

JOHN DICKINSON REGESTER

John Dickinson Regester was Dean of the College of Puget Sound and professor of Philosophy. He graduated from Allegheny College in 1920, went to Boston University and got his Bachelor of Sacred Theology in 1922 and his Ph.D. there in 1928. He studied at the University of Edinburgh, University of Basle and various other Universities. He was a Bordon P. Brown Fellow in Philosophy from the University of Boston Graduate School. He was professor of Philosophy at the College of Puget Sound in 1934, acting Dean in 1936 and became the Dean in 1937.

Dean Regester was tall, a man of excellent appearance, and a man very dedicated to the development of the University. He studied the building of curriculum constantly. He made recommendations for the development of the University. He was excellent in his association with his faculty and the leadership he gave the faculty and he had great regard and affection from his students.

The Dean served during the time when there was a build up for the war and also during the time when the University was greatly affected by the students leaving to enter the armed services. It also called for a heavy flexibility in the teaching staff. He was with Dr. Todd when Dr. Todd told the faculty that many of them ought to try to get other jobs because the students simply would not be on the campus to teach, as the war took them away.

I had great appreciation for him because of his flexibility and because of his constant desire to have the highest kind of educational standards even in the most difficult situations.

He had a way of maintaining high standards and doing it in such a way that his colleagues respected him and were willing to cooperate.

I, personally, had great admiration for him because of the committment he possessed to the College and his ability to secure excellent faculty, particularly when the heavy enrollment came as the GIs came back. There was one second semester when 500 young men showed up whom we had not anticipated. We did not know of their coming until a week or so ahead of time. We were able, however, because of the unusual reservoir of Ph.D.s and Master in Tacoma, to staff the College with excellent teachers.

Dean Register was loyal. He was dedicated. He was a hard worker. He was a man given to making the greatest possible University. He was an ordained Methodist preacher and his relationship with the church and the University in bringing them closer together was very much appreciated.

He was well liked by his colleagues, his students, and was highly respected by the entire community and in the area. He asked to retire and he lived a short way from the campus for many years and then moved to Wesley Gardens Retirement Home in DesMoines, Washington. He had a wonderful wife, Frances, who was a very outstanding leader in the Women's University League and in the Methodist Circles in the community. They made an ideal couple for the College of Puget Sound.

After his retirement his wife Frances died. He later married a lady whom they had known in graduate school in Boston. She had lost her husband about the same time Frances died.

The Regesters had two children, John and Elizabeth.