

Sept. 18, 1952

Rice's Loss

The loss of William Ward Watkin, who died in Houston's Methodist Hospital on Tuesday, June 24, was mourned widely, and was particularly felt by Rice students.

Rice students are grateful to Mr. Watkins not only for raising the architecture department of the Institute to a position of prominence, but for the very beauty of the Institute's building and grounds.

Mr. Watkins came to Houston in 1910, as representative of the architectural firm of Cram, Goodhue, and Ferguson, of Boston, architects for the Rice Institute. He supervised the construction of the Administration Building, and remained to head the Architecture Department of the new school until his death.

Born in Boston, Massachusetts, he grew up in Danville, Pennsylvania, where he was graduated from high school. He received his B.S. in Architecture from the University of Pennsylvania in 1908.

In the early days of Rice, he was faculty adviser for the football team, and in 1920, he was president of the Southwest Conference.

He was a member of the Texas Philosophical Society, the Houston Philosophical Society, the Torch Club, and Trinity Episcopal Church, as well as a past president of the Rice Faculty Club.

In addition to designing several Rice Buildings, Mr. Watkin was architect for Trinity Church, Palmer Memorial Chapel, the Central Church of Christ, and St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Beaumont. He was consulting architect for the Houston Public Schools from 1923-25, associate architect for the YMCA buildings in Beaumont, Galveston and Houston, Texas Tech College in Lubbock, and the New Methodist Hospital in Houston.

Mr. Watkin was the author of two books on church architecture: "The Church of Tomorrow," and "Planning and Building The Modern Church."

He was interred in Forest Park Mausoleum on Thursday, June 26, after funeral services in Trinity Episcopal Church.

To Mr. Watkin's many friends, his faculty associates, and to his family, Rice students offer their sincere sympathy.—
EBMG.
