

Charles W. Hagen, Jr.

After completing his A.B. degree at Cornell University, Professor Charles W. Hagen, Jr., came to Bloomington in 1939 as a graduate student and assistant in the Department of Botany, receiving his Ph.D. degree in 1944 for a cytogenetic study of *Oenothera* (evening primrose) under the direction of Professor Ralph E. Cleland. As a student at Indiana University, he met Mary Swan, also a graduate student in botany. They were married in 1942 and have three children, Charles William III, of Bloomington, Indiana; David Carl of Eugene, Oregon; and Ronald Eric of Dallas, Texas.

Before he received his Ph.D. degree, Professor Hagen in 1943 became a member of the Office of Scientific Research and Development of Columbia University at Fort Benning, Georgia. Later in the same year he became a staff biologist at the Metallurgical Laboratory of the Manhattan District in Chicago on the Plutonium Project, where he served until 1946, first as an assistant, then as an associate. In that year Professor Cleland, then chairman of the department, was looking for a plant physiologist for the Department of Botany, and he found Professor Hagen to have the ideal qualifications for the position. Although trained in cytogenetics, it was easy for Professor Hagen to move into the new role, for his interests were not confined to a single discipline but spanned the whole of biology. In fact, his first published paper concerned snakes rather than plants. His broad knowledge of all of biology did not escape the notice of the graduate students, and he soon became the unofficial adviser to most of the students on their research problems, first in Biology Hall and later in Jordan Hall. He was also responsible for much of the planning for the botany wing of Jordan Hall.

In addition to *Oenothera* and snakes, his principal research interests and publications have involved radiobiology, plant tissue culture, flavonoid compounds, and chemical differentiation. In connection with his research on flavonoids he spent a year's sabbatical leave in Trinidad in 1957-58 as a Guggenheim Fellow and a Fulbright Research Scholar. He has directed the Ph.D. research of a number of fine students, the most outstanding perhaps being the late Ralph E. Alston, who became internationally acclaimed for his pioneering work in the field of chemical systematics.

In the summer of 1950 Professor Hagen served as acting chairman of the Department of Botany, and in 1964-65 he became the acting chairman of the young Division of Biological Sciences. Recognizing his administrative ability, Dean Joseph Sutton, then dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, asked him in 1965 to serve as his associate dean. Professor Hagen was to spend the next seventeen years in various administrative posts. In 1966 he became associate dean of faculties, the title of which was later changed to associate dean for academic affairs and facilities planning. In 1972 he was appointed dean for resource development, and in 1975 director of long-range planning. In connection with his administrative work he made visits to several countries in Asia and Europe.

During the time of his administrative duties, Professor Hagen's connections with the botanists were not forsaken. In 1965 the Hagens purchased a home in the country near Yellowwood Lake. For many years their place served as the site of the annual botany picnics, events that will not be forgotten by the participants. He also built a greenhouse at his home, which allowed him to continue an active interest in plants, especially bromeliads. In 1980 he became a member of the Bromeliad Society of Indianapolis, and is currently serving as its vice president.

In 1982 Professor Hagen returned to teaching and research in the biology department, and taught the course in horticulture. Not only his background in plant physiology, but also his avid interest in gardening made him particularly well qualified to teach the course. At the same time he continued to serve as secretary of the board of directors of Meadowood, and in 1983 he was appointed to the chair of the new Arboretum Committee.

As a dedicated teacher, administrator, and scholar, Professor Hagen has made many significant contributions to science and to Indiana University. Following his retirement, one can be sure he will continue to find ways to serve the University, to provide sage counsel to his former colleagues, and to pursue his botanical interests.

Charles B. Heiser, Jr.