

### Professor Václav Veselý Seventy-Five Years Old



Being formally in retirement, but actually in the middle of a creative activity, a distinguished Czechoslovak scientist and pedagogue Professor Ing. Václav Veselý, DrSc., laureate of the State Prize of Klement Gottwald and holder of the distinction "Meritorious Inventor" with the right to wear the Golden Badge celebrated his significant life jubilee on May 6, 1986.

He was born in Rhineland, Germany, in a family of miner that returned to Czechoslovakia in 1919. He attended the Basic and Grammar School in North-Bohemian border region and in 1929 passed his school-leaving examination at the Czechoslovak branch of the Carnot lyceum in Dijon. In the period 1929—1933 he studied chemical engineering at the Czech Technical University in Prague. After graduation he continued his studies as a scholar at the Institute of Petroleum Technology in Strassbourg until 1934.

In the years 1934—1938 he was employed in the organic-technological laboratory of the Chemical and Metallurgical Society in Ústí nad Labem. After occupation of the frontier territory in 1938 he left for the mineral oil refinery Apollo in Bratislava, where he had been working till 1945. After liberation, in 1945—1946 he took part in the rebuilding of the present Chemical Works of Czechoslovak-Soviet Friendship in Litvínov as a chief of the high-pressure hydrogenation.

In 1946 he was appointed director of the national enterprise Slovnaft in Bratislava. In this post he began building the refinery in Vlčie hrdlo and elaborated and together with his fellow-workers put into practice the petrochemical conception for the refinery in Dubová. In 1951 he left for a year's institutional cure in the High Tatras. In 1952 he was called to the Slovak Technical University in Bratislava to the newly-established Department of Petroleum (at present the Department of Chemistry and Technology of Petroleum). There he was active till 1981, out of this till 1976 at the head of this Department.

His great talent combined with an admirable industry and assiduity is witnessed by hundreds of specialists he had educated and tens of scientific workers and is documented by about 200 original papers, 57 patents, more than 200 lectures presented at scientific symposia, congresses, and conferences at home and abroad as well as by seven temporary university textbooks, all this covering the period from 1952 to 1984. He authored or coauthored (1956—1984) eight monographs and university textbooks of petroleum technology, petrochemistry, and tribology.

Inspiring was his first monograph *Kapalná maziva* (Liquid Lubricants) published in 1956 (State Publishing House of Technical Literature, Prague) and the subsequent three-volume series of university textbooks of the chemistry and technology of petroleum (1962, 1963,

1967). Among his recent publications belongs the coauthored book *The C<sub>4</sub> Hydrocarbons and Their Industrial Derivatives* (Oxford, 1980), as well as *Maziva a speciální oleje* (Lubricants and Special Oils, 1980), *Maziva v tribologii* (Lubricants in Tribology, VEDA, Publishing House of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, 1985), and the presently prepared university textbook *Petrochémia* (Petrochemistry, Alfa Publishers, Bratislava).

The scientific work of Professor Veselý was recognized in an award of the State Prize of Klement Gottwald (1969), the honorary distinction "Meritorious Inventor" with the right to wear the Golden Badge (1984), the state distinctions "For Merits for Development" (1966), Silver (1971) and Golden Medal of the Slovak Technical University in Bratislava (1981), Golden Honorary Plaque of A. Stodola of the Slovak Academy of Sciences (1981), Medal of E. Votoček (1972) and Medal of F. Schulz (1977) of the Institute of Chemical Technology in Prague, and others.

It is difficult to appreciate adequately the achievements of the scientific and other professional, educational, and public service work of Professor Veselý, a living example of diligence, invention, life energy, and at the same time personal modesty. He has always been ready to share his knowledge and experience, to give away all that is his own. And so upon this special occasion, the students, fellow-workers, friends, and all our chemical community, besides the expression of gratitude to their dear teacher and friend, Professor Václav Veselý, wish him for years to come good health, optimism and enthusiasm, and further success in his creative work and realization of many other intentions.

V. Macho