

Taken from the CP Zaner tribute edition of The Business Educator, February 1919. Thanks to Neil M. for sending the copies of the magazine. My apologies for any inaccuracies, the OCR text conversion was very difficult on this copy.

Joe Vitolo

Tributes to C. P. Zaner

Biographical

Charles Paxton Zaner was born on a farm in Columbia County near Bloomsburg, Pa., on February 15, 1864. He received a good common school education, which was supplemented by a course in the Orangeville, Pa_ Academy. He early showed a fondness for penmanship and in 1882 went to Oberlin, Ohio, to take a course in this branch. From there he went to Audubon, Iowa, to assist a brother who was engaged in business. His love for penmanship, however, was too great to allow him to remain in other work, and from Audubon he went to Delaware, Ohio, to become both teacher and student of penmanship. In 1888 he left Delaware and went to Columbus, Ohio, as all instructors of penmanship in a business college. Later the school was closed and in the same year he founded the Zanerian College of Penmanship Columbus, Ohio, in which institution he remained at the head until the time of his death. No one ever possessed a greater love for the art of penmanship, and being a systematic student and indefatigable worker, he made rapid progress, both as a teacher and as a penman. The books he has prepared are being used very widely in the schools of this country.

The work he did as editor of THE BUSINESS EDUCATOR will long be remembered. In conducting the journal his guiding motive was helpfulness, which thought in reality dominated his whole life. He was a man of rare skill, ability, versatility, and originality, but his nobleness of character easily stood first. At the time of his death he was fifty-four years of age and was in the zenith of his mental and physical powers.

His life went out on Sunday evening, December 1st, 1918 seven miles north of Columbus, where his automobile was struck by a train which gave no warning of its approach in the darkness.

A Memorial Album of Tributes

We regret that it is impossible to publish each tribute in full. We have received many each one of which is worthy of a page of the Business Educator. The best we can do is to present only brief extracts of some of them. However, it is our intention to have all of the complete tributes bound in book form so that they may be read for many years to come, we hope, by students of the Zanerian College and by any other interested persons.

Since time would not permit us to notify all of Mr. Zaner's friends of his death, there may be others who will wish to pay tribute to his memory. If so, we shall be pleased to receive whatever such persons think best to write. These tributes, with the others already received will be placed in the C. P. Zaner Memorial Album.

Mr. Zaner has for years been my closest and most helpful friend; indeed, I esteem him as a brother and I feel his loss as one irreparable to me. J. F. Fish, Chicago, Ill.

I feel that I have lost one of my best friends. Mr. Zaner lived and worked so faithfully and so well that he inspired us all to higher ideals of service.
E. G. Miller, Pittsburgh, Pa.

I can scarcely realize that my dear friend Zaner is gone.
H. W. Flickinger, Glenolden, PA

You have my sympathy in the loss of a noble partner, and the profession has suffered all irreparable loss.
A. N. Palmer, New York City, N. Y.

Personally, he was a friend to me, and almost a father. He was deep thinking, deeply sympathetic and genuinely sincere. His great ambitions, his thoroughness and plain title, of living have inspired everyone who knew him well. He was efficient and systematic, doing more effective work than almost any two people I know.
J. A. Stryker, Kearney, Nebr.

In the office where I see it every day there hangs a small 10x12 water color painting sent me some years ago at Christmas by lily good friend C. P. Zaner, whose tragic death has so shocked the commercial teachers of the United States and Canada and lovers of good penmanship everywhere. It's a restful little painting of it landscape; it running stream rolling plain, wooded banks, and cloud fleeced sky; a sketch from nature in the vicinity of Columbus, where he liked to ramble in leisure hours sketching in pencil what he sometimes finished in water color, for Zaner was skillful with pencil and brush as he was masterly with the pen.

Zaner was it quiet, modest mail, yet he was always listened to with attention and respect at conventions, gatherings of teachers, and by students, for he was a man who made no false motions; his ideas were practical and his explanations were clear and simple. I have met many of the best penmen of America who have been his pupils, and they all tell the same story of faithful, painstaking work on the part of an able, conscientious teacher. Such comment makes it fit monument to any member of it profession which brings little fame no great store of wealth.

I new Mr. Zaner as a friend in all kinds of weather, when the wind bites bitterly from the, 'Northeast, as well as when it blows softly from file Sunny South. Such friends I need not say are not over-plentiful, and the loss of this one sinks deep into my heart. tie was a clean, honest, honorable mail, and I don't believe a whiter soul than Zaner's ever dwelt in mortal clay.

Winds of the Western prairies sigh a requiem; rain and snow and dew of the West drop tears; green grass and flowers he loved so well, grow thick and bright; still and moon and stars of night, each shed your kindly light on the grave where our friend, called upon so suddenly to answer the final roll call, sleeps his long sleep well.

Charles T. Cragin, Holyoke, Mass.

He always seemed is a father to me, and I shall mourn his loss accordingly.

