

IN MEMORIAM

FREDERICK JOSEPH ADAMS

Frederick Joseph Adams was born August 18, 1898, at Manchester, New Hampshire, and died in Austin, Texas, August 21, 1968. His parents were William S. and Mary (Worthen) Adams. He is survived by his wife, Marie; his son, Robert Martin Adams; three grandchildren, Robert Jr., James, and Nancy; and a sister, Mrs. Florence Adams Grondorf, two nieces and a nephew.

F. J., as he was best known at the University, spent his early years in New Hampshire and California. In his adult life his speech still gave evidence of his New England heritage. He attended the Santa Rosa (California) High School, graduating in 1915; and, since he was too young to enter the University, he remained for a year of post-graduate study. He entered the University of California in 1916, but his college study was interrupted in 1917 by voluntary enlistment in the U. S. Army, in which he served until July of 1919. Reentering the University of California in 1919, he continued his studies and received the A. B. Degree with Highest Honors in Psychology in 1921. Continuing with graduate study, he was awarded the degree of Master of Arts in Education in 1922.

At the University of California he met Marie Martin, the gifted and attractive daughter of a Professor of Geology at Cornell University, incidentally one of the geologists who accompanied Admiral Peary on his Greenland exploration. F. J. and Marie were married in 1921, the beginning of a happy life together for just short of a half-century.

His teaching career began before his first academic degree, by service as a student reader and assistant in the Department of Psychology, 1919-21, and in the Department of Education, 1921-22, at the University of California. In 1922 he advanced to Assistant in Educational Psychology. In the same year he served concurrently as Instructor in Educational Psychology in Mills College and Lecturer in Mental Measures in Dominican Convent College.

He came to The University of Texas in September, 1922, with an appointment as Instructor in the Department of the Philosophy of Education, which at that time included Educational Psychology. In 1927 he was advanced to Adjunct (now Assistant) Professor of Educational Psychology, in 1935 to Associate Professor, and in 1942 to Professor, retiring as Professor Emeritus in 1966.

In his early years at The University of Texas, he continued his own graduate study, first in part-time work at The University of Texas and later in study at the University of California with a graduate scholarship. He completed the requirements and received the degree, Doctor of Education, in August, 1927. In the summer of 1940 with an American Council on Education grant, he participated in a workshop at the University of Chicago in college personnel work. His professional competence was increased by unique opportunities for study in courses for psychologists, classification officers, personnel consultants, and separation counselors in schools of the U. S. Army.

The service of Dr. Adams in The University of Texas was long, effective, and varied--including teaching, supervision of graduate studies, research, and administration. He was indeed one of the great builders of the University, a pioneer who had the rare opportunity to give to the University two-thirds of a long life. He was first of all a teacher and friendly worker with students. His major specialization as a teacher was in the field of guidance, but he could well be called a "general practitioner." As early as 1949, he had supervised approximately 40 theses for the Master's degree and five dissertations for the doctorate. In spite of a significant shift of his duties toward administration, he continued supervision of theses and dissertations and had supervised the writing of a doctoral dissertation as late as 1959.

His passion for accuracy and his ability to gather information needed in the educative process gradually led him toward a major responsibility in the administration of the College of Education. In 1940-42 he was relieved of a part of his

teaching assignment "for work in student guidance and data gathering" in the College, and in 1948 (after return from military service to be discussed later) "for data gathering and various aid" to the Dean of the College. By 1950 he was devoting half-time to "assistance" in the Office of the Dean, and in 1951 he was listed formally as Assistant Dean of the College of Education, continuing in the Dean's Office until his retirement in 1966.

The committee work to which Dr. Adams was assigned is evidence of his unusual competence as well as the confidence of his administrative superiors. Looking at the list of committees, an observer must be impressed with the staggering load which he carried and with the value of the service which he gave. A partial list of the committees on which he served and of other non-teaching activities is given in the Supplement to this memorial. Of many of the committees, he was the chairman or secretary.

Dr. Adams was in the military service in both the First and the Second World Wars, and he continued as a reserve officer long after his discharge from active duty. As already stated, his study at the University of California was interrupted by voluntary enlistment in the Army in 1917. His assignment was to the "U. S. Army Ambulance Service with the French Army." In the two years of service, he was advanced from Private to Sergeant, and he received a campaign ribbon in recognition of his service. In World War II, he was commissioned a First Lieutenant, assigned first as a Psychologist in the Army Specialist Corps. Later he advanced to Major in the Adjutant General's Department, acting as Classification Officer, Personnel Consultant, and Assistant Chief of the Psychology and Counseling Section of the Eighth Service Command Headquarters.

In the last named position, he was second in charge of the coordination and supervision of all psychological activities in the service command. The duties of this section included supervision of (1) the selection, training, assignment, and work of personnel engaged in psychological testing; (2) separation classification

and counseling; (3) clinical psychology program; (4) a convalescent hospital; and (5) the U. S. Disciplinary Barracks and its Rehabilitation Center.

