

G-1100C

JOHN WILLARD GREENE

In a tragic accident on May 22, 1948, Dr. John W. Greene, Chairman of the Department of Chemical Engineering, lost his life in the capsizing of a rubber boat on the South Platte River.

A native of Seattle, Washington, John Willard Greene obtained his B. S. in Chemical Engineering from the University of Washington. He was appointed as a Fellow at the Mellon Institute of Industrial Research where he remained for four years. During this period he carried on graduate work at the Carnegie Institute of Technology and the University of Pittsburgh, receiving his M. S. degree from the former institution, and in 1930, his doctorate from the latter. For the next seven years he was employed in the Research and Development Division of the Standard Oil Company of California doing fundamental research in many problems of petroleum refining. In 1937, he joined the faculty of Kansas State College, becoming head of the Department of Chemical Engineering in 1942, and holding this position until he came to Denver in 1946. In 1942, he was given a leave to serve as Design Engineer with the Chemical Warfare Service, and while there he supervised the design and construction of the first three plants producing one of the major incendiary bombs of the war. Later during the war period and continuing until his death he served as consultant to the Quartermaster Corps on food dehydration problems. For his work in both these fields, he received Presidential Service Citations. He holds several patents; he was the author of many technical papers and books, their number being limited only by the short time he allotted himself for their preparation. He was an expert in the fields of drying, chemical kinetics, and petroleum refining. His memberships in technical and honorary societies were numerous, and recently, largely through his efforts, the Rocky Mountain Section of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers was established.

John Greene came to the University of Denver in the fall of 1946 as Chairman of the Department of Chemical Engineering. In the following brief period of less than two years he won the highest regard of his colleagues and students and made outstanding contributions to the University. He has expanded the teaching of chemical engineering at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. His work in the Bureau of Industrial Research was one of the chief reasons for that organization's rapid growth and development. His unusual competence and ability, his quiet, efficient, and unassuming manner had placed him at the head of his profession in the Rocky Mountain area.

As a leader in his technical field, his day was always more than filled, yet he nevertheless found time for active participation in the growth of his community. He was an energetic and industrious member of his church, an earnest leader in scouting activities, and an enthusiastic member of several civic organizations.

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His life, while terminated early and abruptly, was nevertheless rich, full, and complete. For those who knew him, worked with him, were inspired by him -- though he was an expert in his profession -- he is best remembered as a friend.

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