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Tributes to W. A. Brandenburg

L. A. Guthridge

Eulalia E. Roseberry

G. W. Trout

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FACULTY VETERANS EULOGIZE EXECUTIVE WITH WHOM THEY WORKED MANY YEARS

"Inspired The Young; Masterful Leader."

It was my good fortune to meet President W. A. Brandenburg soon after he arrived in Pittsburg to assume his duties as the first president of Kansas State Teachers College, then known as the Kansas State Manual Training Normal. He was a guest in our Independence home on different occasions during the next few years.

When the president invited me to become a member of the college faculty, I was pleased to accept. For more than twenty-one years it has been my privilege to serve under his masterful leadership.

President Brandenburg showed unusual courage and displayed a large degree of faith in his ability to build an outstanding institution when he left the superintendency of the Oklahoma City Schools in 1913 to come to Pittsburg to pilot the destiny of what was then a very small school struggling for its very existence. He had a vision and continually strove to reach his fixed goal. The physical equipment on the campus will endure for many years as a fitting tribute to his success.

His great love for the young men and women whom he contacted and the inspiration he imparted to them through his encouraging words and his dynamic personality cannot end with his passing. He inspired young people to do worth-while things and to set for themselves the task of faithfully serving the boys and girls they teach. We are persuaded that the good he has done will spread in widening circles through the influence of those whose good fortune it was to know him.

President Brandenburg was unselfishly devoted to the cause of education. Be the distance far or near, the weather cold or hot, stormy or fair, he answered the calls to speak. He accepted invitations to appear before small groups as readily as requests to address large assemblies.

His earnestness in the belief that universal education is the greatest safeguard in a democracy and that a democratic form of government provides the best guarantee of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness

for the individual citizen, made him stand out as one of the great educational leaders of our time.—L. A. Guthridge, Registrar.

"He Lifted Skyline of Their Horizon."

For more than twenty-seven years it has been my rare privilege to follow the leadership of President Brandenburg. Great teachers through the ages have been the inspiration of students. For sheer ability to inspire youth I have never seen the equal of President Brandenburg. Many thousands have been electrified by his great personality. He lifted the skyline of their horizon and the world became larger and larger to those who followed his teaching. He stirred their ambitions and roused in them a desire to be somebody and to do worth-while things in the world. To his faculty he was ever the kind advisor, the wise counsellor. His practical sense of justice stood guard over his energy, enthusiasm and ambition, and with all his eagerness and desire for the growth of the college he was ever just in thought and act. He was a devotee of democracy. One of his expressions of democracy was in believing that a janitor was as important as a Dean. His goals were never stationary, as he approached them, his breadth of vision pushed them beyond his reach. When he had set a goal his purpose never wavered, whether it was changing a schedule, getting a new building or promoting an ideal. He overcame obstacles either by surmounting them, passing through them or going around them. He was indifferent to personal greed and personal interest, but when the needs of the college were at stake he never faltered.

The busiest of busy people, President Brandenburg was always ready to rejoice with the happy, to mourn with the sad, and to help the needy regardless of the source of need.

My personal loss is great—a vacancy which can never be filled has come into my life. The advice, sympathy, and help to which I have been accustomed are no longer available, but "To live in the hearts we leave behind is not to die." The impetus of a virile man passes far beyond the grave and the good works of President Brandenburg will live in the ages to come. Students as yet unborn will benefit from them.

—Eulalia E. Roseberry

"An Administrator of the First Rank."

My acquaintance and fellowship with our beloved President began in 1913 in labors of love for the growth and development of what is now the Kansas State Teachers College. From that day to the last day that he spent on our campus we were a unit in ideals and plans for the growth and prosperity of an institution which today is recognized among the foremost of its kind in the United States.

Through these seemingly long years of association and labor our friendship increased until to me he was my best friend and closer than my brothers who long ago passed away. I admired him for his honesty, his sincerity, his fidelity, his manhood, his patience and long suffering with his enemies, and his cordial dealings with his friends.

He was an administrator of the first rank. His plans and programs were thought out with respect to all concerned, and yet he was anxious to have the advice and suggestions of his co-laborers in the tasks of building an institution. While patient in his dealings with erring students and faculty, he nevertheless was firm in those dealings and was always guided by what he felt was best for all concerned.

He was a multiple character in that he was not biased or prejudiced along any one line of educational movement. He believed in democracy and in education, since only an educated people can hope to maintain a democratic form of government. He believed in universal education as a means to universal brotherhood and social understanding. He believed in the most thorough preparation in mind, in heart, and in hand of the men and women who are to be the teacher and leaders of the boys and girls of the coming generation.

We may feel that we cannot get along without him. What would we have been without him? And if another is not able to carry the great load which he bore for so many years, all of us working together—faculty, student body and alumni—can share that burden and carry on to the honor of his name and the welfare of our State.

G. W. Trout