Discharged from active duty in 1946, he continued as a "classification and assignment officer" in the Officers Reserve Corps. Years later, he retired from the Reserve Corps with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. But Colonel Adams never carried his title into civilian life. In keeping with the modesty characteristic of his whole life, he was buried without military honors except for the flag which covered his casket.

The publications of Dr. Adams were severely limited by his devotion to teaching, by his work with students, and by the administrative duties which required a large share of his time in the later years. From 1935 to 1942, he was a monthly contributor to Educational Abstracts, dealing with publications relating to guidance and library. A substantial part of his contribution to educational literature and educational research is included in unpublished papers or in publications which do not bear his name. Some of his publications are listed in the Supplement to this memorial.

Neighborliness and simplicity were characteristics of his home life. For many years, Dr. and Mrs. Adams were part of a group of faculty families--including the Brogans, the Clicks, the C. T. Grays, and the Hollanders--all living on West Avenue almost within a stone's throw of each other. The Adams' lot was huge, almost a quarter acre, and F. J. and Marie were avid gardeners. He found additional recreation in shopwork, fashioning small articles of one kind and another. Both spent brief periods, never long enough to interfere with his work, at their summer house on the Gulf coast--he, chiefly in simple relaxation "watching the sea gulls," and she, supplementing relaxation with water-color and oil painting.

Dr. Adams played a significant role in building and maintaining a "university of the first class," handicapped in the early years by serious economic depression and later by rapidly mounting enrollments. During his tenure, the enrollment

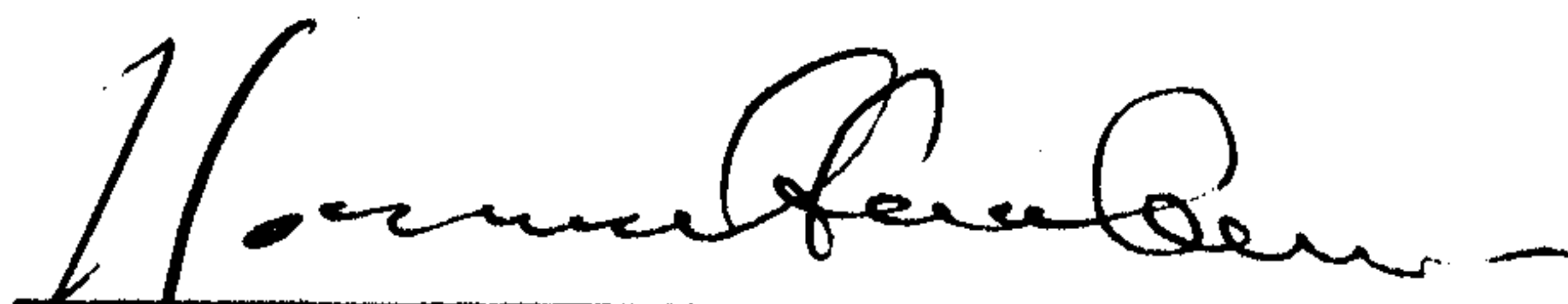
increased from 4,500 to 30,000. Much of his work has been relatively unseen, both because a large part of his effort was expended as "assistant" and because by nature, he avoided the limelight. At his retirement, for example, he asked the President not to release the news, and he would not allow his colleagues to honor him with a "going-away party" of any kind. Somewhat broken in health, he slipped quietly away.

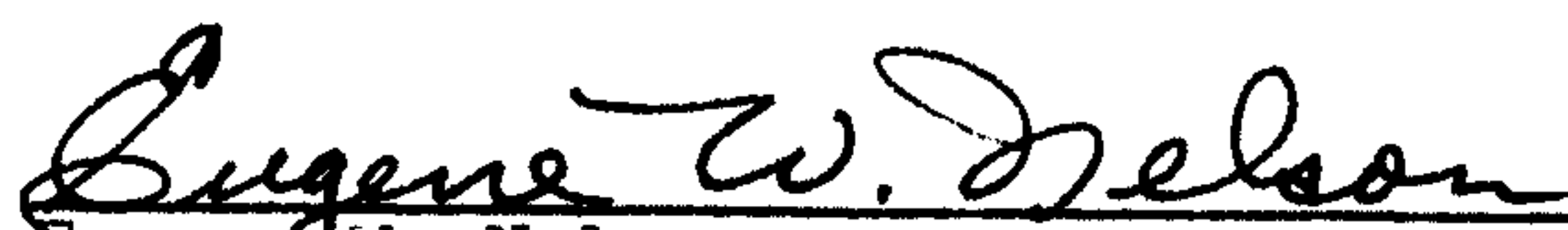
Many with only superficial contact never knew the real Dr. Adams or felt the warmth of his friendly nature. But he is remembered with affection by office personnel who "just loved him," by colleagues with whom he worked most closely, and by many, many students to whom he gave sensitive and sympathetic guidance. It is fitting to close this memorial with two quotations taken from more extensive comments. The first is that of Professor Muir of Rice University, a former student and assistant:

I always cherished his friendship. I shall cherish his memory.  
I enjoyed [his] humor and indeed stole a number of his witty remarks.

