

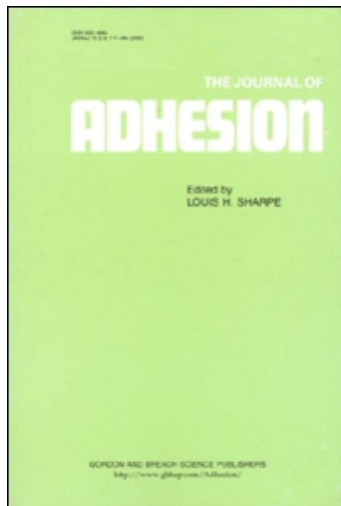
This article was downloaded by:

On: 22 January 2011

Access details: *Access Details: Free Access*

Publisher *Taylor & Francis*

Informa Ltd Registered in England and Wales Registered Number: 1072954 Registered office: Mortimer House, 37-41 Mortimer Street, London W1T 3JH, UK



The Journal of Adhesion

Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information:

<http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/title~content=t713453635>

In Memoriam

M. L. Williams^a

^a University of Pittsburgh,

To cite this Article Williams, M. L.(1985) 'In Memoriam', The Journal of Adhesion, 18: 4, 243 – 245

To link to this Article: DOI: 10.1080/00218468508080460

URL: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/00218468508080460>

PLEASE SCROLL DOWN FOR ARTICLE

Full terms and conditions of use: <http://www.informaworld.com/terms-and-conditions-of-access.pdf>

This article may be used for research, teaching and private study purposes. Any substantial or systematic reproduction, re-distribution, re-selling, loan or sub-licensing, systematic supply or distribution in any form to anyone is expressly forbidden.

The publisher does not give any warranty express or implied or make any representation that the contents will be complete or accurate or up to date. The accuracy of any instructions, formulae and drug doses should be independently verified with primary sources. The publisher shall not be liable for any loss, actions, claims, proceedings, demand or costs or damages whatsoever or howsoever caused arising directly or indirectly in connection with or arising out of the use of this material.

In Memoriam

ROBERT L. PATRICK, Ph.D.
1920–1985

After a relatively short illness, Robert L. Patrick, a major contributor to both the science and technology of adhesion, passed away in Wells, Maine, on February 12, 1985.

Bob, as he was affectionately known to his wide circle of friends both in and out of science, had been blessed with an exceptionally large dose of enthusiasm for life and an indomitable spirit which permitted him to sail through his occasional rough waters of frustration without losing direction or perspective. So it was in his final time. A pragmatist almost to a fault, he lived a realist's life in a real world, bending with the tides of today yet retaining a perspective for the goals of tomorrow. As one of his friends expressed it, "Bob would have poorly suffered a lengthy illness at an enforced part-throttle."

After his undergraduate work at Bowdoin College in 1947, for which he retained a lifelong dedicated connection through its alumni association, he saw wartime service with the 15th Air Force in Italy. This experience itself was to prove the basis of many shared reminiscences later at the University of Pittsburgh. He completed his graduate work at the University of Indiana, where he held a DuPont Fellowship (1949–1950), with a doctorate in chemistry. He worked at several industrial companies including Goodrich, Continental Can Company, and then started his own company—Alpha Research and Development, Inc.—which was later merged into the Certain-Teed Corporation. After three years at the University of Pittsburgh, where he was Director of the Center for Adhesion Science and Technology, and during which time he became an avid Pitt Panther and Steeler fan to the delight of the lucky attendees of his memorable pre-game parties and "expert commentaries" (which were, of course, never in doubt but frequently in error), he joined the Harris Research Laboratories of Gillette as Director of Research.

Early in 1981 he and his wife, Carol, moved to Maine to follow one of their favorite avocations in the world of art, artifacts and antiques. Their shops in Wells, Maine, not only provided a repository for their own personal collection of paintings and limited edition prints that they had collected over the years, but also were a vehicle to implement their broader artistic leanings. Nevertheless, Bob retained his technological interests through continued consultancies in industry and government.

My own knowledge of Bob first came through one of the early papers bridging adhesion technology and continuum mechanics—the classic contribution of Ripling, Mostovoy and Patrick given at the 66th Annual Meeting of ASTM in Atlantic City, New Jersey, in 1963. Similar to the experiences of several of his friends, I was hardly prepared for the human dynamo I later met face-to-face one very hot day in Salt Lake City. In response to my weather complaints, I was immediately subjected to a serious and erudite extemporaneous lecture upon the virtues of the Utah climate. I can hear it yet: “But, Max, it’s a dry heat.” From that time on I had the personal pleasure of observing and frequently sharing his ebullient enthusiasm and joie de vivre that so characterized his approach to life. The breadth and depth of his general knowledge was truly extraordinary and he used it to superb advantage, particularly in his contributions to the Gordon Research Conferences on Adhesion where, I understand, he had the longest unbroken attendance on record. Bob was a primary catalyst in changing the emphasis at the Conferences from mainly technology to one containing more science. He personally opened the door to invitations to several of us from the field of continuum mechanics in order to add additional perspectives to those of his other colleagues in physical, polymer and organic chemistry, in rheology, polymer physics and adhesives technology. In view of his long time contribution to both the objectives and esprit of the Gordon Research Conferences on Adhesion, he was elected Permanent Honorary Chairman at the 1984 meeting.

Bob was one of the twelve founding members of The Adhesion Society and edited its newsletter for several years. His talks and published papers numbered in the scores. In addition, he edited the series of books entitled *Treatise on Adhesives and Adhesion*, published by Marcel Dekker, beginning in 1967. He was working on the Sixth Volume of that series when he passed away.

Outside of his technical interests and those in the arts which I have

previously mentioned, he had diverse talents and outside activities which were reflected in backpacking, golfing, skiing—and, as he became legendary at the Gordon Conferences, a fierce and sometimes controversial antagonist in the annual sailing regattas! Many of his friends and some of his acquaintances well recall and will long remember with awe his occasional unbridled excursions into community affairs, or his righteously indignant representations as a consumer advocate which followed his opening line, “Well, in that case, let me speak to your president.” The resulting Patrick stories are legion and remain part of his precious heritage to many of us.

For one who was a great motivator, impetuous despot, enthusiastic participator, talented engineering scientist, dedicated constructive extrovert and, above all, a warm human being, it is a privilege to have this opportunity to salute his memory on behalf of his many colleagues, associates and friends.

M. L. WILLIAMS

University of Pittsburgh

April 1985