In Memoriam: Herman L. Bogan, 1907 - 1992

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Herman L. Bogan passed away on November 15, 1992 at Eastwood Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee. He was a long-time member of the Arkansas Academy of Science and served as President in 1961.

The son of Charles Edgar Bogan and Lula Mae Westbrook Bogan, he was born in Paragould, Arkansas, the second of nine children. He attended Paragould High School where he lettered in football. His undergraduate work was done at Arkansas State College (now Arkansas State University) where he graduated in 1934 with a major in biology and minors in chemistry, economics and sociology. While in college, his interest in athletics continued and he lettered in football and track. He completed his master's degree in chemistry at the University of Arkansas in 1940 and, throughout his career, he continued to work on his doctorate in chemistry at the University of Tennessee Medical Center in Memphis.

Professor Bogan began his teaching career in 1935 at Paragould High School where he served as science teacher, coach and principal. From there, he went to Little Rock Junior College where he taught chemistry from 1940 through 1957. In 1957, he accepted a teaching position in the Department of Chemistry at Arkansas State College, where he remained until 1964. Then, beginning in 1964, he joined the faculty at the University of Tennessee Medical Center where he taught chemistry and biochemistry until his retirement in 1972. He continued teaching for two private schools in Memphis until 1981.

His primary professional interests were science education and athletics. He refereed both football and basketball games from about 1940 to 1964. In 1961, the year he was President of the Academy, he was also President of the Arkansas Officials Association. The Arkansas Gazette made some references to this in the years following stating that he was the only person to head the state science and referees associations in the same year.

He is survived by his wife, Wordna, of Memphis; a daughter, Rose Mae, of Sylvania, Georgia; a son, John, of Memphis; four grandchildren; one brother; and six sisters.

I first met Herman in 1949, when I joined the faculty of Little Rock Junior College. He was extremely helpful to me, both in his willingness to help me as a greenhorn beginning a teaching career and as a personal friend. He was held in highest regard by faculty, staff and students for his integrity and competence along with the scope and depth of his friendship. With heartfelt respect, I offer that, in my opinion, there was a healthy mix of referee and colleague that permeated his life. Things were either "in bounds" or "out of bounds"...very few shades of gray in his thoughts or actions. He was deeply committed to his family, his church, his friends and his profession. We were privileged to know him. We will miss him.

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