IN MEMORIAM

JOSEPHINE SCHMID CHAPMAN

Mrs. Josephine Schmid Chapman, Director Emeritus of Required Health and Physical Education for Women, was born March 14, 1898 in Brooklyn, New York. She was one of four children born to William and Jennie L. Schmid. Her family environment provided a highly intellectual and artistic background. In 1906 they moved to Kingston, New York where Jo attended the public schools and added sports to her wide range of interests. She played on the Girls' Basketball team in high school and was team captain when she graduated in 1917.

Jo pursued her interest in physical activity by preparing for a career as a teacher of physical education. She graduated from the Sargent Normal School of Gymnastics at Cambridge, Massachusetts in 1920. Her first position was that of supervisor of physical training in the Glen Ridge Public Schools in New Jersey.

During this same period, physical education for women at The University of Texas was about to undergo rapid change and growth under the dynamic leadership of Anna Hiss, who was the newly appointed director. It was indicative of Jo's spirit of adventure that she came from the east to accept a faculty appointment in far off Texas in 1921. Jo contributed greatly to the development of the department and was deeply involved in student organizations for women. She was instrumental in establishing the Women's Athletic Association which provided the original organizational pattern for intramural and intercollegiate sports for women on this campus. She also sponsored the Yama-Yama Girls, a gymnastic exhibition group that was the forerunner of the contemporary high school and college drill teams. This group performed at half-time during football games and entered competition each year at the All College Circus at the Fair Park Stadium in Dallas. Jo took a leave of absence in 1925-26 to study at Columbia University. She returned in 1926-27 to rejoin the faculty and, through additional course work, to receive a Bachelor of Science degree from The University of Texas. Jo was to return to the University in 1948, but in 1927 she chose to leave

and engage in a variety of other professional and personal pursuits.

She was a physical educator at Goucher College in Baltimore from 1927-30. During the following year Jo served as Executive Secretary of The Student International Union in New York City. During these years she spent the summers as co-owner and director of Camp Moosilauke in Pike, New Hampshire.

In 1932 Josephine Schmid married Boyd Palmer Chapman who was a widower with two children. They lived in Franklin, Massachusetts for two years until the untimely death of Mr. Chapman. After her husband's death, Mrs. Chapman retained close family ties with the children but she returned to teaching. She taught physical education at Simmons College in Boston from 1934-48, serving as the departmental chairman from 1944-48. During this period she frequently took student groups to Europe in the summer months and while on leave of absence in 1937-38 served as social dean at Geneva College for Girls in Switzerland. Once again Jo's spirit of adventure and independence manifests itself, for although the decision had been made for the students to return to the United States because of the rise of Hitler, Jo chose to remain. Alone, she toured Europe including Germany and Austria, and experienced no difficulty which served to reinforce another of her attributes, continuing optimism.

Following her return to Simmons College, Mrs. Chapman also directed a figure skating group at Lake Placid, New York. One of the students from this group later became a member of the United States Olympic Team, which was lost in a tragic plane crash. Jo also purused graduate work at New York and Boston Universities during this time and received her Master of Education degree from Boston University in 1937.

In 1948 Miss Hiss prevailed upon Mrs. Chapman to return to The University of Texas at Austin as an Associate Professor and develop a co-recreational program in Intramural Sports. Although this was to be a half-time appointment she was quickly involved on a full-time basis. When Miss Hiss retired, Mrs. Chapman wasasked to become the Director of the Department of Required Health and Physical Education for Women. She accepted the position with a certain reluctance because she did not believe exclusive professional involvement was as important as she had in earlier years. She had, for

instance, begun to study painting in 1949 under Edna Collins and thus began an interest she continued to pursue at the University of Colorado in the summer of 1950 and the University of Alberta in Banff in 1952. She attended the Mexican Art Workshop in Mexico City and Taxco in 1954 and returned to Mexico in 1957, studying at the University of Guadalahara.

In spite of, or perhaps because of, her varied interests and broad outlook, she served in the capacity of departmental director with distinction from 1957-60. Jo was a forthright chairman who encouraged an exchange of ideas. She did not demand agreement with her beliefs and she accepted people and their ideas without trying to impose her will. She was a leader who knew how to get to the crucial problem and work it out. Her leadership was characterized by an openness and an environment conducive to change.

Jo's colleagues remember her as a genuine, unaffected person who put on no airs. Although she made no great effort to draw people about her, people seemed to gravitate to her. She was a very private person and had a certain quality of naivety about her. Yet Jo also had a vibrant charm and beautiful sense of humor. Perhaps one of her most unique characteristics was that she did not talk about or berate other people. She gave of herself to others and yet it was hard for others to do something for her. She was a person who constantly sought to deal with life in terms of humanistic values, cutting through the artificial and seeking genuine, meaningful relationships with friends, colleagues, and students.

When Mrs. Chapman retired in 1960, instead of moving to Vermont as she had planned, she remained in Austin and built a lovely home on Lake Travis. She enjoyed five years there where her constant companion was a dachshund, a gift from the departmental faculty on her retirement. Due to health problems she moved to Westminster Retirement Home in 1966 and lived there until her death on February 28, 1973. She is survived by a daughter, Mrs. Nancy Hinrichs of Pittsford, N.Y., and a son, Mr. Boyd Chapman, Jr., of of St. Joh, Virgin Islands. She also has two surviving brothers, Walter Schmid of Philadelphia, Pa., and Alfred Schmid of Kingston, N.Y.

Stephen H. Spurr

Stephen H. Spurr, President of
The University of Texas at Austin

Harold C. Bold

Harold C. Bold, Secretary of
The General Faculty

This Memorial Resolution was prepared by a Special Committee consisting of Dorothy Burdeshaw, chairman, Betty Thompson and Patricia Weis