The second is that of Dean Pittenger (recently deceased), who was his administrative superior for many years:

(Addressing Mrs. Adams) Both you and I have the memories of the days when he was one of the able people who made The University of Texas a great institution. I remember especially his dry wit and his thoroughness. His career was a memorable one.

  
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Norman Hackerman  
President of the University of Texas at Austin

  
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Eugene W. Nelson  
Secretary of the General Faculty

#### SUPPLEMENT

#### I. Committees and other special assignments (incomplete list)

University Radio Station, Student Personnel Program, General Library, College of Education Library, Discipline, Summer Lectures, Teacher Appointment, Revision of Grading System, Special Engineering Aptitude Tests, Registration Procedures,

Admission to Education Courses, Selection and Guidance of Students, Evaluation of Teacher Training, Degrees and Courses in the College of Education, Graduate Studies in Education, Graduate School Two-Year Degree, Graduate Legislative Council, College of Education Executive Council, University Council on Teacher Education, Armed Services R. O. T. C., National Science Foundation Science Institutes and Academic Year Programs, Needed Student Housing, Elections within the College of Education, President's Committee on Discipline Reorganization, Faculty Advisor to Alpha Phi Omega (service organization).

Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, Texas Follow-up of White House Child Welfare Conference, Guidance Section of Texas State Teachers Association, Executive Committee of Texas Personnel and Management Association, Second Regional Conference on Adult Education, State Officer in Phi Delta Kappa (educational fraternity), National Education Association Committee on Veteran Education, Texas Psychological Association Committee on Ethical Practice, Interview Panel of State Merit System Council, Governor's Advisory Committee on Education Project Six.

Capitol Council Boy Scouts and Regional Scout Leadership Program, Advisory Board of St. Luke's School, Vestryman at All Saints' Episcopal Church, Classification and Assignment Officer Officers' Reserve Corps.

## II. Publications (incomplete list)

"Modoc County Mental Survey." University of California Study No. 4, 1922.

"Quantitative Guesses of Children." School and Society, XVI, November 4, 1922, 530-532.

(With E. E. Davis) "A Study of Rural Schools in Smith County, Texas." University of Texas Bulletin No. 2339, 1923. 107pp.

"The Motion Picture and Vocational Guidance." Educational Screen, III, April, 1924, 135-137.

### III. Professional memberships and honors

American Association for the Advancement of Science (fellow), American Psychological Association (fellow), American Association for Applied Psychology, American Statistical Association, National Society of College Teachers of Education, National Vocational Guidance Association, Phi Delta Kappa, Texas State Teachers Association, Texas Academy of Science, Texas Association of College Teachers, Texas Personnel and Management Association.

High Honors in Psychology with A. B. Degree, 1921; Leaders in Education, 1932; American Men of Science, 1944; Army Commendation Ribbon, 1946; Professional Member, National Vocational Guidance Association, 1946; Diplomate in Counseling and Guidance, 1948; Leaders in American Science, 1953; Who's Who in the South and Southwest, 1963.

These Resolutions were prepared by a Special Committee consisting of Professors Herschel T. Manuel, William G. Wolfe and John O. Rodgers, Chairman.

Review: G. E. Phillips, "The Measurement of General Ability, and Australian Revision and Extension of the Binet-Simon Scale." School and Society, XXII, December 19, 1925.

Contributions to Texas Educational Survey Report, Volume V, 1925; Bulletins of The Bureau of Nutrition and Health, Extension Division, The University of Texas, 1934-1940; Research Bulletins of the Texas Commission on Coordination in Education, 1936-1942.

"A Vocational Guidance Program for Texas Schools." The University of Texas and the W. K. Kellogg Foundation, Texas Conference on Child Health and Protection, 1933, 262-272.

Reviews in Education Abstracts, 1936-1942.

"Predicting High School and College Records from Elementary School Test Data."

Journal of Educational Psychology, XXIX, January, 1938, 56-66.

"Concerning Adolescence." Texas Parent-Teacher, I, May, 1938, 5-6.

(With Paul White and H. T. Manuel) "Information Blank EA" (a schedule for obtaining information on emotional adjustment). The Steck Company, 1938.

Review: Bishop and Allen, "They also Serve." Texas Outlook, XXIII, June, 1939, 59.

"Literary and Educational Ranking of Texas." Texas Outlook, XXIII, October, 1939, 28.

"Measurement in the Field of Elementary Education." Review of M. E. Broom's "Educational Measurement in the Elementary School." Elementary School Journal, XL, April, 1940, 630-632.

(With others) "The New Stanford-Binet at the College Level." Journal of Educational Psychology, XXXI, December, 1940, 705-709.

"College Degrees and Elementary School Intelligence Quotients." Journal of Educational Psychology, XXXI, May, 1940, 360-368.