

CHEMICAL HERITAGE FOUNDATION

NORMAN HACKERMAN

Transcript of an Interview
Conducted by

James J. Bohning

at

The Robert A. Welch Foundation

on

21 February 1992

(With Subsequent Additions and Corrections)

THE CHEMICAL HERITAGE FOUNDATION
Oral History Program

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(Signature)


Norman Hackerman

(Date)

May 30, 1994

NORMAN HACKERMAN

1912 Born in Baltimore, Maryland, on 2 March

Education

1932 A.B., chemistry, Johns Hopkins University
1935 Ph.D., chemistry, Johns Hopkins University

Professional Experience

1935-1939 Assistant Professor of Chemistry, Loyola College
1936-1940 Research Chemist, Colloid Corporation
1939-1941 Assistant Chemist, United States Coast Guard
1941-1943 Assistant Professor of Chemistry, Virginia Polytechnic Institute
1944-1945 Research Chemist, Kellex Corporation

University of Texas at Austin

1945-1946 Assistant Professor of Chemistry
1946-1950 Associate Professor of Chemistry
1948-1961 Director, Corrosion Research Laboratory
1950-1970 Professor of Chemistry
1952-1961 Chairman, Chemistry Department
1960-1961 Dean of Research and Sponsored Programs
1961-1963 Vice President and Provost
1963-1967 Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
1967-1970 President
1985- Professor Emeritus of Chemistry

Rice University

1970-1985 President
1970-1985 Professor of Chemistry
1985- President Emeritus
1985- Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Chemistry

The Robert A. Welch Foundation

1982- Chairman, Scientific Advisory Board

Honors

1956 Whitney Award, National Association of Corrosion Engineers
1964 Joseph L. Mattiello Award
1965 Palladium Medal, The Electrochemical Society

1965 Southwest Regional Award, American Chemical Society
1972 LL.D., St. Edwards University
1975 D.Sc., Austin College
1975 Honor Scroll, Texas Institute of Chemists
1978 D.Sc., Texas Christian University
1978 LL.D., Abilene Christian University
1978 Gold Medal, American Institute of Chemists
1981 Mirabeau B. Lamar Award, Association of Texas Colleges and Universities
1982 Distinguished Alumnus Award, Johns Hopkins University
1984 Edward Goodrich Acheson Award, The Electrochemical Society
1984 Alumni Gold Medal for Distinguished Service, Rice University
1987 Charles Lathrop Parsons Award
1987 AAAS-Philip Hauge Abelson Prize
1993 Vannevar Bush Award, National Science Board
1993 Doctor of Public Service, University of North Texas
1993 National Medal of Science

ABSTRACT

In this, his second of three interviews with James J. Bohning of The Chemical Heritage Foundation, Norman Hackerman begins by describing his work after coming to the University of Texas at Austin Department of Chemistry and starting the Corrosion Research Laboratory [currently the J. J. Pickle Research Center]. He discusses the physical chemistry textbook for premed students he wrote with Frederick Matsen and Jack Myers. He also recalls the events which led to his becoming chairman of the department after only seven years, his reorganization of the department, and characteristics of the department's faculty at that time. Hackerman also describes his consulting work for the Lone Star Gas Company, the progress of his research at the Corrosion Research Lab, and resulting publications. He focuses on the factors leading to his appointment as Dean of Research at the University, the work he undertook in that position, and his eventual promotion to Dean of Office of Government Sponsored Research. He also discusses his research for the API and mentions his students and subsequent publications. Hackerman concludes the interview with a summary of his rapid progression from Vice President to Vice Chancellor to President of the University.

INTERVIEWER

James J. Bohning is Professor of Chemistry Emeritus at Wilkes University, where he was a faculty member from 1959 to 1990. He served there as chemistry department chair from 1970 to 1986 and environmental science department chair from 1987 to 1990. He was chair of the American Chemical Society's Division of the History of Chemistry in 1986, received the Division's outstanding paper award in 1989, and presented more than twenty-five papers before the Division at national meetings of the Society. He has been on the advisory committee of the Society's National Historic Chemical Landmarks committee since its inception in 1992. He developed the oral history program of the Chemical Heritage Foundation beginning in 1985, and was the Foundation's Director of Oral History from 1990 to 1995. He currently writes for the American Chemical Society News Service.

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