USL Remembers Late Dean Griffin

Harry L. Griffin Hall will be the name of the new $3.2 million dollar humanities building now under construction on the University of Southwestern Louisiana campus, Dr. Clyde Rougeau, USL president, announced today, following approval by the State Boards of Education.

The building is named to honor the memory of Dr. Harry L. Griffin, who joined the USL faculty in 1912 as professor of history and political science. He was named dean of the College of Arts and Sciences in 1922 when Dr. Edwin L. Stephens, USL's first president, began the reorganization of the academic structure of the Institute. This was the first of the six undergraduate colleges established at Southwestern.

Until Retirement
Dean Griffin remained as dean of the College of Liberal Arts until his retirement in 1951. He died in November of 1967. During his long tenure at USL, Dean Griffin was credited with having guided the academic growth of the institution and was largely responsible for its accreditation in 1924.

Active In Affairs
Dean Griffin was active in civic affairs also and was a member of Lafayette Rotary Club for over 25 years. In 1961 he was nominated by the French Government for the "Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Palmes Academiques."

He was the son of the late Rev. George Dallas Griffin and Frances Hester Griffin, both members of a pioneer West Virginia family. He was married in 1914 to the former Lucille Meredith Mouton, a great granddaughter of Alexandre Mouton, who resides at the family home at 129 General Gardner Ave.

In March, 1968 Mrs. Griffin made a donation to USL in trust on behalf of herself and the late Dean Griffin of the homestead, consisting of the family home and slightly more than an acre of land, to Southwestern to be used as a liberal arts center for the furtherance of the arts and sciences and dedicated forever to the purposes of the trust. This is only one of many instances in which the late Dean Griffin and Mrs. Griffin have shown their devotion to USL.