IN MEMORIAM

LELAND BARCLAY

Professor Leland Barclay, Associate Professor Emeritus of Civil Engineering, died April 9, 1981, at the age of 77 years. He is survived by his wife, Johnie Barclay, whom he married on August 5, 1928, at Kansas City, Missouri, their three daughters Videlia Rodriguez of Eagle Pass, Texas, Anita Akery and LelAnne Anderson of Austin, Texas, and 10 grandchildren.

Leland Barclay was born on March 27, 1904, in Chester, Texas, and graduated from Livingston High School in 1922. He earned the Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering degree at The University of Texas in 1926 after being elected to the engineering honor society, Tau Beta Pi, on April 3, 1925. After one year of working experience with Harrington, Howard, and Ash Consulting Engineers in Kansas City, and two years with the Texas Highway Department, he was appointed as Instructor in the Department of Civil Engineering at his alma mater. In 1936 he was promoted to Assistant Professor, in 1943 he earned the Master of Science in Civil Engineering degree, and in 1945 he was appointed Associate Professor of Civil Engineering. Chi Epsilon, the national civil engineering honor society, elected him to honorary membership in 1940. He became a Registered Public Surveyor in Texas in 1943 and was awarded life membership in the Texas Surveyors Association in 1977. Throughout this period of time and in later years he frequently spent summers working for state agencies and engineering firms in Texas. He retired from teaching in August 1973 after 44 consecutive years of service and was designated Associate Professor Emeritus of Civil Engineering in January 1974. After the sudden death of his successor in November 1977, Professor Barclay graciously returned to teach the last three weeks of the Fall Semester

1977 under an emergency appointment. Thus, his teaching career at the University extended from 1929 through 1977.

Upon his retirement, a classmate sent the following note:

> 1 August 1973
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> "Red" Barclay as a green freshman from Chester was tall and straight as the pine trees thereabout and as sharp as the pine needles thereon. Congratulations on your 44 years of excellent teaching. I know you will continue to stand tall and straight in retirement. I'm proud to call you classmate. Sorry I can't be there tonight.

Throughout his long career, Professor Barclay dedicated himself totally to teaching. His major area of interest was in surveying, photogrammetry, and engineering measurements, but occasionally he taught courses in mechanics, materials, and structural design. He emphasized the importance of understanding the basic principles of engineering and encouraged students always to think through the problem-solving process in an orderly way. Even in the early years of his teaching, before statistical variability in physical phenomena was routinely recognized in engineering calculations, he stressed this concept in all surveying courses. Every student was taught to evaluate the quality of each measurement in relation to the probable error which might have been involved in making the measurement. He expected students to exercise judgment in making measurements with adequate accuracy but not to waste effort in refining measurements unnecesarily. He was known as a professor who demanded rigorous solutions to engineering problems, but as a teacher who was patiently available to guide any student in solving an assigned problem if the student could first demonstrate that he had done

his best before asking for help. New faculty members who taught surveying courses for the first time at the University experienced much the same relationship with him. He would generously help them if they really needed help and asked for it, but he never presumptiously interfered with their teaching activities. His colleagues as well as his former students understood -- sometimes in retrospect -- that by so doing he was simply encouraging them to develop self-confidence and fully utilize their own abilities.

For 48 years, he was a loyal and devoted member of Shettles Memorial Methodist Church. Not only did he support the church financially, but he also frequently donated his time and talent to maintenance and remodeling of the physical plant. He personally inspected the construction of the present sanctuary when it was being built to insure that all materials and workmanship conformed to specifications. He served on the Board of Stewards and on the Board of Trustees for several years and held virtually every office in the church at one time or another. Some of Leland Barclay's strongest sentiments were toward his relationship to God and his church. His life was devoted to serving others. When he was Chairman of the Council of Churches in the depression years, he and his wife arranged for the purchase of an old school house in Smithville, Texas, and for moving the materials to Austin where he and a group of men, in three days, erected a temporary church structure in Tarrytown. The picturesque red brick church building at 2601 Exposition, which now serves the active membership of Tarrytown United Methodist Church, came from this visionary effort.

Leland Barclay was a dedicated family man. He and his wife built their own house on Camp Craft Road (now named Barclay Drive) west of Austin and did most of the work on two houses nearby for their daughters. He enjoyed nature and the out-of-doors. He spent many hours improving his ranch property and tending a few domestic animals that roamed the

hills inside the accurately-surveyed fences stretched on concrete posts which he built with his own hands.

Over the years, former students -- perhaps unknowingly sometimes -- have complimented the tall, lanky professor who taught them surveying at The University of Texas at Austin. Civil Engineering faculty members attending national meetings and visiting in places around the world have been asked by these former students about the University and about their former professors. The first faculty member about whom they wanted to know has in many, many cases been Professor Barclay. They have often gone on to relate some learning experience with Professor Barclay that was perhaps difficult for them at the time but which has served them well throughout their professional career.

Professor Barclay had a positive and powerful influence on thousands of lives during his long tenure at the University. He was respected for his sincere dedication to teaching and was admired for his totally unselfish attitude. His honest and pragmatic approach to living will continue to be a pattern for all those who knew him.

Peter T. Flawn, President

The University of Texas at Austin

H. Paul Kelley, Secretary

The General Faculty

This Memorial Resolution was prepared by a Special Committee consisting of Professors Clyde E. Lee (Chairman), Raymond F. Dawson, Phil M. Ferguson, John A. Focht, J. O. Ledbetter, and Randy B. Machemehl.