

CENTER FOR HISTORY OF CHEMISTRY

CHEVES WALLING

Transcript of an Interview
Conducted by

Leon Gortler

at the

Mayflower Hotel
Washington, DC

on

12 September 1979

Cheves T.
Walling

JH
3/15/86

CENTER FOR HISTORY OF CHEMISTRY ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

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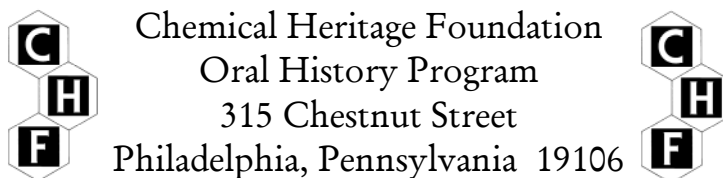
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ABSTRACT: Cheves Walling begins this interview by mentioning his family, early education, and undergraduate days at Harvard. He then discusses his graduate education at the University of Chicago, stressing the major review article on the peroxide effect that he and Frank Mayo wrote in 1940. Walling then describes the research that he undertook at Du Pont, U. S. Rubber, and Lever Brothers. He emphasizes the work that he did before 1950 at U. S. Rubber. Finally, Walling elucidates his academic career at Columbia and the University of Utah. Throughout the interview he reflects upon the emergence and maturation of physical organic chemistry.

INTERVIEWER: Leon Gortler is a chemist with an interest in history. Born in 1935, he attended the University of Chicago and then received his doctoral degree from Harvard. After doing postdoctoral work at Berkeley for a year, he began teaching at Brooklyn College in 1963. Ten years later, he became professor of chemistry. He has since coauthored two textbooks about organic chemistry. Both his historical and scientific research focus upon physical organic chemistry.

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CHEVES T. WALLING

1916 Born in Evanston, Illinois, 28 February

Education

1937 B.A., chemistry, Harvard University

1939 Ph.D., organic chemistry, University of Chicago

Professional Experience

1939-1942 Research Chemist, Jackson Laboratories, E.I. du Pont de Nemours & Company

1943-1949 Research Chemist, U.S. Rubber Company

1949-1952 Research Associate, Lever Brothers Company
Department of Chemistry, Columbia University

1952-1970 Professor

1963-1966 Chairman

1970- Distinguished Professor, University of Utah

Honors

1964 Elected to National Academy of Sciences

1965 Elected to American Academy of Arts and Sciences

1971 James Flack Norris Award, American Chemical Society

1975- Editor, Journal of the American Chemical Society

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