board of CEE. He was co-author of a Chemical Engineering sophomore level text, listed in Who's Who in the U.S., and selected as Man of the Year of the Western South Carolina Section of AIChE in 1970. Charlie joined the staff of the Chemical Engineering Department at Clemson as an Assistant Professor in 1947 and became Department Chairman in 1956. During this period the departmental staff consisted of Charlie and one other member with very little facilities of its own. However, from the students' point of view this was a positive feature since in meant Charlie taught many of the courses. He was an excellent teacher genuinely concerned with student problems and educational development. He set high standards in his courses but had the rare ability to transmit a keen sense of pride and professionalism to his students. (In fact, who can forget his lab grading system of



blue pencil for technical errors and red pencil for grammar mistakes).

In 1960 the department initiated its M.S. program followed by a Ph.D. program in 1962. In terms of educational philosophy Charlie's belief was that both the undergraduate and graduate training process should reflect an awareness of the industrial sector's needs. One of his quotes associated with the graduate program, during its initial growth stage, was the principle that, "A Differential Equation Never Built a Distillation Column." A belief that research should be used to enhance the expertise of an individual faculty member and ultimately this expertise be useful to the students in their educational development was impressed on his staff.

Insofar as his students were concerned, Charlie took an active interest in their careers and accomplishments. He was always available to both students and industrial representatives for advice, counseling and recommendations concerning career choices. The mark of esteem and affection he was held in is exemplified by the initiation this year of the C. E. Littlejohn Scholarship Fund initiated by industrial representatives who knew him.

Wherever any of "Charlie's Boys" (as his former students liked to refer to themselves) are, each one carries a favorite story or image of Doc Charlie from their own experiences. For myself, the picture I'll always associate with Charlie involves when our paths would cross at the AIChE Annual Meetings and we would get into long discussions on many topics and in my long winded way I would start a discourse on some chemical engineering educational related topic whereupon he would wait until I had finished and with a smile on his face he would properly admonish me with the introductory phrase, "Now, Angie . . .". Charlie, we are going to miss you!

Editor's Note: CEE also mourns the loss of our Publication Board Chairman. He has been succeeded by Prof. William Corcoran of California Institute of Technology.