IN MEMORIAM

HOB GRAY

Hob Gray was born April 10, 1889, in Pleasant Valley Rural Community, Eastland County, Texas. He died January 13, 1973, in Austin, Texas. Some of his ancestors had emigrated from England, others came over from Ireland. He was the youngest (tenth) child of Richard and Blanche (McDavid) Gray. He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Mary Gray, daughter Alison Gray Kimberlin of Austin, son Robert Gray of Dallas, and by four grandchildren. A major portion of his early life was spent in Eastland and in other counties near by; another portion, nearly 40 years of his later life, was spent in college teaching and administration.

Young Hob Gray experienced many difficulties in his early efforts to gain an education. Schools during the turn of the century were few and rather far between, school terms were short, and teachers were apt to be lacking in quality and preparation. Hob persevered in attending rural schools until he was able to qualify for certificates opening the way to teaching in these rural schools. In these Texas rural schools of the first part of the twentieth century, school years ranged from 5 to 9 months in length. Usually salaries climbed slowly from $50 per month (1908-09), $100 (1914-15) and on to the dizzy heights of $150 and $200, this last figure possible only for high school principals.

Interspersed among these years of teaching experience, Hob managed to do some college work. This college training included work at Southwest Texas College, Daniel Baker College, University of Colorado, Columbia University, and the University of Texas at Austin. Degrees earned were B. A. (Daniel Baker, 1918), M. A. (Columbia University, 1925), and Ph. D. (University of Texas). An honorary degree, Doctor of Laws, was conferred in 1948 by Southwestern University, Georgetown, Texas.
2.

In addition to his teaching in elementary schools, Gray served as high school principal at Eastland, Texas, and some other nearby towns. His college teaching began in 1925 at the College of Industrial Arts (now Texas Woman's University). This continued, with one leave of absence, until 1933, when he was appointed Associate Professor, Secondary Education, The University of Texas at Austin. This position he served until his retirement in 1959. It was while he was teaching in "C. I. A." that he met and later married a fellow teacher, Miss Mary Tanner of Denton, Texas.

Hob Gray was not a prolific writer. His primary interests and training led him to express himself in other ways, for the most part. He often referred to his "first love", teaching, and active, vigorous teaching claimed most of his time and efforts. As a sample, however, he produced Bulletin No. 4042, The University of Texas, bearing on the general subject of classroom instruction in the public schools of Texas, especially on individual instruction.

Dr. Gray genuinely enjoyed classroom teaching, and he deeply regretted the encroachment of other types of services upon his direct contact with students. The first class he taught in The University of Texas had an enrollment of 75. Later he had a class that boasted 105 students. His relationships with these young people are indicated by the following statement from their teacher:

"Although I did very little lecturing or telling to that successful group, we seemed never to have time to complete the work planned for each day...."

The situation prevailing in this class was typical of those wherever Dr. Gray was in charge.

Dr. Gray served the University in ways other than those of the classroom. His contribution to the work of the Texas Association of School Administrators was so highly prized by the members of that body that they honored him with a Certificate of Life Membership, which certificate was framed and prominently displayed in his home.
3.

The Southern Association of Secondary Schools and Colleges chose Dr. Gray in 1945 as Chairman of their Committee on the Use of the Evaluative Criteria. In this position he served for some 5 years. He played a major part in creating, revising, and administering the Gray-Votaw-Rogers Achievement Tests. These tests were widely used, especially in Texas, and contributed appreciably to the improvement of such tests.

Perhaps one of Dr. Gray's best known and most highly rated services to the schools of this country came from his work as Director of Teacher Placement in the University. This bureau was reorganized and expanded in 1946, and Dr. Gray was made Director at that time, continuing in this position until his retirement in 1959. Teacher Placement in The University of Texas grew steadily during this period, finally reaching such a size as to require a full-time Director. It may be stated that this growth has continued to be in evidence since Dr. Gray's time. He served successively as Vice-President and President of the National Board of Directors of Teacher Placement Associations.

Following soon after Dr. Gray's retirement from the University, he accepted a position as tutor of the son of a well known Texas family. This teenage youth had done some of the work usually associated with high schools, but he needed close, careful and sympathetic guidance while he finished the high school work and continued on through college. The instruction was to be on an individual basis from the beginning. It was known that this young man would eventually inherit estates that were considerable in size. His parents were eager to see their son graduate from a first-class University before he terminated his studies. For several years Dr. Gray worked closely with this one pupil, during which time a very fine relationship was developed between the two individuals. Soon a high school diploma was earned, and after a longer period a baccalaureate degree was issued to this young man.
The issuing institution was The University of Texas at Austin. This short story illustrates again some of the characteristics of the man Hob Gray, how versatile he was, and what great satisfaction he gained from working with young people.

Far too often one of the last experiences mentioned in reference to such a Memorial as this has to do with Church affiliation. Hob Gray and members of his family were and are staunch members of the University United Methodist Church in Austin. He at one time served on the Governing Board of this Church. Who would be so rash as to attempt an estimate of the fine influences coming from such a source in shaping the man Hob Gray came to be?

A. E. Murphy

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