

PHILIP R. FEHLANDT

Dr. Philip Fehlandt was a professor of Chemistry. He received his Bachelor of Arts from Ripon College, his Master of Arts from the University of Wisconsin, and his Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin. He was and instructor of Chemistry and an assistant professor of Chemistry at Wittenberg College and then the College of Puget Sound where he came in 1937.

Dr. Fehlandt was a most interesting man. He was a tall, rather handsome person with his hair parted in the middle. He wore glasses and his lips had an interesting formation when he talked.

Dr. Fehlandt was an excellent teacher of Chemistry although he had certain tricks which always frightened me. About the second or third week in the Freshman class when he thought the students were losing some interest, he would start to perform an experiment on the teaching desk in the front of the classroom and all of a sudden there would be an explosion which would blow corks to the ceiling and blow material up on the ceiling. It always appeared to be an accident but I found out it was a planted factor to arouse the students and, as he said, "Wake up those who had gone to sleep." It was a teaching tool that he used.

Dr. Fehlandt had certain hobbies - the almost compelling one was the raising of orchids. He purchased a house on 31st Street overlooking Commencement Bay and the

mountains. There he built two greenhouses. He took care of his orchids in a most tender way. He showed me that when he would get a special orchid seed from somewhere abroad, he would put it in a certain medium, leave it there for a certain number of days, then transfer it to another medium and before too long it would start to grow and sprout. He knew the exact number of days they should be in each medium, the exact temperature, and his orchid culture was recognized around the world.

He used to bring orchids to my office every so often and when one would be passed its prime, he would change it for another. It was interesting when I went to the Kemper Foundation in Chicago to ask them to underwrite certain courses at the University, Mr. Kemper looked at his wife, who happened to be in the office and said, "This is the man who has orchids in his office everytime we go there." I had not realized we had a national reputation because of Dr. Fehlandt's orchids. He told me that sometimes he sold orchid plants and orchid bulbs for \$75 to \$150 apiece on the international market. He also went to some of the international shows in Europe and in the Far East. One time when I was thanking him for bringing the orchids into the office, I said, "How can you afford to do this when they are so fine?" I knew that he was furnishing orchids to a good many florists for corsages for special events. He got a twinkle in his eye and said, "Don't worry about it, Dr.,

I take it as a tax deduction."

His second avocation was playing bridge and he was part of the National Bridge Tournament circuit. He flew to Hawaii to play the tournament and as a matter of fact, it was at a tournament when his health finally failed him.

He was one of the outstanding professors which we had. The students considered him a very hard professor and yet a very honest professor, and a very excellent professor. He taught several of his students in a most unusual way. One, of course, was Dr. Robert Sprenger of whom we shall speak later.