

Earl E. Warner

Earl Everett Warner was born August 8, 1904 and died December 2, 1994. A true son of Ohio Wesleyan University, Earl graduated in 1926 going on to earn the M.A. (1929) and Ph.D. (1939) at Ohio State University.

Earl taught at the Universities of Michigan (1930-31), James Millikin (1931-32), Ohio State (1937-40), and Mississippi (1940-42). He was an economist in the U.S. Department of Agriculture (1933-37) and, later, with the Inter-State Milk Producers Cooperative in Philadelphia (1942-46). He remained a nationally-recognized consultant in the field of public regulation of the dairy industry, publishing several monographs on that subject.

Earl arrived in Delaware in 1946 with Daisy Pearl Payne Warner, the lively Illinois schoolteacher he married June 2, 1932. He was devoted to her until her death in 1970, to his economist son, Larkin, whom he so much admired, to granddaughters Adena and Margaret, and great grandson Andrew. His second wife, Nannette Messenger, companionably shared his retirement from 1973-81. Earl took pleasure in assisting daughter-in-law Jean to become a fellow political scientist.

Earl was a professor at Ohio Wesleyan from 1946 to 1972, Chair of the Department 1954-60, director of the Arneson Institute for Practical Politics 1955-58, and Acting Chair once again 1969-70. His special courses included Constitutional Law, State and Local Governments, Public Administration, and American National Government. A decade of service on the Planning Commission of the City of Delaware, culminating in the Chairmanship 1960-63, enabled him to bring local politics into the classroom.

As a teacher, Earl was noted for his encyclopedic knowledge of American government, for the even-tempered but challenging way in which he drew students toward a deep engagement with the study of government. They regarded him as a discerning and sympathetic mentor. He was a model colleague, who could be counted on for his intellectual honesty, personal modesty, and decency.

Earl was a notable raconteur. After retiring, he wrote Growing Up in the Twentieth Century, a delightful book of personal reminiscences. "The Presidents: Fifty Years of Administration" was his contribution to the sesquicentennial history of Ohio Wesleyan, and he also penned A Brief History of Political Science at Ohio Wesleyan University. Earl's fascination with Amos Dolbear (O.W.U. 1866), who, he argued, was the true inventor of the telephone, led to an article in Ohio Wesleyan Magazine the spring before his death at the age of 90.

Earl will be remembered with special warmth and appreciation every time the Politics and Government Department senior major with the highest grade point average is presented the "Earl E. Warner Award for Academic Excellence."