

HARRY C. CARVER, 1890-1977¹

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Harry Clyde Carver, a pioneer and a leader in the development of mathematical statistics in the United States, died on January 30, 1977 in Ann Arbor, Michigan. He was the founder and, for eight years, the editor of the *Annals of Mathematical Statistics*.

Professor Carver was born on December 4, 1890 in Waterbury, Connecticut. He attended the local high school and then the University of Michigan, graduating with a B.S. degree in 1915. At that time, James W. Glover was developing the program in actuarial science which still flourishes in the University of Michigan and he decided that he should add courses in probability and statistics to that curriculum. In 1916 he brought Carver back to the University as an instructor in mathematics to offer such courses. Carver had already done actuarial work for three insurance companies and, at first, his statistics courses were primarily oriented toward actuarial applications. But in the 1920's there were just two schools in the United States where a program in mathematical statistics was offered, the University of Michigan and the State University of Iowa where Professor Henry L. Rietz was giving such instruction.

Carver became an assistant professor in 1918, an associate professor in 1921 and a professor in 1936. The program in mathematical statistics and probability was expanded and the enrollment grew. The staff was increased with Cecil C. Craig and Arthur H. Copeland being added in the early 30's and Paul S. Dwyer in the late 30's. Carver was the thesis director for ten students who earned doctor's degrees in mathematical statistics at Michigan. The last of these doctorates was granted in 1941. After that his main interest became aerial navigation.

By 1930 Carver had become concerned by the fact that the *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, then the only scholarly publication in the United States devoted to statistics, was closed to papers with any real mathematical content, and he decided to start a journal in which papers on mathematical statistics could be published. This was truly a courageous and pioneering venture for at that time there were only a few workers in this field in this country. Not only did Carver edit the new journal, but he personally assumed the financial responsibility for it, and he met considerable deficits out of his own pocket. He did have support from his close friend, J. W. Edwards, the founder of Edwards Brothers, who was developing the lithoprinting process which he used in printing the new publication. The *Annals of Mathematical Statistics*, as it was

Received July 1977.

¹ A picture of H. C. Carver can be found in the December 1961 issue of the *Annals of Mathematical Statistics* which was dedicated to him.

AMS 1970 subject classifications. Primary 01A70; Secondary 00A15.