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Weinland, Edgar L.

Robert A. Weinland

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EDGAR L. WEINLAND

It was one of Dr. Edgar Weinland's proud boasts, at age 89, that he had attended 84 commencements at Otterbein College--starting at age four and missing one year when he had the measles. He was equally proud of having been a member of the Board of Trustees of Otterbein College for 60 years, acting as Secretary of the Board most of those years.

Many honors, richly deserved, came Dr. Weinland's way during the years, including an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Otterbein (1936) and a Distinguished Alumnus Award (the first given) from Otterbein on the sixtieth anniversary of his graduation, in 1951. The Municipal Attorneys Association, in 1956, presented him with a Distinguished Service Award, and the Ohio State Bar Association gave him a certificate on the 65th anniversary of his becoming a member of the Bar. He was also honored to be President of the International Association of Torch Clubs one year. And one of the honors which he enjoyed mentioning was the naming of a city park in Columbus for him, and an adjacent school which is called Weinland Park School, ~~in a predominately Negro part of town.~~

However honors didn't mean as much to Dr. Weinland as the love and affection of his family, friends and associates. His entire life was characterized by a love of people, a keen sense of humor, and a cheerful outlook. He was friendly with everyone--the bus driver, the paper boy, students, judges, and governors.

Edgar Lynn Weinland was born in Middletown, Ohio, on May 29, 1870. His parents, Jacob A. and Ella Shauck Weinland, who had both attended Otterbein at an earlier period, moved to Westerville when their little son was

two years old. Jacob Weinland, an insurance agent, was well known in Westerville, and active in the United Brethern Church, where he was Sunday School superintendent for thirty years.

Living on College Avenue, just half a block from the campus, young Eddie found the Otterbein campus a natural part of his world from his youngest years, and an integral part of his life as he grew up. The quiet streets and yards and countryside around Westerville were the background of a happy childhood. Years later he enjoyed telling his own children many incidents of those days. One story, though, which he always told with a characteristic twinkle in his eye, was different--he longed for a horse all his own, but instead his father bought him an unabridged dictionary!

His sister, Mary (later Mrs. Arthur Crumrine), was several years his junior. She, too, attended Otterbein college, graduating in 1907, and in later years was the librarian at the college library, until the time of her death in 1959.

Since Otterbein at the time included a college preparatory school, Edgar started to school at the age of 14, and graduated from college in 1891. He played oboe and clarinet in the orchestra and band and was a member of Philomathean Society.

Law school followed graduation; he was in the first class to graduate from Ohio State University's new Law School (1893). Then came marriage to Grace Fowler (Otterbein '93), a young school teacher who had played viola in the orchestra at college when they were both students. As a wedding trip--he was fond of saying--they drove a horse and carriage all the way up College Avenue and back. They moved to Columbus, where he began a long and distinguished career in the practice of law and of service to the city.

Edgar Weinland was appointed assistant City Solicitor in 1904 and later became City Solicitor. He served on the City Council for several years. He was a member of the Columbus Charter Commission, which drafted the document which governed the city for many years. He was on the Columbus Housing Authority for 5 years. Asked to revise the Ellis Municipal Code, he did, and remained as editor of it for the next 38 years.

Among other activities during these years, Mr. Weinland served on the board of the Carnegie Public Library, taught law classes at Ohio State University and at Franklin University, was a Mason, an officer in his church, a faithful member of the Optimist Club and of the Torch Club, serving as president of each at one time. He also kept in close touch with Otterbein, always enjoying Homecoming and Commencement activities and faithfully attending meetings of the Trustees. At the time of the Otterbein Diamond Jubilee Forward Appeal, he headed the Columbus committee.

These were also years of busy and happy family life. Four children were born into the family--Robert, Stewart, Ellen (later Mrs. Chadwick Heath) and Margaret (Mrs. W. L. Brooker, Jr.). Throughout the busy years his devotion to his family and theirs to him was of the greatest importance to him. In spite of his multiple activities he was always ready for a game of ball with the boys, story telling for the girls, or a family sing around the piano. Music was one of his favorite hobbies and the piano pieces he had learned as a youth continued to be a joy to him and his family all his life.

One little story he liked to tell of his family was the time when he came home and said to his wife, "Well, who do you suppose was nominated for President of the United States?" Before she could respond and learn that his friend, Charles Evans Hughes had been nominated, four little voices chorused, "Daddy!".

Naturally enough, life was not always without difficulties. Problems and sorrows came and had to be faced, including the death of the promising young son, Stewart, in his early twenties. As always, Ed Weinland was a source of strength to those around him as he met life's trials with courage and faith in the future. His wife's sudden death in 1941 was another blow. When he wrote to his grown-up children later to tell them of his approaching marriage to Bertie Ford (whom they had known all their lives), he said, "When a man has been married to a fine woman like your mother for 47 years, he is not suited for bachelorhood". This second marriage was a very happy one, too, undoubtedly contributing greatly to his long life.

For many people, the age 70 would signify retirement and inactivity. Quite the contrary for Dr. Weinland--at about this age he seemed to undertake a whole new career. He had left his law practice in Columbus, moved to Westerville and for a time was associated with Judge W. H. Troop and Attorney Roy Metz. Following his wife's death and his remarriage, he became a special counsel to the Attorney General of the State of Ohio--Thomas J. Herbert. This was a special appointment because of the war, which had depleted the available attorneys. However, so successful was the arrangement that he was asked to stay on during the terms of the next two Republican regimes, under J. William O'Neill and Hugh Jenkins, and when the Democrats came into power Mark McElroy insisted on Dr. Weinland continuing. This he did, driving or riding the bus to Columbus daily. On his 89th birthday Mr. McElroy gave him a birthday party, attended by the entire department and thoroughly enjoyed by Dr. and Mrs. Weinland.

Another high light of these years was a seven-week tour of Europe (1954). The two Weinlands, definitely the senior members of the group,

proved to be the most tireless of the travellers and the life of the party, enjoying everything from a boat trip down the Rhine to a night at the Follies Bergere.

Visits were also frequent to the homes of his children, where by now there were ten grandchildren and four great-grandchildren -- occasions greatly enjoyed by all.

The Weinlands were loyal supporters of the United Brethren Church during these years and were interested in Westerville's progress, gladly helping to support a drive to build a swimming pool and other community activities. The Westerville Lion's Club was also one of Dr. Weinland's interests.

Otterbein College--only a block from their home--continued to be of concern to the Weinlands. Students were often employed for work in the house or yard, or at times lived in the home. Friendships continued with the faculty and administration. Dr. Weinland made it a point through the years never to miss a Trustee's meeting or special events. In fact, when he was stricken with a heart attack in his eighty-sixth year, he surprised everyone by not only making a recovery in less than three months and returning to his job at the State House, but congratulated himself on the timing of his illness that permitted him to be quite well again before Commencement time.

Westerville was no longer the quiet town it had been in the pre-automobile days of his youth, yet the summer lull was reminiscent of earlier years when death came to this long-time resident. Edgar Weinland worked on Friday at the office, then spent time in his yard on Saturday, visiting with friends, and on Sunday morning, August 16, 1959, died of a heart attack as he and his wife were preparing to go to church. He was loved and admired by his family, friends, associates and acquaintances. Otterbein can be justly proud of his

loyalty to her and his accomplishments in his career and public life. His fine character, keen mind, useful citizenship, ^{satisfying}~~satisfactory~~ personal relationships, Christian attitudes, and continuing zest for living are a worthy example for all.