

Dr. Thomas H. Wetmore, 90

SALISBURY, NC - Dr. Thomas Hall Wetmore, 90, of Salisbury, died Wednesday, December 21, 2005 at the Lutheran Home at Trinity Oaks.

He was born July 30, 1915 in Kempner, Texas, he was the son of the late Thomas Hall and Mary Sue Whitcomb Wetmore. He was educated in the public schools of North and South Carolina and Virginia, graduating from high school in Weldon, NC. Dr. Wetmore was a graduate of Lincoln Memorial University, Harrogate, TN; earned a Master of Arts at Duke University and a PhD in English Linguistics at the University of Michigan, where he was a Rackham Fellow.

From 1943 to 1946, during WWII, he served in the U.S. Navy, as a communications officer with the rank of Lt. J.G. He was employed in the public schools of South Carolina and in North Carolina, as a teacher and administrator in Winston-Salem and Shelby. From 1946-1969, he was a member of the English Department faculty at Ball State University, Muncie, IN, serving as chairman of the department from 1960-1969, when he joined the faculty of Wright State University, Dayton, OH. There he held posts as chairman of the English Department and Associate Dean of Graduate Studies, until he retired in 1985.

Dr. Wetmore was the author of "Low-Central and Low-Back Vowels in the English of Eastern United States", editor of "The Life of the Hired Man" by Wade Van Dore, "Indiana Sesquicentennial Poets", "Twenty-Two Young Indiana Writers" and two films on the English language. He also edited the "Midwest English Review" for a number of years and was a linguistic consultant for a series of widely used text books, "Building Better English".

A member of St. Luke's Episcopal Church, he was listed in "Who's Who in America" and the "Directory of American Scholars". He was also an active member of the Linguistic Society of America, The Modern Language Association, and the American Association of University Professors, which he served as state president.

Survivors include his wife, Rosamond Bayne Wetmore, whom he married July 5, 1941, two sons, Stephen Bayne Wetmore, Ottawa, IL, and Dr. Allyn Christophers Wetmore and wife, Yen of South Hill, VA; two granddaughters, Dr. Gail Wetmore of Worcester, England and Jill Wetmore of Ottawa, IL; a brother, John Wetmore, Orlando, FL; two sisters, Joan (Mrs. Charles) Justice, Charlotte, NC, and Bettie Lou (Mrs. Carlton) Todd, Sumter, SC.

A memorial service will be held 11:00 AM Friday at Summersett Memorial Chapel with Rev. Wayne Hougland officiating. Burial will be in Maplelawn Cemetery, Pennville, IN at a later date.

Memorials may be made to St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 131 W. Council Street, Salisbury, NC 28144 or Lutheran Services for the Aging, Inc., P.O. Box 947, Salisbury, NC 28145-0947.

Contributed by Alicia