

In Memoriam

The Secretary regrets to announce the deaths of the following members of our Society.

Elmer F. Bracken — (M'36-LM'61) March 16, 1974

Frank S. Brainard — (M'21-LM'58) November 19, 1974

Lawrence R. Browning — (M'27-LM'62) March 13, 1975

Vincent B. Clarke — (M'04-LM'39-HM'55) March 14, 1975

Harold A. Kerr — (M'63) February 13, 1975

Edward P. Lawton, Jr. — (M'43-LM'68) August 5, 1974

Russell P. McGrath — (M'28-LM'62) March 25, 1975

John H. Mensel — (M'53) April 27, 1975

Allan H. Page — (M'26-LM'61) February 4, 1974

Richard L. Paull — (M'70) February 5, 1975

Frank W. Ragaini — (M'28-LM'62) October 6, 1974

Norton H. Sutton — (M'60) February 25, 1975

Leonard F. Whelan — (M'45-LM'70) February 18, 1975

“They leave us with a heritage
of loyalty and service”

ELMER F. BRACKEN

Died March 16, 1974

Elmer F. Bracken, 83, of 15 Elliot Street, East Norwalk, died March 16, 1974 in Norwalk Hospital. He was the husband of the late Mrs. Ruth Meeker Hawkins Bracken.

Born in Long Island City, N.Y. he was a resident of Norwalk for most of his life and was retired from the Second District Water Department of the City of Norwalk where he had served as manager and engineer for over 40 years. Mr. Bracken was a Life Member of the Connecticut Society of Civil Engineers.

He is survived by three daughters, Mrs. Norman Sculley of Norwalk; Mrs. J. Carter Cooper of Newton and Mrs. Arthur Tolles of Bethlehem; also, nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

FRANK S. BRAINARD

Died November 19, 1974

Frank Samuel Brainard, 85, of the Masonic Home and Hospital, Wallingford, formerly of Hartford and former distribution engineer for the Hartford Metropolitan District Commission, died November 19, 1974 at the hospital in Wallingford. He was born in Colchester.

Nationally recognized as an expert on water distribution, he headed the Hartford Metropolitan Districts' department for most of the 47 years he was in its service, before retiring in 1954.

As an active member of both the New England Water Works Association and the American Water Works Association he served as ranking member of their distribution and metering committees for many years. He invented and patented the METER-MASTER, a recording device for measuring liquid rates of flow. Mr. Brainard was a lifelong member of the Connecticut Society of Civil Engineers.

For 20 years he was moderator of the

Blue Hills Baptist Church and for many years was president of the Emmanuel Congregational Church choir in which he was an active participant. He was a past master of Orient Lodge No. 62 AF&AM and at the time of his death was its eldest living member. He was also active in the Connecticut Consistory as a 32nd degree Mason, the Scottish Rite and a Shriner.

He leaves three sons, Frank S. Brainard, Jr. of New Hope, Pa., Richard P. Brainard of Alexandria, Va., and Robert P. Brainard of Bethesda, Md., a daughter Mrs. Laura B. Halliwell of Easton, and a brother, Dr. Stanley N. Brainard of East Hartford.

LAWRENCE R. BROWNING

Died March 13, 1975

Lawrence R. Browning, 71, of 14 Mediterranean Lane, Norwich Town died in Boston, March 13, 1975.

He was born Aug. 12, 1903 in Worcester, Mass., the son of D. Lewis Browning and Bessie J. (Tourtellotte) Browning, later moving to Norwich where he attended local schools. He attended the YMCA Institute in Providence, R.I. and the Hillyer College in Hartford.

He was married in Beverly, Mass. in 1940 to the former Blanche Wilber, a teacher at the Norwich Art School and Norwich Free Academy. He was employed for a time with the Chandler & Palmer Engineering firm in Norwich.

In 1924 he started work with the State Highway Department in the Norwich office. From 1943 to 1945 Mr. Browning left the highway department to work as materials engineer on military construction with several private companies. His work involved construction of 12 major airports from Savannah, Ga. to Cape Cod.

