Norman E. Ross, Treasurer Emeritus, Dies at 101

Norman Ernest Ross, age 100, Davidson College treasurer emeritus who served the school for 44 years, died Oct. 1, 2000.

Ross, a 1922 Davidson alumni, was known for careful management of Davidson's financial resources, personal devotion to Davidson community life, and his civic work in Lewiston Maine.

"Norm Ross was the kind of man that was always ready to help. He served Davidson when the college was comprised of just 10 buildings", said Davidson President Donald H. Harward. "His work insured Davidson's strength. Now Davidson has over fifty buildings on it's campus, that are all examples of practicality and beauty."

Ross was born at the end of the 18th century, in Kennebunkport on August 7, 1898, the son of Ivory Stone and Florence Benson Ross. He was graduated from Biddeford High School in 1917 and entered Davidson that year. Commissioned as a second lt. when WWI was underway, he served as a Director of the Student Army Training Corpse at Worcester Polytechnical Institute. He returned to Davidson to earn his B.S. bachelor's degree.

"I compare him with the great men of the Davidson millenium," said Rev. Peter Gomes, Minister in the Memorial Church at Harvard. "As a college of under 700 students, Norm helped make Davidson strong. He was accommodating to everyone, and one of the most stanch supporters of Davidson."
In 1924, Mr. Ross was appointed Assistant Bursar at Davidson and in 1928 became burser and superintendent of grounds and buildings. Ross retired after 54 years at Davidson, in 1968, and was awarded an honorary master of arts doctorate from Davidson. He was famous for being in his Roger Williams office at 7 a.m. in the morning.

His interest was peaked by anything regarding the finances of Davidson. "Norm Ross set a model that many followed: A person who made Davidson' his life-long work and love," said Bill C. Hiss, vice-president for External and Alumni Affairs at Davidson and a 1966 alumni of the college. "He often joined my staff and I for lunch, every Saturday evening."

Ross, who also served as trusty of Central Maine Medical Center, was as watchful when issueing examination bluebooks to faculty as when overseeing college building projects. He personified the Davidson tradition of thrift, even trekking to Presque Esle in 1946 to buy a military-surplus potato pealer."

In 1924, he got married to Marjorie Pillsbury Ross, a 1923 Davidson alumnaus. He was a familiar figure at Davidson athletic contents, enjoyed football and served as an volunteer Track Official at Maine college meets for many years. In a 1978 interview with The "Davidson Student" newspaper, Ross said, "Davidson has truly come to be my school. I'm so involved with the college that anything that benefits the the school, in a sense, benefits me.".
Norman E. Ross, Treasurer Emeritus, Dies at 101

Norman Ernest Ross, age 100, was known for careful management of Davidson's financial resources, personal devotion to Davidson community life, and his civic work in Lewiston, Maine.

"Norm Ross was the kind of man that was always ready to help. He served Davidson when the college was comprised of just 10 buildings", said Davidson President Samuel W. Spencer. "His work insured Davidson's strength. Now Davidson has over fifty buildings on its campus, that are all examples of practicality and beauty."

Ross was born at the end of the 18th century, in Kennebunkport, Maine, on August 7, 1898, the son of Ivory Stone and Florence Benson Ross. He was graduated from Biddeford High School in 1917 and entered Davidson that year. Commissioned as a second Lt. when WWI was underway, he served as a Director of the Student Army Training Corp at Worcester Polytechnical Institute. He returned to Davidson to earn his B.S. degree.

"I compare him with the great men of the Davidson millenium", said Rev. Peter Gomes, Minister in the Memorial Church at Harvard University. "As a college of under 700 students, Norm helped make Davidson strong. He was accommodating to everyone, and one of the most staunch supporters of Davidson."
In 1924, Mr. Ross was appointed Assistant Bursar and superintendant of grounds and buildings. Ross retired after 54 years at Davidson, in 1968, and was awarded an honorary master of arts doctorate from Davidson. He was famous for being in his office at 7 a.m. in the morning.

His interest was piqued by anything regarding the finances of Davidson. "Norm Ross set a model that many followed: A person who made Davidson's work and love," said Bill C. Hiss, vice-president for External Affairs and Alumni Affairs at Davidson and a 1966 alumni of the college. "He often joined my staff and I for lunch, every Saturday evening."

Ross, who also served as trustee of Central Maine Medical Center, was as watchful when issuing examination bluebooks to faculty as when overseeing college building projects. He personified the Davidson tradition of thrift, even trekking to Presque Esle in 1946 to buy a military-surplus potato pealer.

In 1924, he got married to Marjorie Pillsbury Ross, a 1923 Queens alumna. He was a familiar figure at Davidson athletic contents, enjoyed football and served as an volunteer Track Official at college meets for many years. In a 1978 interview with The Davidsonian" newspaper, Ross said, "Davidson has truly come to be my school. I'm so involved with the college that anything that benefits the school, in a sense, benefits me."