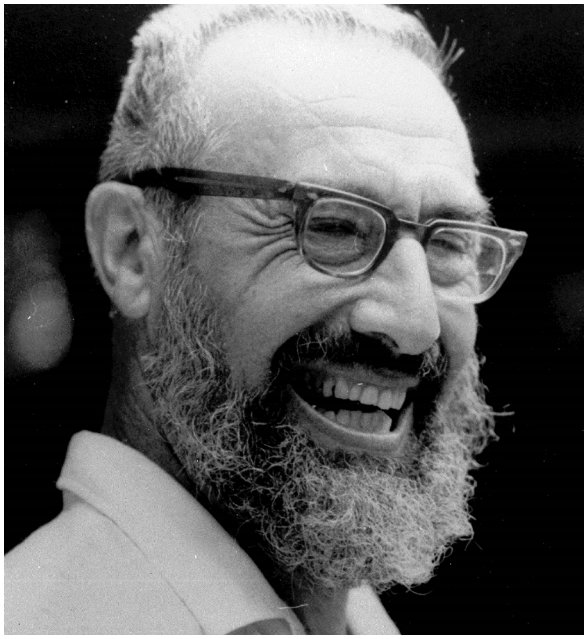
SEYMOUR SHERMAN

Seymour Sherman received his education at Cornell University, where he attained the B.A. in 1936, the M.A. in 1937, and the PhD in 1940. He was a member of the Institute of Advanced Study in Princeton, New Jersey, in 1940-41 (and again from 1948 to 1950), an instructor in mathematics and mechanics at the U.S. Naval Academy in 1941-42, and head of the flutter and vibration section of the research laboratory of the Curtiss-Wright Corporation from 1942 to 1944.

"Slim" (the name by which he was known to his friends and colleagues) was a mathematician of broad interests, ranging from the very abstract and theoretical to the very concrete and applied. His major interest in the latter part of his career was the theory of probability, especially as applied to mathematical physics. He had lectured and consulted widely in the area of statistical mechanics and was known as the solver of some very difficult problems in the "Ising Model" of the theory of ferromagnetism.

Prior to joining the Mathematics Department of Indiana University as a professor in 1964, Slim held positions at the Allegheny Ballistics Laboratory, University of Chicago, and Lockheed Aircraft Corporation, among others.

His contributions to his professional community at the national level included: membership in the National Research Council/National Academy of Sciences committee on regional development of mathematics; associate secretary of the American Mathematical Society from 1962 to 1966; editor of the *Journal of Mathematics and Mechanics* (now known as the *Indiana University Mathematics Journal*) from 1964 to 1966; member of the board of editors of the journal,



Advances in Mathematics, and of the *Journal of Mathematical Physics*. He was the author of some 50 articles which appeared in professional journals.

Slim was known to his students at Indiana as a very demanding but fair teacher. By his colleagues, he was appreciated as a genial host who often entertained younger people with stories of the military-oriented mathematical activity in the United States of the 1940's. He always stood out in a crowd because of his height and his hearty, booming laugh. He had an amazing facility for following colloquium lectures with understanding even when the lecture was not in a field of his own research, and he delivered many brilliant lectures himself before IU's Mathematical Physics Seminar.

Born: New York City, New York April 30, 1917
Died: Bloomington, Indiana June 5, 1977
Years at IU: 1964-1977