

In Memoriam

**BROTHER
ALFRED BROUSSEAU**

February 17, 1907–May 31, 1988



Brother Alfred Brousseau, F.S.C., co-founder of The Fibonacci Association and Managing Editor of the *Fibonacci Quarterly* for its first thirteen years, died May 31 at the age of 81. He was associated with Saint Mary's College, Moraga, California, since the 1930s, where he was Chair of the School of Science for many years. He taught until he was 71, and then continued to attend mathematics meetings and give lectures to teachers.

In the early 1960s, Brother Alfred became interested in Fibonacci numbers and their applications. He and Verner E. Hoggatt, Jr., got a group of people together in 1963 and, as he said in *Time*, April 4, 1969, "just like a bunch of nuts, we started a mathematics magazine." Of course, twenty-five years later, the *Fibonacci Quarterly* continues to thrive. Brother Alfred's role in founding The Fibonacci Association is reported in our February 1987 issue.

Brother Alfred was an avid botanist, naturalist, and photographer, and he has donated his extensive collection of slides and wildflowers to Saint Mary's College. Also quite a hiker, he collected specimens of all twenty species of native California pine trees to study their growth patterns. He made a phyllotaxis exhibit, showing the spiral counts of the cones, to interest high school students in Fibonacci numbers. His exhibit was very popular at meetings of mathematics teachers as well.

Brother Alfred was always a dedicated teacher, and wanted to interest young people in mathematics. He wrote many articles especially for beginners in the *Fibonacci Quarterly* as well as six books still published by The Fibonacci Association. He gave countless lectures on Fibonacci Numbers and mathematical discovery to high school students and their teachers. He directed Saint Mary's College's joint program with the National Science Foundation which each year attracted hundreds of students to Saint Mary's College for a problem-solving competition.

Besides these serious pursuits, Brother Alfred always had time to play his accordion after teacher meetings, and to cheer patients at convalescent hospitals. He approached all of life with great enthusiasm and energy. He will be missed.

—Marjorie Bicknell-Johnson