

April 10, 1953

Gano Dunn, Builder, Dies; Directed Noted Projects

Set Up Oil Base At Pearl Harbor

Gano Dunn, 82, noted builder and engineer, died today at University Hospital after a brief illness. Mr. Dunn, who lived at 550 Park Ave., had been president of the J. G. White Engineering Corp. since 1913. He directed many outstanding and diversified engineering subjects.

Mr. Dunn was born in New York and worked his way through City College as a telegraph operator. In 1891 he and other members of his class at Columbia University received the first degrees of electrical engineering ever awarded in this country. Upon completing college, he spent several years in communications and electrical engineering and then in 1911 joined J. G. White as a vice president.

Famous Projects.

Among the many construction projects he directed were the U.S. Naval Oil Base at Pearl Harbor, the steam plant at Muscle Shoals, 13 transoceanic radio stations, the first government aviation station at Langley Field, Va., the first long-distance natural-gas pipeline in California and many road, oil and irrigation projects in South America.

He had been a director of the Radio Corp. of America since 1938 and also was a director of the National Broadcasting Co. and RCA Communications. He was a trustee of the Greenwich Savings Bank and a director of the Guaranty Trust Co. and was actively interested in several educational institutions. He was chairman and former president of Cooper Union, a trustee of Barnard College and a member of the visiting committee of Harvard Engineering School. He was a trustee of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine and a vestryman of Grace Church. Twice Mr. Dunn declined the offer of the presidency of Massachusetts Institute of Technology.



GANO DUNN.

Won Many Honors.

Mr. Dunn was associated with many engineering and scientific associations and received many awards in those fields for distinguished contributions. He also received honorary degrees from several colleges.

His clubs included the Union, University, Century, Engineers, Downtown, Church, Recess, Columbia University, Fencers, Tuxedo, New York Yacht and the Cosmos Club in Washington.

His wife, the former Mrs. Julia Gardiner Gayley, whom he married in 1920, died in 1937. He is survived by two brothers, Cleveland A. Dunn of Scarsdale, and Harris A. Dunn of 430 E. 57th St.

GANO DUNN IS DEAD; NOTED ENGINEER, 82

April 11, 1953

President of J. G. White Won
High Honors in His Field—
Trustee of Cooper Union



Gano Dunn

Gano Dunn, president of the J. G. White Engineering Corporation and chairman of the trustees of Cooper Union, died yesterday morning in University Hospital at the age of 82. He had been active in his various interests until last Saturday, when he entered the hospital.

Mr. Dunn was an electrical engineer whose career extended from the days of the horse and buggy to those of atomic energy.

A successful and widely honored member of his profession, Mr. Dunn once wrote that an engineer is a man who "can do with one dollar what any fool can do with two," and can convince others of the value and usefulness of his ideas. He added:

"And if his training neglects the great human mirrors of history and languages, particularly of his own language; if his heart and mind are insensible to the great social forces; if he but feebly develops the subtle qualities of character that make for personality, his career as an engineer is limited, no matter how much science he knows."

Led Far-Flung Projects

Mr. Dunn suffered from no such limitations. As the head of the White organization, he directed numerous construction projects in many parts of the world, including the United States Naval Oil Base at Pearl Harbor, the steam plant at Muscle Shoals, Ala., a long-distance natural-gas pipeline in California, three large irrigation and power dams in Chile, the Government aviation station at Langley Field, Va.

He was the recipient of many professional and academic honors, including the Thomas A. Edison Medal of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, the Egleston Medal of Columbia University, the Hoover Medal of the National Engineering Societies, the Peter Cooper Medal of the Cooper Union, and the Modern Pioneer Award of the National Association of Manufacturers.

Among his honorary degrees was one from Bowdoin College, which recalled that his grandfather, Nathaniel Dunn, had been a member of its class of 1825, which also included Nathaniel Hawthorne, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and President Franklin Pierce.

Dr. Dunn was born in Yorkville on Oct. 18, 1870, a son of N. Gano Dunn and Amelia Sillick Dunn. His father died before the youth had completed his education. Taking a job as a telegrapher, the student worked his way through City College, where he was graduated in 1889. Two years later he received a degree in electrical engineering from Columbia University, one of the first issued in this country.

Joined Concern in 1911

He joined the White engineering organization in 1911, after a number of years in the electrical engineering and communications field. After two years as its vice president in charge of engineering and construction, Mr. Dunn became president.

Mr. Dunn was a friend of Thomas A. Edison, Dr. Albert Einstein, former President Herbert Hoover, Brig. Gen. David Sarnoff, Edwin H. Armstrong, Dr. Robert A. Millikan and many other distinguished persons.

In 1938, General Sarnoff persuaded the engineer and educator he had met a quarter-century earlier to become a director of the Radio Corporation of America, under his chairmanship. One of Mr. Dunn's last missions was a trip, a month ago, to familiarize himself with R. C. A. installations in California.

Mr. Dunn's wife, the former Mrs. Julia Gardiner Gayley, whom he married in 1920, died in 1937. Surviving are two brothers, Cleveland A. Dunn of Scarsdale, and Harris A. Dunn of 430 East Fifty-seventh Street. Mr. Dunn resided at 550 Park Avenue.

A funeral service will be held at Grace Protestant Episcopal Church, Broadway and Tenth Street, at 3:30 P. M. Monday.