

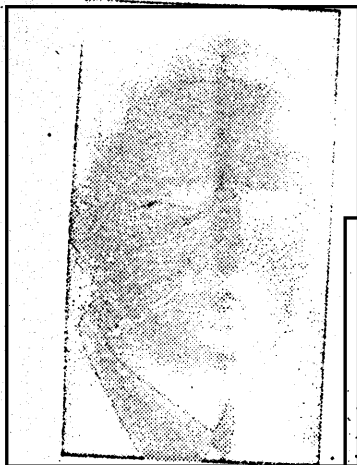
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Dr. Willis A. Gibbons, 79; Pioneer in Rubber Research



WILLIS GIBBONS

Dr. Willis A. Gibbons, 79, a pioneer in rubber research who played an important role in the development of the industry, died Sunday at his home, 5240 Loughboro rd. nw., after a heart attack.

Dr. Gibbons held more than 60 patents in the field of rubber technology and was director of research for the U.S. Rubber Co. from 1928 until 1952. His major contributions included latex dipping of tire cord, the T-50 test for measuring rubber vulcanization and the manufacture of rubber thread.

Dr. Gibbons was born in New York City. He received a bachelor's degree from Wesleyan University in 1910, a master's in 1911 and a Ph.D. from Cornell in 1912. He then joined U.S. Rubber.

In 1951, Dr. Gibbons came to Washington to work in the Office of Defense Mobilization. He then served the Central Intelligence Agency from 1952 until his retirement in 1959, at which time he was awarded the Distinguished Intelligence Medal by the Agency for outstanding achievement and distinguished service.

During World War I, Dr. Gibbons was assistant military attache at the American Embassy in London.

In World War II, he was a member of a technical committee of the Office of Rubber Reserve for the Reconstruction Finance Corporation and was a member of a four-man American Mission sent to the Soviet Union to study its synthetic rubber process.

Dr. Gibbons was a member of Alpha Delta Phi, Phi Beta Kappa, and Sigma Xi. In 1942 he was awarded an honorary doctorate in science by Wesleyan University where he was vice president of the board in 1950 and, at his death, a trustee.

Dr. Gibbons was president of the New York Academy of Sciences in 1951. He also served on various advisory committees of the National Research Council and was chairman of the Division of Engineering and Instrumental Research of the Council.

Surviving are his wife, the former Stella Hopewell, and two daughters, Virginia, and Mrs. Dorothy Cooke, and a granddaughter, all of Washington.