

# Marvin Bogema

*May 29, 1911 — July 25, 1962*

Marvin Bogema, Professor of Civil Engineering and Professor-in-Charge of the Applied Hydraulic Laboratory at Cornell University, died suddenly of a heart attack on July 25, 1962, in Ithaca, New York. He was fifty-one years old at the time of his death and had served Cornell and its students continuously for twenty-one years.

Professor Bogema was born in Muskegon, Michigan, and received his early education in that city. After he was awarded the degree of Bachelor of Science in Engineering from Michigan State College in 1933, he gained a wide variety of practical engineering experience by working, in turn, with a construction company, the City of Muskegon, the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey, the National Park Service, and then, for five years, with the Chicago consulting engineering firm of Greely and Hansen. There he was engaged in planning and designing numerous hydraulic and sanitary engineering projects and structures. It is probable that this experience confirmed his choice of hydraulics and hydraulic engineering as his major field of interest. While still employed with Greely and Hansen he pursued graduate studies in sewage treatment and stream pollution at the Armour Institute of Technology in 1939-1940. The desire to prepare himself still further for work in his chosen field prompted him to come to Cornell in 1940 where he received the degree of Master of Civil Engineering in 1942. During this period he also served as an instructor in engineering mechanics in the Sibley School of Mechanical Engineering. After receiving his Master's degree he became an Assistant Professor of Civil Engineering in 1942 and advanced to the rank of Associate Professor in 1947 and to Professor in 1951.

During his years at Cornell he maintained an effective balance between theory and practice and took a great interest in laboratory work. He organized and taught numerous courses in the areas of fluid mechanics, hydraulic engineering, and hydrology at both the undergraduate and graduate levels and served at various times as head of the Hydraulics Department. In this connection he devised many novel methods and pieces of apparatus, which served to demonstrate the principles covered in his lectures and to motivate his students. In addition, he devoted a large part of his time and energies to planning major alterations to the laboratory at Beebe Lake and to designing and building an entirely new laboratory in Hollister Hall. It was not unusual to find him in his working clothes in one or the other of these facilities at all hours, expediting the work with his own hands. Those two modern laboratories are truly his creations. With them he developed the Applied Hydraulics Laboratory into a going

activity and obtained and directed many projects, which involved tests, calibrations, and research studies. Along with all this he managed to keep in touch with industry and with the realities of professional practice.

Early in his teaching career he published a "Report on Current Practice in Teaching Hydraulics and Fluid Mechanics in the United States." This was followed by other publications on such subjects as "Friction Loss in Aluminum Pipe," "Head Loss in Irrigation-Line Quick Couplers," and "The Quadrant Edge Orifice-A Fluid Meter for Low Reynolds Numbers." He also prepared numerous reports of tests and model studies. One of the latest of these was a report on a study of deflection jetties for a major power plant on the Kanawa River in West Virginia. In his private consulting work as an individual and as a member of the firm of Bogema, Giffit, and Jenkins, which he organized, he made surveys and prepared plans and specifications for water and sewer systems in the Ithaca area and in Penn Yan and Interlaken, New York, and served as a consultant to several pump manufacturers as well as an adviser and expert witness for the Department of Public Works of the State of New York in various damage claims cases.

Professor Bogema was always mindful of his responsibilities to his profession and to his community, and he gave freely of his time to these aspects of his life. His service on numerous University and College committees included the chairmanship of the Policy Committee of the College of Engineering and a charter membership of the Joint Committee to Administer the Agricultural Engineering Curriculum. He was a Registered Civil Engineer in Michigan (1937) and was the first Licensed Professional Engineer in New York (1943) who received his license by endorsement. He was also a Fellow of the American Society of Civil Engineers and a past president of its Ithaca section; a member of Phi Kappa Phi, Tau Beta Pi, the American Society of University Professors, the American Society for Engineering Education, the American Society for Mechanical Engineers, the Institute of Hydraulic Research, and the American Academy of Sanitary Engineers. He took a great interest in the affairs of his community and, among other things, served as chairman of the board of trustees of the First Congregational Church of Ithaca and as a member of the board of directors of the Varna Fire Company. Always a builder, he was the guiding force in the planning and construction of the Varna Community Center.

His friends and associates remember him for yet many other things: for his strong convictions and high ethical principles, and for his forthright support of them; for the high standards of performance which he demanded of himself and his students and for his wholesome influence on his students; for the zeal, initiative, and hard work that he applied to everything he undertook, and for his ability to get results at low cost; for his love of flowers and his skill in growing them, and, most of all, for his fine devotion to his work, his school, his profession, his community, and his home and family.

He was survived by his wife Vivian Clark Bogema; a son, William Derk Bogema; a daughter, Valerie Clark Bogema; his mother, Reka Bogema; a sister, Mrs. James Tregoning; and two brothers, Manna and Carleton Bogema. He was buried in Muskegon, Michigan.

*George B. Lyon, James A. Liggett, John C. Gebhard*