

Carl Crandall

July 22, 1890 — April 25, 1968

Carl's death marked the first time in one hundred years that at least one member of the Crandall family was not either a student or a member of the faculty at Cornell. His uncle, Charles Lee Crandall, entered with the first freshman class in 1868 and, following his graduation in 1872, taught in the School of Civil Engineering until he retired in 1915. His father (C.E. 78) and his two brothers also graduated from Cornell, as did various members of the younger Crandall generation.

Born in Ithaca, Carl started surveying while still in Ithaca High School and pursued this work both as a vocation and avocation all his life. "Better than golf," he often said. There was no one who knew more about local property lines or made more surveys than he. Among other things he made about one-fourth of the University's topographic surveys, laid out eleven parks in the Finger Lakes State Parks system, and was the New York State representative for the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey.

He received his C.E. degree from Cornell in 1912 and then did graduate work in hydraulics for three-quarters of a year. While an undergraduate he took part in many extracurricular activities. He won his varsity "C" in cross country and track, and continued an interest in athletics all his life. He was a familiar figure as an official at track meets, timing events with stop watch in "and, and as a spectator at most other sports events. Always interested in getting things done, he served on numerous student committees, was editor-in-chief of the *Cornell Civil Engineer*, and was assistant chief engineer of the school's summer surveying camp for juniors on Cayuga Lake.

Except for two years during World War I when he was a second lieutenant, pilot, and flight instructor in the old Army Air Service, he served on the civil engineering faculty, in all ranks from instructor to professor, until he retired as Professor Emeritus in 1958. While his principal field was engineering construction and administration, his versatility was such that he taught more than eighteen courses at one time or another. When Director W. L. Malcolm died in 1948, Carl guided the affairs of the school as acting director for many months until Director Christensen arrived. Among his numerous committee assignments was one which called for the study of the academic and administrative functions of the College of Engineering, and another that dealt with military service. And, for six years as secretary of the School of Civil Engineering, and eleven years as secretary of the faculty of the College of Engineering, he not only kept concise accurate records but also, through tactful comments and suggestions made at strategic times, guided these faculties and their committees in the development of well-

worded consistent bodies of legislation. It was characteristic of him that he took only three sabbaticals in his forty-five years of teaching and none in his first twenty-two years.

Off campus, Carl was even more active as a licensed professional engineer, businessman, and civic leader. His extensive engineering practice took him to many parts of New York and other states and ranged in scope from surveys and appraisals to the planning and design of structures, utility systems, roads, parks, communities, and other engineering concerns, and to work as a consulting engineer and as an expert witness in well over 300 court cases. Locally, for example, he designed and supervised the foundations for such buildings as the DeWitt Junior High School, Treman King Company store, First National Bank buildings, Rothschild's department store; and the structural frames and foundations for the County Court House and Jail, the Seneca Building, Cayuga Apartments, the addition to Uris Library, and a host of smaller structures. He also handled improvements to the Tompkins County Airport and the sewage collection and disposal system of the village of Cayuga Heights.

One of his great interests was the development of parks and recreation areas. This started in 1920 when he was made chief engineer of the Enfield Falls State Reservation Commission, an event which led to a long association with the Finger Lakes State Parks Commission as engineer, secretary-treasurer, and finally executive officer from the time it was formed in 1924 until he retired from it in 1961. In this work he had the principal hand in conceiving the scope of the programs and in acquiring lands and developing and operating the eleven constituent parks. His expertise in this area extended to work on many important committees of the State Council of Parks, of which he was a member, and to service as a consultant for many years to the Genesee and Allegany State Parks and to shorter consultations elsewhere in New York and in other states. It also covered a tour of duty as procurement officer for the National Parks Service.

As a businessman he contributed to civic affairs in such positions as treasurer and president of the Ithaca Savings and Loan Association, vice president and director of the Ithaca Chamber of Commerce, director of the Robinson Airlines, forerunner of the present Mohawk Airlines, and president of the East Lawn Cemetery Association. This interest in community affairs was manifested in many other ways as well. He was acting city engineer of Ithaca for a time and served the village of Cayuga Heights during most of its history, as engineer, zoning officer, and even police commissioner. Through his technical, legal, and administrative expertise and wise counsel he did much to provide an orderly continuity in the growth of the village. He was also a member of the Cornell Plantations committee from its founding; chairman of the local Selective Service Board in World War II, chairman of the Tompkins County Relief Bureau, and director of local WPA projects during the great depression.

Among other societies, Carl was a member of Zodiac, Sigma Xi, Chi Epsilon, American Society of Civil Engineers, New York State Society of Professional Engineers, Cornell Society of Engineers, American Association of University Professors, American Institute of Park Executives, American Legion, and the Cornell Club of Ithaca.

At his death, town and gown joined in voicing the sentiments expressed by the faculty and alumni of the School of Civil Engineering at a reunion breakfast on his retirement from teaching in 1958:

A man of many talents, you blended into our classrooms and council chambers the benefits of your wide experiences as a practicing engineer, businessman, and civic leader, and by your example you showed us how versatile and efficient an engineer can be. Your unusual ability to plan your time and effort and direct the work of others enabled you over the years to do the work of several men, never seeming hurried or slighting a task.

S. C. Hollister, William McGuire, J. C. Gebhard