

# Robert Hermann Siegfried

*January 19, 1899 — December 23, 1992*

Robert H. Siegfried died after a short illness on December 23, 1992. Bob was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and attended high school in Asheville, North Carolina. From 1917 through 1920 he was in the machinist apprentice program at the Norfolk Naval Yard. In 1921, he entered the Sibley School of Mechanical Engineering—as a special student because of the need to fulfill missing entrance requirements before a degree could be awarded. He completed the program of courses in mechanical engineering in 1925, but he had not found time to complete making up the missing entrance requirements. This circumstance had a major influence on the direction of Bob's career in engineering, in that he was hired as an instructor in engineering drawing during the time he was completing the entrance requirements. He received the M.E. degree in 1926.

Bob accepted a position as a test engineer with the Duquesne Light Company in Pittsburgh. After one year there, he moved to the Jones and Laughlin Steel Company. In 1928 he joined the faculty of the Mechanics Institute in Rochester, New York, to teach mechanical drafting, mathematics, and physics. Three years later he was drawn back to Ithaca to be a draftsman in the City Engineer's Office. In 1937, Bob moved over to C.S. Robinson Aerial Surveys, where he was a draftsman and laboratory technician.

In 1941, the opportunity again arose to teach, and in March, he joined the Trumansburg Central School National Defense Training Program, to teach in the areas of blueprint reading, sketching, shop mathematics, shop theory, and machine shop work.

In September 1941, Bob accepted the position of instructor in the Department of Engineering Drawing in the Sibley School of Mechanical Engineering at Cornell, where he taught mechanical drawing and descriptive geometry until his retirement in 1964. From 1942 until 1961 he was in charge of the engineering drawing courses for students in the School of Chemical and Metallurgical Engineering, with offices in both East Sibley and Olin Halls. During the period 1943-55 he also served as consultant/draftsman for the U.S. Nutrition Laboratory at Cornell in relation to drawings and charts for publications. He was promoted to assistant professor in 1946, to associate professor in 1952, and to professor emeritus in 1964.

Bob Siegfried is remembered as a dedicated family man, a competent engineer, a gifted and conscientious teacher, and a loyal Cornellian. He was admired and respected by both his students and colleagues.

Bob was a member of the American Society for Engineering Education, the American Association of University Professors, the New York Society of Cornell Engineers, the First Church of Christ Science, and he was active in the Boy Scouts of America and Masonry.

Upon retirement, the Siegfrieds moved to Hendersonville, North Carolina.

Professor Siegfried is survived by his wife, Edith Harris Siegfried of Hendersonville; a daughter, Judith Licht of Cincinnati, Ohio; two sons, Robert of Cincinnati, Ohio and John of Cleveland, Ohio; sixteen grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

*Bart Conta, Robert L. Wehe, Richard M. Phelan*