

## **Tribute to Howard Eves..... Clayton Dodge/ Cindy Eves-Thomas**

**(Editor's Note:** Clayton Dodge sent me the following information on the death of Howard Eves, Professor Emeritus of the University of Maine. Howard Eves died on June 6th after a long illness. Howard Eves was the founder of our Section and the Northeastern Section dedicated a room to him at the MAA Headquarters in Washington as well as naming the Section's Service Award after him. His daughter wrote the following obituary.)

HOWARD W. EVES, Ph.D., UM Professor Emeritus

LUBEC - Howard W. Eves, 93, husband of Diane L. Eves, died June 6, 2004, after a long illness. He was born January 10, 1911, in New Jersey. Howard received a BS in mathematics from the University of Virginia, MA from Harvard University, PhD from Oregon State University, and attended the Institute of Advanced Study at Princeton University. He enjoyed a long, distinguished career as a teacher, geometer, writer, editor and historian of mathematics. He served as associate editor of various journals. His many awards included a Distinguished Teaching Award from the State of Maine, honorary doctorates from the University of Maine and McDaniel College, and the George Polya Award for mathematical writing. A world renowned teacher and scholar, Howard spent most of his career at the University of Maine, Orono and Machias, and more recently at Central Florida University. For 25 years he edited the Elementary Problems Section of the American Mathematical Monthly. He was the author of numerous mathematics articles and books, including An Introduction to the History of Mathematics, considered the most widely used text in courses in the history of mathematics. Howard was also an avid watercolorist.

He is survived by his wife, Diane; four sons, Kevin Eves, of California, Jamie Eves and wife Katherine, of Connecticut, Timothy Eves and wife Luba, of Connecticut, Roderick Eves and wife Cheryl, of Colorado; two daughters, Cindy Eves-Thomas and husband Robert, of Maine, Tammy Jordan and husband Jeffrey, of New Hampshire; 7 grandchildren and several great-grandchildren.

**(Editor's note:** The following additional information on the career of Howard Eves is also from Cindy Eves-Thomas.)

Taught at 10 colleges and universities, including University of Maine, Professor of Mathematics, 1954-1976; University of Maine at Machias, Adjunct Professor of Mathematics, 1976-1977; and University of Maine at Machias Elderhostal Program, Summers 1980-85

Wrote more than 20 books, most notably An Introduction to the History of Mathematics and six "Circle Books": In Mathematical Circles, Mathematical Circles Revisited (2 volumes), Mathematical Circles Squared, Mathematical Circles Adieu, and Return to Mathematical Circles.

Wrote more than 100 articles in mathematics, physics, engineering and pedagogical journals.

Contributed articles to three major encyclopedias (Encyclopedia Americana,

Collier's Encyclopedia, and World Book Encyclopedia).

Served as editor of the Elementary Problem Section of the American Mathematical Monthly (25 years), editor of the Historically Speaking Section of The Mathematics Teacher, and associate editor for the following journals: American Mathematical Monthly, Mathematics Magazine, Mathematics Teacher, Two Year College Mathematics Journal, and Fibonacci Quarterly.

Delivered lectures in 49 states.

Published more than 300 solutions to problems proposed in mathematical journals.

Honorary Societies: Pi Mu Epsilon (mathematics honorary), Sigma Xi (research honorary), Phi Kappa Phi (scholarship honorary), Kappa Alpha (art honorary), Mark Twain Society (writers honorary) and Sigma Delta Zeta (mathematic honorary).

Awards:

-Oregon State University Loyd Carter Award for Outstanding and Inspirational Teaching, 1950

-Outstanding Educators of America Award, 1971

-Distinguished Scholar Award, 1980

-Distinguished Achievement Award (for contributions to the State of Maine and the University of Maine), 1979

-Interfraternity and Panhellenic Distinguished Faculty Award, University of Maine, 1969

-Mathematics Association of America Recognition Award, 1975 (a room has been named the Howard Eves Room)

-University of Hartford Recognition Award, 1979

-In 1990 the Northeastern Section of the Mathematical Association of America set up an award called the Howard Eves Award for Meritorious Services. The first recipient of the award was Howard Eves, who founded the Section

Professional Societies: Mathematical Association of America, American Mathematical Society, French Mathematical Society, and National Council of Teachers of Mathematics

**(Editor's note:** The following additional tribute was added by Clayton Dodge, Retired professor of the University of Maine and friend of Howard Eves and organizer of the Northeast Section's Short Course for many years.)

More information about the life and career of Howard Eves is available in Mathematical Reminiscences by Howard Eves (The Mathematical Association of America, 2001), including a chapter about UMaine's Neville Hall

("Mathemetizing the New Mathematics Building"), a tribute to friend Dr. Clayton Dodge, retired UM professor, and several chapters about Howard Eves' friendship with Albert Einstein while at Princeton's Institute for Advanced Study in 1936-37.

His six volume Mathematical Circles series of humorous and interesting anecdotes about mathematicians was recently reprinted by the Mathematical Association of America, who also published his two volumes of Great Moments in the History of Mathematics. In 1997 Dover reprinted his Foundations and Fundamental Concepts of Mathematics. His two volume Survey of Geometry was first published by Allyn & Bacon in 1963 and has been reprinted in several abridged versions. These are but a sampling of the many books by Howard Eves that should reside on every mathematician's bookshelf. While at Princeton, he became friends with Albert Einstein, who once pointed to an aster growing in a crack in the sidewalk and remarked, "Bloom where you are planted." His MMM (My Mathematical Museum) contained a nickel that Einstein had owned and a pencil Oswald Veblen had dropped, among hundreds of other interesting curiosities. He was a strong spokesman for the MAA and a founder if its Northeast Section. More importantly, he was a great humanitarian. Quietly and without fanfare or expectation of reward, he helped many people in need, going far beyond the call of duty. It is, therefore, most appropriate that his honorary degree from the University of Maine was a Doctorate of Humane Letters. His comment on that degree was equally modest: "They must have seen me patting a dog."