He returned to the highway department in 1945 as a junior highway engineer in the Danielson office and advanced

to assistant highway engineer and senior highway engineer. In 1964 he was named to the position of engineer of agreements. Mr. Browning retired after 42 years of service with the department.

Mr. Browning was a registered professional engineer since 1937. He was a past president and a life member of the Connecticut Society of Civil Engineers having served the Society as a director from District II for two years, second vice president, first vice president and became president for the year 1967. Mr. Browning received the H. Jackson Tippet Award in 1971, an award given annually by C.S.C.E. in recognition of outstanding service by an individual in the field of engineering.

He was a charter member of the Eastern Connecticut Chapter of the Connecticut Society of Professional Engineers and had served two consecutive terms as its president. He was also a member of the Association of Highway Officials of the North Atlantic States, The American Road Builders Association and had been active in the Norwich Power Squadron. He was also active in the Sprague Camera Club.

Surviving are his mother and wife; one brother, Percy Browning of Groton Long Point; a sister, Mrs. Richard MacLagin of Manchester, Conn. and several nieces and nephews.

VINCENT B. CLARKE

Died March 14, 1975

Mr. Vincent B. Clarke, a descendant of the founders of the Town of Milford, died March 14, 1975 at Geer Convalescent Home, Canaan. Mr. Clarke, 94, was a former city engineer for Ansonia.

He was born in Milford, in 1880, the son of the late David N. Clarke and Leonora Platt Clarke, and was the husband of Mrs. Elsie Dean Clarke of 84 West Main St., Milford.

Mr. Clarke was founder and President of Clarke and Pearson Associates, Inc. —

Civil Engineers and Land Surveyors, in Ansonia. He was a past president of the Ansonia Rotary Club and was a member of George Washington Lodge, AF and AM, Ansonia. He was also a past president of the Connecticut Society of Civil Engineers.

He was a graduate of Yale University, Class of 1902 and was his class secretary for many years.

He was a member of the Ansonia Lodge of Elks, a former director of the Savings Bank of Ansonia, member of the board of directors of the Milford Cemetery, and a member of the First United Church of Christ, Congregational.

Besides his wife he is survived by a daughter, Mrs. John Dennely of Cornwall and three grandsons.

Mr. Clarke was appointed engineer for the City of Ansonia in 1909 by the late Mayor Stephen Charters and served in that capacity until Dec. 1, 1962, after 53 years. He served for more than five decades as city engineer for Valley communities including Shelton, Derby and Seymour in addition to Ansonia.

He was an outspoken advocate for the abatement of pollution in the Housatonic and Naugatuck Rivers.

Upon his retirement as city engineer for Ansonia, then Mayor Joseph A. Doyle commended Mr. Clarke for his work, citing one of his outstanding projects, the city sewage system which completely separates domestic and storm water sewers. He served under 11 mayors of Ansonia.

The idea of reclaiming the Housatonic River from pollution was first asserted by Mr. Clarke in 1929. By 1949, with the problem still unsolved, Mr. Clarke advocated a single sewage disposal plant for Ansonia, Derby and Shelton.

Mr. Clarke retired after 43 years as a director of the Savings Bank of Ansonia, July 17, 1967. He also served as a vice president and chairman of the board of directors.

HAROLD A. KERR

Died February 13, 1975

Harold A. Kerr, 68, of 11 Bridge Lane, Enfield, state Department of Transportation (DOT) chief electrical engineer, died February 13, 1975 at home.

He was born in North Canton, and lived in Enfield most of his life. He began work with the state Highway Department in 1948 as an electrical engineer, and was promoted to highway senior electrical engineer in 1959.

He was named a highway associate electrical engineer with the department in 1961 and DOT Electrical Division Chief in 1969. He developed the call boxes and new lighting on state highways.

Mr. Kerr was a graduate of Enfield High School, the old Bigelow School of Craftsmen, and attended Yale University's Sheffield School of Engineering, Springfield College and Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, N.Y. and was graduated from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Mass., in 1938.

