

Edwin Ray Hoskins

May 20, 1891 — November 8, 1982

Edwin Ray Hoskins, professor emeritus of education, died November 8, 1982, at the age of ninety-one. Born on a farm near Auburn, of New York farmer parentage, he was the fifth generation to own or supervise the ancestral farms, Hoskins Homesteads, of Scipio Center. He was a graduate of the Moravia Training Class, and after having four years of teaching experience in rural schools of Cayuga County, New York, graduated from Moravia High School, class of 1914. He served in the 78th Army Division during World War I, returning to study at Cornell University, where he earned his B.S. degree in 1919, his M.S. in 1924, and his Ph.D. in 1933.

During the 1920s he was a teacher of vocational agriculture, a high school principal, a critic teacher in the Trumansburg Central School (then a Cornell practice center affiliated with the Department of Rural Education), and an itinerant teacher trainer in agricultural education. In 1931 Mr. Hoskins was appointed by the Department of Rural Education in the College of Agriculture at Cornell University as teacher trainer in agricultural education. He was promoted to assistant professor of rural education in 1933 and subsequently to associate professor and professor. On retirement from state service on January 31, 1955, he was appointed professor of rural education emeritus.

Professor Hoskins was a thirty-year member and past president of the Association of Teachers of Agriculture of New York, past member of the Advisory Council of the New York Association of Future Farmers of America (FFA), and a member of long standing in many professional, fraternal, and farm organizations. He was also active in department, college, and University committee work and activities. Professor Hoskins was engaged in preparation of graduate and undergraduate teachers of vocational agriculture at Cornell for over thirty years. During that time he was particularly concerned with youth in rural areas. His understanding of, and appreciation for, the American farmer and his problems earned for him the well-deserved respect of his professional colleagues.

His experience in management of farms and teaching in rural schools before entering college led to his desire to aid rural youth in discovering, analyzing, and solving certain basic problems. He set and maintained high standards of service to all rural youth, especially to out-of-school groups. His writings and publications related to rural youth and leaders of rural youth, dealing with specific problems of vocational education in agriculture.

During the decade of the 1940s his activities and responsibilities varied as related to the war and postwar periods. He was a member of the editorial managing board of the *Agricultural Education Magazine* and served as the North

Atlantic regional representative to study the effectiveness of the Institution-on-Farm Training Program (IOF) for veterans. He was later appointed national chairman for the completion of this study and in 1951 launched the national study to determine the effectiveness of the program. He gave considerable time and attention to supplying emergency teachers during the war period and to the retraining of veterans during the postwar period in an effort to supply more qualified teachers of vocational agriculture and leaders for the IOF program.

He conducted a study of rural military veterans in 1944 to determine their educational and economic needs for readjustment to civilian life; he was responsible for the adult education section of the Intermediate District study in ten Upstate areas in 1945. Much time and effort was also given to development of cooperative relationships with some sixty secondary schools in establishing the apprentice teaching programs.

Following his retirement Professor Hoskins was free to travel and served abroad, first in India and later in the Philippines. His work in India at the Agricultural College in Poona with the Kansas State College project in reference to developing a program for extension education at the college combined his interests and expertise in vocational education with farm management. This Ford Foundation-funded program involved development of supporting facilities and an associated training program at Cornell University for professors affiliated with the Agricultural College.

During his career at Cornell Professor Hoskins influenced the lives and careers of many. In 1978 many of them contributed to the establishment of an Ag Quad tree in his honor. The sugar maple stands today outside Stone Hall as a living memorial to his dedicated life of service to education of rural youth.

Professor Hoskins was the widower of Ethel Williams Hoskins, who died in 1952. He is survived by two sons, Earl W. Hoskins of Wolcott and Edwin Paul Hoskins of Sidney; a daughter, Angie Gilchrist of Manasquan, New Jersey; eight grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Marvin D. Clock, Helen L. Wardeberg, William E. Drake