



Nathan L. Drake

December 21, 1898 - October 13, 1959

Professor Nathan L. Drake, 60, head of the University of Maryland's chemistry department, died yesterday after he collapsed on the university's golf course.

He was taken to Leland Memorial Hospital by the Branchville Rescue Squad, and pronounced dead on arrival at 7 p.m. Dr. John T. Maloney, Prince George's County medical examiner, attributed the death to a heart attack.

He lived at 6820 Pineway St., College Heights, MD.

A native of Watertown, Mass., Prof. Drake became head of the university's chemistry department in 1940. He had been appointed professor of industrial chemistry in 1926 and two years later was made professor of organic chemistry there.

His most recent project was directing the Institute for Molecular Physics at the university. Begun by him in 1950, the institute was patterned after the Van der Waals laboratory in Amsterdam, Holland.

Prof. Drake was credited with building the university's chemistry department to one of the most respected in the country.

Studied in Switzerland

Educated at Harvard University, where he received his A.B. in 1920, his A.M. in 1921 and his Ph.D. in 1922, Prof. Drake spent the next year studying at the Technische Hochschule in Zurich, Switzerland, on a Sheldon Fellowship.

On his return from Zurich, he worked as a research chemist for the Mallinexrodt Chemical Works in St. Louis and later for Proctor and Gamble at Ivorydale, Ohio, until coming to the University of Maryland in 1926.

In 1948, Prof. Drake was awarded the Hillebrand Prize by the Chemical Society of Washington for his work in developing antimalarial drugs.

He was a member of the American Chemical Society's chemotherapy panel, which develops medicinal chemicals for work against cancer. Prof. Drake had also served in preparing a synthesis of antimalarials for the National Research Council from 1942 to 1945.

Two years later, in 1947, he became vice chairman of the Chemical and Biological Coordination Center's committee on organic chemistry.

Headed Chemists

He served in 1938 as president of the Chemical Society of Washington and became chairman of the organic chemistry section of the American Chemical Society in 1940, assuming chairmanship of membership affairs for that organization in 1948.

He also was a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Sigma Xi, Alpha Chi Sigma, the Washington Academy of Sciences and the Masons.

Prof. Drake edited Volumes 21 and 24 of *Organic Synthesis* in 1941 and 1944 in addition to contributing to *Organic Reactions* in 1942.

He leaves his wife, the former Ruth Esther Johnson, whom he married in 1923, of the home address; and their children, Mrs. Wilbur Chamberlain Davis, 7114 Claymore avenue, College Heights Terrace; Mrs. O. M. Weston, Jr., of Fort Lauderdale, FL, and Robert L. Drake, 518 Calvin Lane, Rockville.