He was a member of the Governor's Communications Committee, American Association of State Transportation Officials, Illuminating Engineering Society of America, an associate of the Institute of Traffic Engineers and president of the Lamplighters Association. He was also a member of the Connecticut Society of Civil Engineers.

He leaves his wife, Mrs. Beatrice Blowne Kerr; a stepson, Herbert Noble, Sr. of Chicopee, Mass.; a sister, Mrs. Milo D. Wilcox of Enfield; four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

RUSSELL P. McGRATH

Died March 25, 1975

Russell Phelps McGrath, 70, of 122 West St., Bolton, formerly of Bloomfield, died March 25, 1975 at Manchester Memorial Hospital.

Born in Albany, N.Y., he lived in Bloomfield many years, moving to Bolton 15 years ago. Before retiring he worked for the state Department of Transportation for 36 years as an appraiser. After retiring he founded and operated the former Nor-Mac Inc., an independent appraisal company, of West Hartford.

He was past master of Hiram Lodge 98, Bloomfield, and was past patron of Wintonbury Chapter 81 OES, Bloomfield, and past president of the Connecticut Chapter 19, American Institute of Real Estate Appraisers. He was also a member of the Connecticut Society of Civil Engineers. Having joined in 1928 he became a Life Member of that society in 1962.

He leaves his wife, Mrs. Florence Flemming McGrath.

JOHN H. MENSEL

Died April 27, 1975

John H. Mensel of 158 Ansonia Road, Woodbridge, a retired civil engineer, died on April 27, 1975 at the New Haven Convalescent Hospital.

Mr. Mensel was born in Ann Arbor, Mich., and had been associated with Day & Zimmerman, Inc. He was a graduate of Williston Academy and a 1916 graduate of Dartmouth College. He was also a 1952 graduate of the Yale School of Engineering.

A member of the Dartmouth College Alumni Association, he was also a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, the Yale Science and Engineering Association and the Connecticut Society of Civil Engineers.

He is survived by his wife, Anita Dustman Mensel; three sisters, Miss Mary E. Mensel of Hadley, Mass., Mrs. Farnam J. Bowen of Oneida, N.Y. and Mrs. Richard H. Bowen of Canandaigua, N.Y.; and several nieces, nephews, grand-nieces and grand-nephews.

RICHARD L. PAULL

Died February 5, 1975

Richard L. Paull of 10 Flint Lock Road, Bloomfield, a vice president and engineer for a general contracting business, died February 5, 1975 at Hartford Hospital. He was 45.

Born in the Bronx, N.Y., he lived in Bloomfield most of his life. He was graduated from Weaver High School and the University of Connecticut School of Engineering.

After serving in the Korean war, he went into business with his father and became vice president of Paull and Paull Co., general contractors specializing in building gasoline stations and commercial buildings.

He was a registered professional engineer in several states and served as president of the Connecticut section of American Society of Civil Engineers. He was also a member of the Connecticut Society of Civil Engineers having joined them in 1970.

He was vice president and a former trustee at Emanuel Synagogue, West Hartford, and was a member of the brotherhood of the synagogue. He also was president of the Ararat Lodge 13 of B'nai B'rith, past member of the board of Hartford Council of Boy Scouts and adviser to Boy Scout Troop 90.

He leaves his wife, Madelyn Marcus Paull; two sons, Allan M. Paull and Steven J. Paull, both of Bloomfield; a daughter, Deborah Paull of Bloomfield. his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jack and Hilda Goldenberg Paull of West Hartford, and a sister, Mrs. Judith Aronson of Woburn, Mass.

FRANK W. RAGAINI

Died October 6, 1974

Frank Ragaini, long time resident of Point Lookout, Milford, died suddenly in Milford Hospital on October 6, 1974.

He was born in Youngstown, Ohio, Sept. 7, 1905, the son of the late Attilio and Maria Troiano Ragaini. He graduated from South High School in Youngstown in 1922. He graduated in the class of 1928 of the Sheffield Scientific School of Yale University.

