News and Events

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Immediate Release : Building bears name of William T. Beadles

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Illinois Wesleyan University

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BLOOMINGTON, ILL.--Never during his years as a student (1919-23) nor during a long career (1924-68) as a member of the faculty of Illinois Wesleyan University did William T. Beadles think that one day a building on the campus would bear his name.

Dr. Beadles, professor of insurance, emeritus, was so honored Saturday during the Alumni Day Banquet when Dr. Robert S. Eckley, university president, announced that the house at 1101 N. East St. has been named "William T. Beadles Hall."

Presently National Insurance Education Advisor for State Farm Insurance, Beadles received a bachelor's degree from Wesleyan in 1923. He earned a master's degree in economics from the University of Illinois in 1925 and was presented an honorary Doctor of Business Administration degree by Simpson College in 1958. He also studied insurance at the University of Pennsylvania.

As a student at Wesleyan, he was a member of Pi Mu Epsilon fraternity, which later became Theta Chi. He was elected to Phi Kappa Phi, national honor society.

In additon to his teaching duties at Wesleyan, he was assistant registrar (1924-26), chairman of the Division of Social Studies (1941-43), Dean of the College of Liberal Arts (1943-46), Dean of the University (1951-53), and Dean of the University and Vice-President (1953-59). He then asked to be relieved of the administrative duties to devote full time to teaching as Professor of Insurance until his retirement in 1968.

In 1960 he was honored by two Wesleyan organizations. He was the first faculty member to be named Century Club Honoree and the Alumni Association presented him its Distinguished Alumnus Award.

His wife, Leta Richardson, graduated from Wesleyan in 1925. The list of others from the Beadles family to attend Illinois Wesleyan is lengthy. It includes two of his children, three brothers, two grandchildren, the wife of a grandson, two sisters-in-law, and one daughter-in-law.

Among many honors bestowed upon Dr. Beadles was the Solomon S. Huebner Gold Medal in 1976, the highest honor presented by The American College, Bryn Mawr, Pa., where he

is senior education consultant.

He was president of the American Association of University Teachers of Insurance in 1958 and executive secretary of the American Risk and Insurance Association from 1960-78.

Beadles co-authored "Law and the Life Insurance Contract" in 1960 , and the "Principles of Life Insurance" in 1962. He was a contributing author in 1959 to "Life and Health Insurance Handbook."

Like the university itself, Beadles Hall belies its age. Though built in 1907, only general spring clean-up and fix-up--new carpeting, new paint, some new shower stalls--have been required to make it ready for new tenants.

After 50 years of sorority life (Sigma Kappa occupied the house from 1930-79), the youngest fraternity on campus, Sigma Pi, will move into Beadles Hall in the fall.