

## **Chester Linwood Roadhouse, Dairy Industry: Davis**

1881-1969

Professor of Dairy Science, Emeritus

Chester L. Roadhouse was born in Watsonville, California, on January 5, 1881. He died on September 23, 1969, at Santa Rosa, California, where he lived during his later years with his daughter, Mrs. Katherine Black. He is survived by his daughter, a grandson Robert Black, Jr., and two great grandchildren.

For forty years Roadhouse served on the faculty of the University of California, twenty-seven of them as head of the Division of Dairy Industry on the Davis campus. His academic career began at the University of California, Berkeley, before he transferred to Cornell University, where he obtained the degree of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine in 1906. After graduation he entered the U.S. Bureau of Animal Industry and in 1909 inaugurated the hygienic supervision of San Francisco's milk supply. He was appointed instructor in the Division of Veterinary Science of the University of California in 1911. He supervised the University certified dairy herd in Berkeley and was veterinarian and bacteriologist to the Certified Milk Commissions of San Francisco and Alameda Counties.

Roadhouse came to Davis in 1917 as head of the dairy industry division to inaugurate a major curriculum of degree caliber, and to expand all phases of dairy science education. Until his retirement, he was actively engaged in research, instruction, and administration. In 1944, afflicted with encephalitis, he relinquished his administrative duties but returned to a full teaching load until his retirement in 1951.

Professor Roadhouse was active in many dairy organizations. He served as President of the American Dairy Science Association in 1935 and was on the editorial board of its official publication, the *Journal of Dairy Science*, from 1917 to 1926. He was President of the International Association of Milk Sanitarians in 1921, and of the Pacific Slope Dairy Association from 1922-1946. In 1937 he was designated an official U. S. delegate to the World's Dairy Congress in Berlin. In 1928 he spent a sabbatical year at the Swiss Dairy Research Station at Liebefeld-Berne, Switzerland. He was also an active member of the California Academy of Sciences, the Institute of Food Technologists, and Alpha Zeta, Sigma Xi, and Theta Delta Chi honoraries.

Dr. Roadhouse was honored on October 26, 1963, when the dairy industry building on the Davis campus, which he was instrumental in designing and in having constructed, was named Roadhouse Hall.

The Division of Dairy Industry under his leadership expanded rapidly and had an impact on the industry. Roadhouse deserves much of the credit for the close relations that developed between the University and the dairy industry. Perhaps more than any other individual, Roadhouse was the dominant figure in establishing and teaching hygienic methods and standards for the dairy industry and, by example, for the entire food industry of California. This was his major contribution, and the public is in his debt for it.

Dr. Roadhouse was particularly interested in milk flavors. His research showed that the basic taste of milk is most influenced by its lactose (milk sugar) and chloride content; that objectionable flavors can be minimized by timing the feeding before milking; and that oxidized milk flavors come from contact with certain metals, particularly copper. These findings changed production, processing, and distribution methods and resulted in the introduction of glass-lined tanks, and later stainless steel, which greatly prolonged the keeping qualities of milk and its products.

In collaboration with Dr. J. L. Henderson, Dr. Roadhouse wrote and later revised a widely used text, *The Market-Milk Industry*. He authored with B. E. Hubbell the book, *Manual for Employees of Dairy Plants*, and he wrote numerous bulletins, circulars, and popular articles on various phases of the dairy industry. Roadhouse was never superficial in any of his activities, including community affairs, notably his work for the Davis Community Church and the Rotary Club, of which he was a charter member and president. He was also president of the Davis Chamber of Commerce in 1951.

Probably the outstanding characteristic of Roadhouse was his indomitable will. When he was stricken with encephalitis in 1944--aided by sheer will power--he overcame not only the disease, but the persistent aftereffects to resume a normal and fruitful life. Many a lesser man would have succumbed. He asked--rather he *demande*d--strict adherence from his students and associates to the standards of performance in all fields that he set for himself.

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