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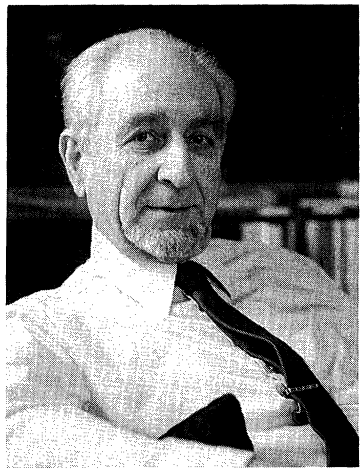

Many of us first became aware of Leonard Gillman in connection with "Gillman and Jerison," the classic 1960 monograph *Rings of Continuous Functions*. Len is a scholar and a perfectionist, and this shows clearly in this book. In particular, a lot of thought was put into creating the index, the most useful index I've ever seen. Chapter 16 is devoted to the Czech mathematician Katětov elegant characterization of the dimension of X in terms of $C^*(X)$. The authors completely reorganized and simplified the treatment. Katětov was astounded, as he had not believed the material could be simplified. I was honored when, at a meeting, Ed Hewitt introduced me to Gillman and Jerison in the same handshake. "Gillman and Jerison" was written while they were at Purdue. Later, Gillman became chairman at the University of Rochester where I had my first real job. Len is now Professor Emeritus at the University of Texas.

Actually, Len held a piano fellowship for five years at the Juilliard Graduate School before turning to mathematics. He has performed at five national meetings, three with Louis Rowen, cello, and two with William Browder, flute (AMS-MAA Presidents' Concert and Past-Presidents' Concert), and at several MAA Section meetings. All these concerts have been very well received.

Gillman's service to the profession goes back a long way. During the sixties, he became heavily involved at the national level: eight years as an MAA Visiting Lecturer and several years as a member of CUPM (Committee on the Undergraduate Program in Mathematics) and its subcommittees. CUPM was a big thing in those days, with its own national office (in Berkeley) and massive funding from NSF. He also spent two summers with SMSG (School Mathematics Study Group), writing "new math" materials, while at the same time criticizing the excesses of the new math thinking.

In 1973 Gillman became Treasurer of MAA. Like the Secretary, the Treasurer has a relatively long tenure. Much of what is accomplished makes the organization run smoothly, but does not make interesting reading. One such accomplishment was to have the Treasurer's Report no longer written in the Washington Office, but written by, well, the Treasurer, in order to replace accountant's jargon by readable English that Mr. and Ms. MAA member could understand. This was a nontrivial task.

A significant issue during this time concerned the MAA headquarters. The MAA had seriously outgrown the modest office space it had been renting. Al Willcox (Executive Director) found two connected townhouses on Eighteenth Street (numbers 1529 and 1527), for sale individually—or together along with the (unattached) carriage house, a package out of our league that would require a massive fund drive. Most members of the Executive and Finance Committees were ready to settle for just one house, but Gillman and a few others argued strongly for the package. Eventually this was the course adopted. The fund drive was successful, due in no small part to Gillman, who coaxed an endowment grant from James Vaughn and organized and directed a fund drive to name the conference room in memory of Ed Begle (Director of SMSG). The connected townhouses have since evolved into a small mathematics center.

Near the end of his term as Treasurer, Len became the leading advocate for conducting MAA's national elections by "approval voting." This scheme was adopted by the Board of Governors, though too late to affect Len, who was the last President elected under the old rules.

Here are two memorable events involving Len's Presidency. At the AMS Centennial Banquet at the January 1988 meeting in Atlanta, Len led the 1900 or so attendees in singing Happy Birthday Dear American Mathematical Society. Len's Retiring Presidential Address (Louisville, 1990), Teaching Programs That Work, discussed several remarkably successful programs, such as the one at SUNY Potsdam, Uri Treisman's work at Berkeley, and Jaime Escalante's at Garfield High School, focusing on their common features, and made a great hit.

Len has a knack for identifying good people and helping them move up into leadership positions. Among the two-year college people who caught his eye were Don Albers and Ann Watkins. Don is now MAA Associate Executive Director for Publications and Electronic Services. Ann served as co-editor with Bill Watkins of the *College Mathematics Journal*. Both Don and Ann have also served as MAA Vice Presidents.

Len's devotion to public service through his professional organizations apparently filtered down to his students. When he arrived at the University of Rochester, a young lady named Martha Jochnowitz arrived at the same time to begin graduate study in mathematics, and a math major named Doris Wood was starting her senior year. Both registered for his set-theory class. Doris ended the year as valedictorian of the graduating class, then went off to Yale for graduate study, and Len lost track of her. Martha married Chuck Siegel while completing her Ph.D. at Rochester and the rest is, as they say, history. Martha Siegel is now MAA Secretary. One day about a dozen years ago Len received a letter from Doris W. Schattschneider, editor of Mathematics Magazine, which included a handwritten note: "Do you still mark mathematical errors in red and errors in English in green?" Two editors later, the *Mathematics Magazine* editor was Martha Siegel! More recently, Doris was the Hedrick Lecturer at the 1995 mathfest in Burlington. Len had comparable influence on me and single-handedly brought me into MAA activities, which changed my life—for the better.

Len's Covection mathematical research involves a pleasant blend of topology, set theory, and analysis. Len's MAA publications include several journal articles, one of which won a Ford award; a booklet for high school students, *You'll Need Math*; and a manual for authors, *Writing Mathematics Well*.

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