

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION ON THE DEATH OF JOHN PORTER FOLEY

John Porter Foley, a native of Indiana, was assistant in the electrical plant of the University, mechanic and assistant in the physics department and instructor in manual training and shop work in that department at the time of his retirement in 1940.

Mr. Foley was born at the village of Gem, Indiana, January 25, 1870, the son of Mansfield Calvin and Clara Alice Foley, who later resided at Greenfield, Indiana.

As a young man Mr. Foley's interest in mechanisms led him to employment in a piano factory where he worked for three years, 1887-1890, perfecting his understanding of intricate structures and where he acquired an interest in music which resulted in his ability to play the familiar hymns. When the University acquired the bell tower and the chimes Mr. Foley became the first player of the chimes and continued to play them for many years. On any occasion or any weather or circumstances, Mr. Foley could always be depended upon to play appropriate hymns or college songs to the satisfaction and delight of all listeners. At exactly six o'clock each week day, students all over the campus could hear, "Hail to old I. U." from the bells in the tower of the student building.

In 1896 Mr. Foley became a student at the university taking work mostly in the physics department. At that time the electrical plant of the university, located in the basement of Kirkwood Hall was under the direction and supervision of the physics department. This gave Mr. John Foley an opportunity to apply his knowledge of physics in a practical way. Accordingly he was appointed electrician for the buildings and campus and mechanic to the department of physics, which consisted of preparing, remodeling and perfecting experimental demonstrations for the lectures in physics. For devising and perfecting experiments for demonstrations, for lectures to students and other audiences Mr. Foley was indispensable, the success of the lectures due in no small way to his insight and painstaking faithful work.

After thirty-six years as electrician and mechanic, Mr. Foley was appointed instructor in physics and taught the classes in manual training and shop work until his retirement in 1940. Students found him always kindly and sympathetic in their work.

In 1902 Mr. Foley married Nelle Rosebreaux Francisco, who preceded him in death in 1924. There were two children, Dr. John Porter Foley, A.B. Indiana University with distinction 1931, recently professor of psychology, at Georgetown University, Washington, D. C. and now a resident of New York City at 121 E. 38th St., and Martha Nelle Foley, (Mrs. John D. Sparks), A.B. Indiana University (English) 1936, now a resident of Indianapolis at 5458 N. Pennsylvania St. During his last years Mr. Foley resided with his daughter in Indianapolis. He died June 7, 1960.

Be it resolved that the faculty of Indiana University express its deepest sympathy to Dr. John Foley of New York and Mrs. John Sparks of Indianapolis and that a copy of these resolutions be made a part of the minutes of the faculty; also that copies be sent to Dr. John Porter Foley and Mrs. John D. Sparks.

Mason E. Hufford

Frank K. Edmondson