

WILBERT SNOW, of the Class of 1907, bard of the Maine coast, teacher of distinction, politician of vision and integrity. During a three-year stint as Maine lobsterman, fisherman, and seaman, his desire for a college education grew. Returning to high school, he completed four years in two, in preparation for attending Bowdoin. A prolific poet, he has captured in verse the salty flavor of Maine's sea washed shores. But his literary creation does not exist in a vacuum, for his experience with people and conditions has been wide and varied, ranging from service as a Reindeer Agent in Alaska to a distinguished career of Lieutenant Governor and Governor of Connecticut. For 31 years a faculty member at Wesleyan University where he is Professor Emeritus of English, he brought to the classroom, and indeed to any room, an excitement about poetry and about people. His excellence in teaching brought him the first Bowdoin Alumni Council's Distinguished Bowdoin Educator Award in 1965; that excellence stems from his conviction that teaching not only allows one a varied career but also allows one to be kept eternally young through the continuing companionship of youth. Designated in 1951 as a special cultural ambassador of the United States, he spent that year traveling around the world lecturing on the cultural life of the American people. His knowledge, concern, compassion, and vivacity must have made him the most important export of the year. His love of man and nature, bred in him on the Maine coast and nurtured at his Alma Mater, represents that integration of concern and being that is the hallmark of the whole man.

“Let us study how spruces grow old:
The texture of bark, and the rings
In the grain, and the straightness that sings.”

Honoris Causa, DOCTOR OF LITERATURE