He was employed as a Civil Engineer by A. B. Hill, well known consultant in the water supply and sewage field in 1928 and continued in successor firms of Blair and Marchant, Inc. (1930-1938), Clarence M. Blair, Inc. (1938-1944); in 1944 to 1970 he was a member and treasurer of Clarence Blair Associates, Inc. In 1943 through 1945 he was an instructor in the Civil Engineering Department of Yale University.

Mr. Ragaini was a member of the First United Church of Christ Congregational in Milford; a Fellow of the American Society of Civil Engineers and past president of its Connecticut Section; a Diplomat of the American Academy of Environmental Engineers; a life member of the New England Water Pollution Control Association; a member of Sigma Xi and Tau Beta Pi; a member of the New Haven Rotary Club and the Race Brook Country Club; and a former member of the Milford Planning and Zoning Board and the Yale Engineering Association. He was also a Life Member of the Connecticut Society of Civil Engineers.

He is survived by his wife, Marguerite Zoller Ragaini; two sons, Robert William and David Marshall; one grandson, one brother and three sisters.

NORTON H. SUTTON

Died February 25, 1975

Norton H. Sutton, 52, public hearings administrator in the state Department of Transportation, died in Middlesex Memorial Hospital February 25, 1975, after he became ill while driving home from work. He lived at 591 Randolph Road, Middletown.

Born in Plainville, Mass., he lived in

Cromwell 10 years, moving to Middletown six months ago.

Mr. Sutton joined what was then the state Highway Department in 1958 as a highway engineer intern. He was appointed assistant instructor in the training division in 1962 and was chosen assistant training coordinator in 1965. He was promoted to highway training coordinator in 1966.

While living in Cromwell, Mr. Sutton at one time served as building inspector and zoning officer. He formerly had been building inspector and enforcement officer in Ridgefield.

Mr. Sutton was a registered professional engineer, with a degree in civil engineering. He was a Navy veteran of World War II. He was a member of the Connecticut Society of Civil Engineers, having joined them in 1960.

He leaves his wife, Mrs. Elizabeth Du Plantis Sutton; a brother, Clinton Sutton of North Attleboro, Mass., and a sister, Mrs. Lillian Ferland of Wrentham, Mass.

LEONARD F. WHELAN

Died February 14, 1975

Leonard F. Whelan, 74, died February 18, 1975 at Greenwich Hospital after an illness of several weeks.

He was born in Greenwich Nov. 6, 1900, the son of the late Joseph A. Whelan and Mary Walker Whelan. He had for most of his adult life taken an active interest in public affairs in the town.

In addition to his three terms as Democratic Representative to the Board of Selectmen, he served on the Board of Estimate and Taxation from 1935 to 1937.

He was active for many years in the Dept. of Health here and in more recent times had served as Conn. delegate to the New England Interstate Water Pollution Commission, of which he was named chairman in 1969.

Mr. Whelan attended local schools and was graduated from Greenwich High School with the class of 1917. Upon graduation he joined the Mestern Electric Co. in New York City as a messenger boy and was promoted to the post of assistant purchasing agent. Later he represented the Wehrle Stove Co. of Newark, Ohio, in Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire and other eastern states.

In 1921, Mr. Whelan started the Realty Service Co. in Greenwich and he was one of the organizers of the Insurance Board of Greenwich, an organization with which he retained close contact until his death. He served as president of the board. He also was a charter member of the Real Estate Board of Greenwich, now the Greenwich Board of Realtors.

He was the Democratic candidate for state representative in 1935. Long a familiar figure in central Greenwich, Mr. Whelan in recent years had been with the Rand Insurance Co. of Greenwich as a consultant. He has been a member of the Connecticut Society of Civil Engineers for many years, becoming a Life Member of that Society in 1970.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Lorraine Finch Whelan of Byram, and a son, Richard M. Whelan of Greenwich. Surviving also are a brother, Harry Whelan of Greenwich; two sisters, Mrs. John J. Ryan of Byram and Miss Eleanor Whelan of Greenwich; a stepdaughter, Mrs. Nancy W. Eckhardt of Vt., and a stepson, Jay G. Willson of Greenwich, and 12 grandchildren.