

## CASPER GOFFMAN MEMORIAM



With great personal sadness we inform our readers that on September 25, 2006, Casper Goffman passed away at the age of 93. He was born June 1, 1913, in Cleveland, Ohio, and married Gertrude “Eve” Eisenberg on August 5, 1940. He is survived by Eve and five children. He received his Ph. D. in mathematics from The Ohio State University under the direction of Henry Blumberg in 1942. During his long and distinguished career he directed 23 doctoral students, the first in 1955 while he was still at The University of Oklahoma. He joined the faculty at Purdue University in 1957 and was instrumental in elevating the Mathematics Department at Purdue from primarily a service department to an important center for research in many areas of mathematics.

He published extensively and widely all through the latter half of the twentieth century and wrote several books during that time, as well. In spite of his outstanding contributions to research in mathematics, teaching was even more important. He is quoted as having said, “I consider myself primarily a teacher.” He had an excellent reputation for teaching among both undergraduate students and graduate students. He made himself available to colleagues and students

alike, spending much of his time in the “commons room” where he would often be found discussing a variety of topics, but mostly mathematics. He was very fond of early morning walks (which explains his preference for 8:00 classes) and often ended up in the Mathematics Building even on Saturday mornings. His home was open to students as well as colleagues and Eve greeted each visitor in a warm and friendly fashion. Her support and dedication facilitated his success. When he retired in 1978 he refused to permit the typical retirement dinner; instead a conference in his honor was held at Purdue in May of 1979.

The *Real Analysis Exchange* owes a share of its existence to Casper Goffman. He served as thesis director and mentor for two of the original members of the Editorial Board, Richard O’Malley and Clifford Weil. In addition, he agreed to be the principal speaker at the very first Summer Symposium on Real Analysis held at Western Illinois University in 1978. With that appearance and his support, the Symposium has continued to meet every summer since its inception. Cas appeared at several of the Symposium’s meetings and was one of the principal speakers at the 17th Symposium in 1993.

Real Analysis owes Cas a large debt of gratitude. He will be sorely missed.