Ingersoll Building Named
For Borough President

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This is the third in a series of profiles on the men whose names grace the buildings on the college campus.

"Raymond V. Ingersoll, Borough President of Brooklyn since January 1, 1934, died in the Long Island College Hospital at 11:50 A.M. yesterday, three days after undergoing an abdominal operation. He was 64 years old."

That was the lead paragraph of his obituary in the New York Times of February 25, 1940. The End—so to speak—of the man for whom Ingersoll Hall at Brooklyn College was named. But it was far from the end of the memory of the man and the deeds he left behind him.

Raymond V. Ingersoll was born in Corning, New York on April 3, 1875. He earned his A.B. at Amherst College in 1897 and after graduation moved to New York City's lower East Side. That's where he got his first inkling of the deplorable housing conditions in our fair city. The neighborhood and the depraved social conditions of its inhabitants were the cause of his first contributions to society. He did social work and helped to organize boys' clubs in the neighborhood.

In 1900 he received his LL.B from the New York Law School and in 1901 he moved to Brooklyn. As a resident of the Maxwell House Settlement near the Brooklyn Navy Yard he continued his activities in Social Service work and in his "spare time" was elected a magistrate at large, being one of the youngest men to sit on a city's

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Ingersoll Progressed
In Public Service

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in inferior courts' bench.

Despite his many activities among the poor he was, and remained, an independent Democrat throughout his life. There were many issues on which he and the Democratic party did not agree. That's why years later when he was running for the office of Borough President of Brooklyn all the anti-Democratic groups rallied to his support.

Mr. Ingersoll practiced law in Brooklyn from 1902 to 1909 and served as Park Commissioner of Brooklyn from 1914 to 1917. In 1918 he volunteered with the "Foyer du Soldat" on the French Army Front. After the war he plunged into the activities which were to make him known. He helped the labor cause by serving as an arbiter of the Cloak & Suit industry and because of his tireless efforts strikes among the 30,000 workers in 1,300 establishments were averted. He also served on the State Commission which revised tenant and housing laws from 1928 to 1929.

Despite the popularity of some of the civic reforms he had sponsored early in his career, Mr. Ingersoll was reluctant to seek the office of the Borough Presidency of Brooklyn. He was finally won over by Mayor La Guardia who thought very highly of him. As history shows he was elected to office and began his term on January 1, 1934. Mr. Ingersoll was a fervent supporter of Mayor La Guardia and backed to the limit many of the Mayor's proposals, one of which was the proposed site for Brooklyn College. During his two terms as Borough President he never failed to cooperate with the Mayor at the Board of Estimate meetings. Some projects for which he worked hard were the Brooklyn-Battery tunnel, the circumferential highway and the new Brooklyn Central Library.

He was a devoted and hard working public servant. When he first took office in 1934, Mr. Ingersoll spent many late evenings with his staff trying to get an intimate idea of Brooklyn's civic needs. In 1937 he was re-elected to the office of Borough President. This was a clear indication of what the people of Brooklyn thought of his tireless efforts.

When his untimely and tragic death came in 1940 he left behind him many reminders of his devoted service and a host of mourners which included every walk of life from the President of the United States to the "little" people he had worked so hard for.