

## **Memorial to Dean Otto F. Linn**

by Louis F. Gough

A great man walked in our midst, a leader among men. He was a disciple of Christ, a scholar, a great mind, master teacher, dean of faculty, loving pastor, courageous missionary, author, father, faithful husband, friend of youth, wise counselor.

Integrity of character and excellence in the performance of tasks at hand was the norm of his life. Resolutely he directed his entire being to the accomplishment of the task allotted to him by God. The course his bark was to sail was not diverted one degree either by the praise of men or their criticism. Neither prosperity nor deprivation diminished his determination to pursue the right as God gave him the ability to see the right.

Though rich in talents and vigorous in labors, he depended upon the grace of God for strength and wisdom.

Dean Emeritus Otto F. Linn will long live in the minds of his students and colleagues—a noble among the greats at whose feet many have sat and learned, being inspired to go deeper into the knowledge of God and into all truth of which He is the source.

Dr. Otto F. Linn came to Warner Pacific College, then Pacific Bible College, at the invitation of President Albert F. Gray to be the first academic dean of the young institution in 1942. The newly appointed dean brought academic stature to the western college and worked closely with President Gray until he retired, and was honored with the title dean emeritus in 1955.

During his tenure in office the faculty was appreciably built in quality and numbers; the library grew from a small repository of publications to a well-selected collection of 10,000 volumes, the college became well established in its four-year program, and a long-range plan was initiated which resulted in provisional accreditation in 1961 and full accreditation in 1964.

Dean Linn received his undergraduate education and a Master of Arts degree from Phillips University and his Doctor of Philosophy degree from the University of Chicago. He was a member of the faculty in the field of Bible at Anderson College and Theological Seminary prior to his appointment with our Portland College.

Before entering the field of higher education, Dr. Linn served the Church with distinction in pastoral and evangelistic ministry and in foreign missionary appointments in the Scandinavian countries.

Dr. Linn also was a scholar in the field of New Testament literature, serving on the Advisory Board of the Revised Standard Edition of the Holy Bible.

In honor of its beloved dean Warner Pacific College dedicated its newly-constructed library building in 1954, naming it the Otto F. Linn Library. This building now houses 30,000 volumes having as its nucleus the thousands of accessions chosen under the direction of Dean Linn. To the noble memory of this great educator there will stand as a symbol of his magnificent leadership in higher

education in the Church of God a monument in the form of a library facility as long as there is a Warner Pacific College.

The marble panel in the foyer of the library building engraved with a selection from the words of Jesus, which was chosen by Dean Linn, characterizes his ideal in life and his highest sense of values:

“Whoever would be great among you, must be your servant;  
and whoever would be first among you, must be your slave.”

In conjunction with his being a scholar, Dr. Lin loved people. His philosophy of education embraced the importance of learners, and in the case of a college, the alumni. In the March 1951 issue of the Alumni News, Dean Linn wrote: “‘The object of education,’ wrote Montaigne, ‘is not to make a scholar, but a man.’ The faculty of Pacific Bible College look to the alumni as evidence that they have achieved this first major objective. That look brings a sense of satisfaction and pride that grows as each graduating class enters the teeming mass of humanity to become as salt, blessing with redeeming power a decadent but not hopeless society. Montaigne’s words impress upon us the fact that people must learn to live—life is an art. Our alumni are artists of life. They are making attractive that for which Christ stands. Their competence in service becomes a living program of promotion that works with automatic and durative force.

“As a school’s alumni increase they become more and more responsible for its welfare. They know how to be deeply moved by its feelings of distress and calls for help...it is their Alma Mater. They relive its past in their visions, they forecast its future in their dreams, and they add their inspired service to make effective its program.”

We shall no longer see the countenance of our dearly beloved Dean Otto F. Linn nor hear his voice in this world. He slipped away from us on June 17 last. But the stature of his noble character, Christian faith, erudite scholarship, and humble spirit will continue to cast a long shadow over all that Warner Pacific does and plans to do throughout the span of her existence.

We thank God for the heritage He gave us in the spirit, labors, and ideals of this man who walked among us and who shall continue to inspire and direct us as we built the institution so dear to his heart and which received so richly from his many exquisite talents.