

KEENE RICHARDS

1888 - 1953

The Faculty of Vassar College records its deep sorrow on the sudden death of Keene Richards, General Manager and Consulting Engineer, and mentor, champion and friend. Mr. Richards served Vassar College and its faculty well for 28 years. The quality of his administration was summed up by a firm of professional management experts, after exhaustive investigation, in these words: "Vassar is doing an outstanding job of business management, one which leaves little room for a survey to develop savings of significance.... These comments are intended....as a commendation to Vassar College for a job well done." Mr. Richards died in the master's cabin of his beloved cruiser Wivern, to the end captain of his ship and captain of himself.

Keene Richards, engineer, army officer, administrator, was first and foremost an educator. He believed in education; he believed in Vassar College and its faculty; the quality of Vassar was his obsession. All of his official actions were taken with one sole aim, the welfare and prospering of Vassar College. To this end his supervision of the large staff under him was tough and exacting, but fair and generous; he was regarded with their respect, their trust and their affection. To this end he husbanded the resources of the college with painstaking care; the regard was solvency and well-being. To this end he supported, encouraged and championed the faculty; his reward was the profoundness of our grief. To this end he fattened and watched over the students, in whom his faith was so profound; his regard is the affection and honor of the alumnae. To this end he time and again served his community in difficult assignments; his reward was the high esteem of its citizens and prestige for his college. Dependable, logical, consistent, uniquely able to get down to the essentials of a problem, he adhered stubbornly to his high standards in all of his acts. Reserved in manner, he was accessible to all; critical in approach, he had real affection for people, and his acts of kindness were unpublicized and unnumbered. His memory will long be with us, for, in the words of a veteran member of his staff, "Look around you, he's still here."

Theodore Erck

Eileen Thornton

Rudolf T. Kempton

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