R. B. Moore, Louisville, Ky.

Gone, But Never to Be Forgotten

My pen almost fails me in writing these words about our dear Air. Zaner. On December sixth when I returned home from work Mrs. Doner said, "I have had news for you; Mr. Zaner is gone." The news fairly stunned me. I couldn't make myself believe it. But when I read the newspaper account of the terrible accident that caused the untimely death of Mr. Zaner, I simply had to believe it. I said to Mrs. Doner, "What a loss to Air. Bloser, the Zanerian, and the Profession."

Zaner gone? Yes, but his works and influence will live forever. As time goes on, it will be with Zaner as it has been with Lincoln, his great goodness will be felt more and more. The name "Zaner" and the word

"Zanerian" stand for something distinctive in the penmanship profession, and for all influence of inestimable value in the lives of many hundreds of individuals whose good fortune it was to come under Zaner's personal instruction. I wish I could express adequately in words how much dear Zaner did for me, but my heart is too heavy, I am so shocked, and until I can collect my thought, all I can say now is that I deeply mourn the loss of our true, noble, helpful and inspiring friend, Zaner. Oh! how we will all miss him!

C. E. Doner, Beverly, Mass.

The news of the passing of my dear friend, Mr. Zaner, comes to me with a shock that I have not had to sustain ill the loss of any other friend since my Mother died. Away back in 1890, when I was all obscure country school teacher in Illinois, it was my fortune to go to Columbus for a summer under Mr. Zaner's personal instruction. Few influences in my life have ultimately worked out more helpfully than his.

No more sincere, unselfish, modest, earnest, industrious man ever stood up in the classroom, and, undoubtedly, no penman fit the history of our country has directly and personally inspired to successful efforts more individual men and women than it was Mr. Zaner's fortune to help. I should be a happy man if I could feel that when my own call comes I could count among those who would regret my passing even a small fraction of the number of those who will personally grieve over the loss of a dear friend when they learn of Mr. Zaner's death.

E. E. Gaylord, Beverly, Mass.

While you are now laying away that skillful hand, that wonderful brain, and that kind heart, I am sure that C. P. Zaner still lives, and will continue to live on through the years lives fit the beautiful specimens of penmanship he has scattered all over the world; lives in his books, and in the skillful hands of millions of school children, many of whom may never hear his name, but who will write letter because he lived and labored; lives in his sane writings on many topics, and fit the thoughts planted through his writings in the minds of thousands of readers; lives in the memory of thousands of his own students, who will be better men and women because they knew him. He was not only a great penman, he was a philosopher, counselor, author, and, greatest of all, FRIEND.

And surely he will live in that great world beyond the grave; for in the midst of all the beautiful things there, he would be at home, he whose eye has delighted with beauty of line and form and color, and who did so much to create beautiful things fit this world. And more beautiful than any of the works of his pen or brush was his own life; just as the most beautiful things he taught his students to make was their own lives. Arthur G. Skeeles, Pittsburgh, Pa.

I mourn the loss of a dear cousin, whose memory I shall always cherish. He was foursquare with the world and the world is better and richer for his having lived in it. The penmanship profession loses a leader who by his wisdom and deeds for a quarter of a century has done more for the advancement and betterment of the art of writing than any other person in my judgment America has ever known, L. M. Kelchner, Seattle, Wash.

I cannot express my sorrow in learning of the untimely death of my friend, C. P. Zaner. No man fit the work of commercial education held a firmer grip (in the affections of the commercial teachers of the Country) than C. P. Zaner. His influence was wonderful. His presence was magnetic. He always had a kind word for the younger members of the profession, I am sure that I express the heartfelt opinion of all the members of the National Teachers' Federation, when I say that Mr. Zaner's influence will be missed in the Federation more than words can ever express.

I wish to express through your publication the sincere sorrow of the National Commercial Teachers' Federation.

James C. Reed, Whitewater, Wis.,
Pres. Nat'l. Com'l. Teachers' Federation.

It was my pleasure to learn to know him fairly intimately in the last two or three years, and to know him so was to esteem him for those qualities which we always associate with a gentleman. Glen Levin Swiggett,

Specialist in Commercial Education, Bureau of Education, Washington, D. C.

Mr, Zaner was one of my most intimate friends whom I have always regarded in the nature of a father, and I am sure there are thousands of other Zanerians who share with me the same feeling. I am sure we cannot do too much to honor him for what he has done for the profession and for thousands of men and women throughout the United States.

O. T. Johnston, New York City, N. Y.

My best friend has come and gone-is here no more Unconsciously he taught me one lesson: help others, not yourself.

Fred Berkman, St. Clair, Ohio.

Word of his death brings me to tears. He was father, brother, and chum to me. His loss will be felt around tile World.

Frank W. Martin, Boston, Mass.

I counted him one of my good friends, and one of the leaders in work pertaining to commercial education. Robert A. Grant, St. Louis, Mo.

I have met but few people whom I esteemed is highly as I did Mr. Zaner.

W. A. Baird, San Francisco, Calif.

A man of such high qualities, whose highest Purpose a lid efforts Were to Make the World better and to enrich the profession to which he devoted his life, deserved a kind her fate.

