

IN MEMORIAM

ALBERT EVERETT COOPER

Albert E. Cooper, Professor of Mathematics, died on July 6, 1960. He is survived by a sister, Miss Julia M. Cooper, of Corpus Christi, Texas, and an adopted son, Robert P. Cooper, of Alice, Texas.

He was born January 26, 1893, in Van Buren, Arkansas. Upon the death of his father, the family moved to Corpus Christi, Texas, where Albert attended high school. In 1910 he enrolled at the University of Texas and four years later graduated in Electrical Engineering. As undergraduate he joined Sigma Chi fraternity. After a year in the Harvard Business School, he joined the armed forces during World War I, serving as Second Lieutenant both in this country and in France. After his discharge in July, 1919, he matriculated at Hertford College, Oxford, where he resumed study in mathematics. In September of this year he returned to The University of Texas as Instructor in mathematics. At the University, in 1923, he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, he was awarded the B.A. degree, and he became Assistant Professor in mathematics. After receiving his M.A. in 1924, Cooper was granted leave of absence to enter the University of Chicago to study for the Ph.D., which two years later he completed. His excellence as a scholar was recognized by Chicago, which awarded him a Graduate Fellowship. His dissertation, entitled

"A Topical History of the Theory of Quadratic Residues," never published, is soon to be edited and printed by his present colleagues of the Department. Returning to his Alma Mater in 1927, he was made Associate Professor, and in 1929 Professor.

In short, except for the interim of study at Chicago Professor Cooper's service to The University of Texas has covered a full forty years. Of his various committee assignments several stand out conspicuously. From 1927 to 1936 he served as Chairman of the Department of Applied Mathematics and Astronomy, and, after the two departments of mathematics were merged, Chairman of the Department of Mathematics from 1953 to 1958. From 1930 to 1936 he was a member of the pioneer Committee on Intramural Athletics for Men, from 1936 to 1946 a member of the Athletic Council, and from 1946 to 1954 of the University Building Committee, being Chairman for six years. As Dean Burdine has said:

During his long tenure at the University Professor Cooper served in a varied number of capacities with equal devotion and ability. In all of the contributions which he made to this institution there was no fanfare. He pursued every task resourcefully and with maximum effectiveness.

When on May 1, 1958, after three years, he retired as Chairman of the Department of Mathematics and Astronomy, Vice-President Ransom wrote to him:

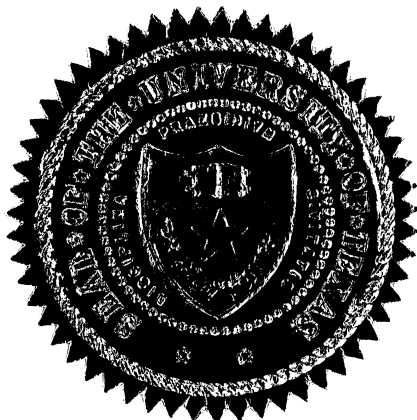
I do not know a more unselfish member of the Faculty, or one who has used his unselfishness to better advantage or better credit to the University I simply do not know what succeeding Deans of Arts and Sciences would have done without your great wisdom and administrative skill.

It was as a teacher, however, that Professor Cooper made his deepest impress. Recently one of his former students, K. K. McElroy ('32), wrote as follows:

Thirty years ago I was fortunate to have Professor Cooper as my math instructor. He was known among us Engineering students as "Red" Cooper on account of his fine red hair. I have always remembered how immaculately he dressed, always with a fresh white handkerchief in his breast pocket which he used to wipe chalk dust off his hands. All of us liked him because he was so energetic, good natured, but stern in the classroom. He was not what one would call an easy teacher. Although I had only one course with him,--and I never saw him during the thirty years after that,--he made such an impression on me that I could not but feel deep sorrow when I read of his death.

Though Professor Cooper had a wide circle of friends outside the University and as a bachelor was in constant social demand, he devoted himself through the years to the interests and the congenial company of students. Those having trouble in math came freely to his home both by invitation and without. If problems were not solved until late at night, there was bed and breakfast. Many a boy thus found himself boosted over the hump to pass his math with the help of "The Doctor." Long after he had forgotten the math, he would remember the little room upstairs and Dr. Cooper's quiet manner. Impatient with any kind of academic stuffiness, Professor Cooper was perhaps more at home with students than with his contemporaries. Unassuming, at times even self-effacing, he was yet recognized by all who knew him as a true

gentleman and a loyal friend.



H. H. Ransom, President
The University of Texas

Eugene W. Nelson, Secretary
The General Faculty

These Resolutions were prepared by a Special Committee consisting of
Dean J. A. Burdine, Professor William Guy, Dean W. R. Woolrich, and
Professor T. P. Harrison, Chairman.