

Foreword

This special issue of *Biophysical Chemistry* is dedicated to the memory of William F. Harrington. Bill's outstanding scientific and human qualities were commemorated in a memorial symposium at Johns Hopkins University in June 1993. The appearance of this special issue is an outcome of the desire of its editors and authors to leave a more permanent record of their admiration and affection.

Rather than a conventional biographical essay, the editors have collected in the following article a series of vignettes written by persons who were especially close to Bill in a variety of ways. These present personal accounts of various stages and aspects of his career as a student, postdoc, colleague, teacher, mentor, etc. In this brief introduction we fill in some factual data about his life and career which are not covered by these informal presentations. Further information can be obtained from the resume of his life and work in *Trends in Biochemical Sciences*, 18 (1993) 364–365.

Bill was born in Seattle on 25 September 1920 and attended public school there. During World War II he served in the Marine Corps. On his return he completed his undergraduate studies in Chemistry at Berkeley in 1948 and remained there for graduate

work to obtain his PhD with Howard Schachman. After finishing his graduate studies in 1952, he left Berkeley in 1953 to spend a year in the Department of Colloid Science at the University of Cambridge, taking with him his growing family [wife, Inge; children: Susan, Eric, Peter (born in England), David and Robert (born several years later upon his return to the United States)]. In 1954 he went to the Carlsberg Laboratory to work with K. Linderstrøm-Lang. He returned to the United States in 1955 to take a position at Iowa State University, where he remained for a year, until the attractions of the Anfinsen Laboratory at the NIH lured him away from academic life temporarily. He returned, however, in 1960 when he accepted a Professorship at Johns Hopkins University, where he stayed till the end of his career. A description of his activities during these various phases of his life can be found in the following article.

The editors are grateful for help and cooperation from Anthony Watts, the chief editor of *Biophysical Chemistry*.

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