I have known Mr. Zaner intimately for twenty-three years. I have ever valued his friendship very highly, and, now that his virtues and worth to me and the profession have left a renewed and much deeper impression by his untimely departure, I rejoice in having known him and being privileged to count him among and call him my true friend.

W. C. Henning, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

I regarded him as the best friend I ever had. In fact, he was my ideal.

A. P. Mello, Pasadena, Calif.

To me, Mr. Zaner was not simply one to be known as the premier of American penmen, but a man whose character, kindness and the average unselfishness towered above and whose life has been all example and inspiration, for which I shall ever be grateful.

A. M. Wonnell, Cincinnati, Ohio.

I feel that I have suffered a personal loss. I was one of his students in the early days of the Zanerian, I could not help but observe the manner in which he met the difficulties which then beset him, because of lack of both capital and experience. He met those difficulties bravely, hopefully, patiently; and the present Zanerian, with its nationwide fame and prestige is the result, a monument to an earnest, friendly, talented

man. A good mail has passed beyond; may his eternal rest be as peaceful as those who loved him believe he deserves, Wm. N. Smith, Raleigh, N. C.

In Mr. Zaner's death the cause of good penmanship loses a valiant champion, and Columbus, all upright citizen.

F. J. Duffy, Duluth, Minn.

No other member of our Federation would be missed more than will C. P. Zaner. He could be reached upon to do just the right, fair thing. What a delightful legacy to come down to his friends. O. L. Trenary, Sec'y Nat. Teachers' Federation, Oshkosh, Wis.

What a fountain of inspiration to us in general, to me in particular.

M. A. Albin, Portland, Ore.

That a mail so full of energy, so completely in love with educational duties of life, who was 'so good fit his home, in society, educational circles, business circles and so willing a worker at all time, should meet such an untimely death, certainly spreads a pall of gloom over the entire Commercial Fraternity.

L. C. McCann, Reading, Pa.

I was one of the many who knew him who will mourn him as a brother.

H. J. Minnich, Findlay, Ohio.

Words will not express the regret I feel for the loss of Mr. Zaner.

G. A. Rockwood, Poughkeepsie, N. Y.

I know he was admired and loved by all who knew him through his noble career. I feel the loss of him more keenly than I can express in words. I send my profound sympathy to the staff of the Business Educator, and to the faculty of the Zanerian College, and mourn with you the loss of a great comrade and friend.

A. B. Cox, Washington, D. C.

He stood by me in time of need. He has been a constant guide by my side, one whom I could consult from time to time. The profession has lost a valuable member, one who was recognized as a leader and respected as a mail among men.

P. H. O'Hara, Brooklyn, N. Y.

I can hardly believe that my beloved friend, C. P. Zaner, is dead. The commercial teaching profession has lost one of its leading workers.

Charles P. Zaner's tomb needs inscribed thereon no inspiring and lofty epitaph, for that shall remain written in the lives and hearts of all present and future advocates of the art of penmanship.

W. P. Steinhaeuser, Hightstown, N. J.

We regarded him as one of the highest type of manhood, a true friend, and it is terrible to think that his life was blotted out so suddenly, Mr. and Mrs. D. L. M. Raker, Harrisburg, Pa.

After dropping a sprig of evergreen in the open grave of my dear teacher, I returned home feeling keenly the distinct and awful loss of a courageous, kind-hearted friend, one who was a prodigious toiler for the good of Penmanship and Commercial Education.

Starting in the early dawn of December 4th for Columbus, I walked by the tall, gaunt statue of the Immortal Lincoln and my thoughts pictured how, a half century ago, many people had started at early dawn to pay the last tribute to one whose life had been cut off at high-tide. I thought how he was needed for reconstruction days and too how C. P. Zaner will be greatly missed during the coming days of another, a world reconstruction. On this day President Wilson was starting on a Peace Pilgrimage. I silently wished him a safe voyage, and then again thought how much it would comfort us to have Mr. Zaner to direct, to modify, to enlighten, to encourage and to commend while we are picking up the threads of Peace again. It is futile to say what he might have achieved had he lived. And yet as one thinks Of his untimely death, it is hard to refrain from dreaming of these impossibilities.

The death of C. P. Zaner takes from his community an upright citizen, from the United States a forward looking educator. Thousands who had met him loved him because of his boyish frankness and zeal; they admired him because of his straightforward purpose; they heeded him because he spoke with the authority of the student and the scholar.

As an all-round penman, author, artist, teacher, supervisor and lecturer he was the brightest star in our profession. He was a thinker and worker. Everything he touched was artistic, poetic and inspiring. Like a strain of enchanting music his touch left a lasting impress, and the silent influence of the many values of life this talented man possessed caused hundreds of young men to strike a truer balance in the ledger of life. But more than all he was the high-minded man and gentleman, loyal to his friends and loved by them honest, chivalrous and fearless, true American.

W. C. Brownheld, Bowling Green, Ky.