

FREDERIC NIXON WEAVER**1899 - 1976**

Frederic Nixon Weaver was born September 21, 1899, in Roxbury, the oldest of four children. He attended Dorchester High School for a year and a half, leaving school to work to support his family. After working a number of years, he decided at the age of twenty that he should further his education. Inquiries about admission to Tufts Engineering School on the basis of his incomplete secondary school record resulted in his admission in 1909, to the Bromfield-Pearson School on a trial basis. Four years later, Rick Weaver received his B.S. in civil engineering, *summa cum laude*.

Following graduation and after a trip to Europe with a classmate, he was employed for two years by the New England Structural Co.; he then taught in Passaic (N.J.) High School for two years. During World War I, Professor Weaver saw action with the 101st Engineers, 26th Division of the American Expeditionary Forces in France, and was wounded at Chateau-Thierry. He is coauthor of the history of this famous company. After the war ended, he chose to remain in France where he took some courses at the University of Caen, supplementing previous graduate study done at Columbia and Harvard universities. It may well be said that Professor Weaver was a self-educated man who took every advantage of his opportunities.

In 1919 he returned to Tufts as an instructor in the Department of Civil Engineering, where teaching and working with students became his career. His students knew him as a scholar, a dedicated teacher and above all, a willing and understanding listener. Promotions over the years advanced him to the rank of full professor and to the chairmanship of the Department of Civil Engineering for twenty-two years. In 1959, at the mandatory age of seventy, he retired. The Jumbo Book of that year in its dedication recognized Professor Weaver's forty years of service to the university.

He was the author of a textbook *Applied Mechanics*, and numerous technical and nontechnical papers. Always interested in the theater at Tufts, he actively participated in the Tufts Graduate Dramatic Society; he was the author of a one-act play and many written critiques. Unusual though it may seem, Rick's hobby was conversational French. He spent many hours speaking only that language with members of the Department of Romance Languages at the Tufts Faculty Club, and much of his leisure reading was in French.

His interests always extended beyond the classroom since it was his belief that in order to be an effective teacher in an engineering school, one should also be a practicing engineer. With this in view, he practiced the art of engineering all his life, and through his associations with many consulting engineering firms in the Boston area, he was able to help many of his students begin their professional careers. He was a past president of the Boston Society of Civil Engineers and of the Northeastern Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers and a member of Tau Beta Pi and Sigma Xi. Rick once remarked that he never retired, and to bear this out, his last assignment was in 1973, at the age of 83. He also gave generously of his time to community affairs, serving as a corporator of the Lawrence Memorial Hospital, Medford, and chairman of its School of Nursing for ten years.

In 1973, Professor Weaver received the Distinguished Service Award from the Tufts Jumbo Club in recognition of his years of interest and concern for Tufts athletes and the athletic programs. The same year, on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the College of Engineering, he was honored with the Distinguished Service Award from the Department of Civil Engineering for his contribution to engineering education. On Alumni Day, 1974, he was to receive the Distinguished Service Award from the Tufts Alumni Association, but shortly before the event he suffered his first stroke. His son, Arthur, accepted it for him. He died two years later, on August 2, 1976.

He is survived by his wife, Ruth (Johnson), whom he married in 1923; a son, Arthur Sargent, who received a B.S. from the College of Engineering in 1945 with honors; a daughter, Dorothy Ruth, who graduated from Jackson in 1955, *summa cum laude*; and a sister, Mabel. His two brothers, Warren and Ralph, Engineering Class of 1925 and a former Tufts trustee, predeceased him.

Frederic Nixon Weaver has left his light on this Hill — a Tuftsman whom we shall always be proud to recall and identify with the Tufts tradition.

*(Prepared By Earle F. Littleton
for use in the Memorial Service
at Goddard Chapel, October 23, 1976)*