

## **John Hayes Obituary**

John M. Hayes, Professor Emeritus, School of Civil Engineering, Purdue University, passed away on February 23, 1998 at age 88. Professor Hayes was born in Wingate, Indiana and grew up in the Wingate and Veedersburg areas. He and his wife Coye M. (Cunningham) met in 1931 during their senior year in college. They married in June 1935, in the Fountain City Methodist Church, Fountain City, TN. Mrs. Hayes and two daughters, Marian (Jernigan), Lewisville, TX, and Julia (Casey), Dearborn, MI, survive.

Professor Hayes obtained his B.S. degree in civil engineering from Purdue University in 1931. Afterward he held positions with the TVA and the U.S. Bureau of Public Roads. While with the TVA, he eventually became in charge of designing steel structures encountered in hydroelectric and steam generating plants, industrial buildings, and highway and rail bridges. One of the bridges was the Little Tennessee River Bridge below Fontana Dam that in 1949 was awarded a prize by the American Institute for Steel Construction as one of the most beautiful steel bridges erected over the years 1942-1947.

He earned a M.S. degree in Engineering Mechanics from the University of Tennessee in 1944 and he earned the Professional Civil Engineering degree from Purdue University in 1946. In the years 1946-1948, as the District Bridge Engineer for the U.S. Bureau of Public Roads, he was in charge of all the Federal bridge work in the State of Arkansas. He was a licensed Professional Engineer in Tennessee and Indiana.

Professor Hayes joined the Purdue faculty in 1948 as an Associate Professor and was promoted to Professor in 1958. His research centered on performance of highway and railway bridges including effects of vibration. He authored a number of technical papers and papers on engineering education.

While he was an active faculty member, he held leadership positions in local, state, and national levels of ASCE. He was President of the Indiana Section, District 9 Director, and for the Society, Vice President from Zone III and he chaired the Technical Activities Committee, the Committee on Society Objectives, Planning, and Organization, and the Executive Committee of the Education Division. For his leadership and service to ASCE, he was accorded the status of Honorary Member. In 1988, John Hayes was named as the Outstanding Civil Engineer of the year by the Indiana Section ASCE. Professor Hayes was an active member of the National Society of Professional Engineers, the American Welding Society, the International Association for Bridge and Structural Engineering, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Society for Experimental Stress Analysis, the American Society for Engineering Education, the American Railway Engineering Association, and the American Society for Testing and Materials. He was inducted into Chi Epsilon, the civil engineering honor society and Sigma Xi, the scientific research honor society. The University of Tennessee recognized him as an Outstanding Engineering Alumnus in 1975.

Since retiring in 1975 and being named Professor Emeritus, he was the Indiana Section ASCE Contact Member to the Purdue Student Chapter of ASCE. He gave much to his profession and his many students, especially his personal attention. Many civil engineers

across the country became active leaders in the profession because of Professor Hayes' example and inspiration

Since 1948, Mr. Hayes had been an active member of the First United Methodist Church. He served as a lay leader, as a Sunday School teacher, and he was a member of the United Methodist Men. He was actively involved in many church activities and committees.

He was a member of the Lions Club for many years; a member of the Sons of the American Revolution where he served as a local officer and served on committees at the local, state and national levels. He was also a member of the People to People Club for many years. He and Mrs. Hayes traveled to Europe and Asia with that group.

(Editor's note: This report was prepared by Dr. Vince Drnevich, with assistance from C. Douglas Sutton, both men are on the faculty of the Purdue University School of Civil Engineering.)

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Memories of John Hayes (From August, 1998 issue of ICE)  
by Richard Albright

John Hayes will be remembered by many as the Grand Old Man of "That grand old profession of Civil Engineering", as he liked to refer to it. John regarded Civil Engineering as a calling, and he had a passion for impressing that on everyone with whom he came in contact. To John, his profession was a way of life, and life of service.

To John's students, he was a teacher, a philosopher, an example, and a friend. John lectured not only on complete designs, but on complete living. John probably knew that a lot of his moralizing amused his students or went in one ear and out the other, but enough of what he said obviously stuck with a lot of his students because he had friends and fans around the world — and he sent birthday cards to many of them. I only know of one former student who was offended by John's advice to lead a moral life. John's dedication was such that he wasn't content to contact only those students in his classes. He spread his philosophy as editor of the Indiana Civil Engineer for many years, and he continued working with students as Contact Member to the Purdue Student Chapter of ASCE after his retirement from teaching.

John was extremely dedicated to ASCE because supporting his professional society was by definition a vital part of being a professional. He was active in the Indiana Section and as District 9 Director and Zone II Vice President. He was deeply disappointed when some political maneuvering denied him the opportunity to lead ASCE to a high moral ground as it's president. John's scheme for organizing ASCE's technical activities served the Society well for many years until recently dismantled by the creation of institutes. ASCE recognized his contributions by electing him to honorary membership.

John and his wife could be counted on to attend every ASCE convention until Mrs. Hayes' health made it impossible for them to travel.

John's friendly smile, his enthusiasm, and his thought provoking invocations will be sorely missed, but remembered, whenever Indiana Civil Engineers gather, for many years to come.