

## IN MEMORIAM

JAMES HUSTON FELGAR  
1874-1946

James Huston Felgar: born July 27, 1874, in Stuart, Iowa; died July 19, 1946, in Norman, Oklahoma. Aged 72. That is a brief obituary, but during the span of Dean Felgar's life, great changes occurred in the governments of the world, in the birth and growth of the State of Oklahoma, and in education, particularly engineering education, in which he took a major interest. He witnessed an amazing development in his chosen field of engineering and a vigorous growth in religious thought and the social consciousness.

He took his academic degrees at the University of Kansas and Armour Institute of Technology in Chicago. He came to the University of Oklahoma in the spring of 1906 as Instructor in Mechanical Engineering. In 1907 he was made Head of the School of Applied Science and when this was re-organized into the College of Engineering in 1909, Mr. Felgar became its Dean. He served actively as Dean until 1937 when he became Dean Emeritus. Under his leadership the College of Engineering grew from an enrollment of 50 students in four curricula to an enrollment of 1600 in nine curricula.

Dean Felgar was a member of the American Association of Mechanical Engineers, the Oklahoma Society of Professional Engineers which he helped to found, the American Society for Engineering Education, Phi Beta Kappa, Sigma Tau, Tau Beta Pi, the Norman Lions Club (of which he was a charter member and past President), the Oklahoma Academy of Sciences, and several Masonic organizations.

He will long be remembered by the thousands of embryo engineers who passed through his office when registering as Freshmen, for he personally registered all incoming students from the beginning of the Engineering College until 1935 when he took his well-earned leave of absence. The many hundreds of students who took his courses in *Engineering Contracts* or *Business Organization and Management* often thought he "preached" too much about engineering ethics, clean living, proper mental and physical attitudes toward life, how to sit in the classroom, how to behave when seeking a job, etc.; but years afterwards they say they remember and appreciate his courses more because of these moral counsels than any other of their engineering studies.

He was the Senior Elder in the Presbyterian Church at Norman. With his passing, the town of Norman and its civic and religious organizations, the College of Engineering and the University, as well as the engineering student body and alumni, have lost an exemplary citizen, an active supporter and co-worker, an upright civic and educational leader. He will long be remembered by those who knew him and his name revered by faculty and students.—F. G. TAPPAN, University of Oklahoma, Norman.