

# Victor Raymond Gage

*November 12, 1882 — January 12, 1955*

Victor Raymond Gage, Professor Emeritus of Mechanical Engineering, died in Ithaca, New York on January 12, 1955 after a long illness.

He was born in Vineland, New Jersey, but soon moved with his family to Wilmette, Illinois where he spent his early life.

He attended Cornell University as an undergraduate and was awarded the degree of Mechanical Engineer in June 1906. After graduation, he spent a year in commercial life. He returned to Cornell in the fall of 1907 as an Instructor in the Department of Experimental Engineering. While instructing he did graduate work on “Heat Transfer in Boiler Tubes” which he presented as a thesis for the degree of Master of Mechanical Engineering in 1912. He was elected that year to the Society of Sigma Xi in recognition of the excellence of his graduate work.

The next year he was advanced to the rank of Assistant Professor in the same department and in 1923 he attained the rank of Professor of Experimental Engineering. This rank he held until his retirement in 1950. However, during a reorganization of the College of Engineering in 1942, his title was changed to that of Professor of Mechanical Engineering. For over thirty five years he was in direct charge of the Senior Mechanical Laboratory. He was an excellent teacher, an exacting task master, who required a high standard of work from his students. Those who taught under him found him an ever ready and sympathetic source of inspiration to hold to high scholastic standards. Both those who studied under him and those who had the privilege of teaching under him felt the power of his personality.

While he was a member of the Cornell University Faculty, he found time to do much technical writing and research work. During the summer months and sabbatical leaves he broadened his technical knowledge by doing research work with the North Shore Electric Company of Evanston, Illinois, the White Motor Company of Cleveland, Ohio, and the Western Electric Company of Chicago. During the first world war he served with the National Advisory Committee on Aeronautics at the Bureau of Standards in Washington, D. C. Here he was in contact with the early development of aeronautical fuels and power plants and was the author or coauthor of nine of the Committee’s reports. During the second world war he acted in an advisory capacity to the Office of Fuel Administration for Ithaca. During his later years he developed an intense interest in photography and contributed many papers on

the technical aspects of that subject to such important publications as *Camera*, *American Photography*, and the *American Annual of Photography*.

Victor Gage was an ardent Mason. He belonged to and was active in Hobasco Lodge AF and AM which he served as Master in 1938 and in the Eagle Chapter, R. A. M. of which he was High Priest in 1920. He was a member of long standing in the Cornell Chapter of the Acacia Fraternity.

He served his community as a member of the Ithaca Municipal Civil Service Commission for a term of years starting about 1920 and was later a member of the Zoning Board of the Village of Cayuga Heights. He was also a member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and Society of Automotive Engineers.

In 1908 he married Miss Helen Morton Heath. A daughter, Miss Helen Victoria Gage, was born of this marriage. Miss Gage is a member of the research staff of the Hercules Powder Company of Wilmington, Delaware.

A loyal husband and devoted father, Victor Gage was also an inspiring and provocative teacher, whose unique service to the University places him naturally among that august company to whom Cornell owes its enviable leadership among the major Universities of the United States.

*C. D. Albert, W. C. Andrae, B. S. Monroe*