IN MEMORIAM

OLIN HINKLE

Professor Olin Hinkle taught more than 4,000 journalism students in his 26 years at The University of Texas. He retired at age 70 in May, 1962. Among his former students are television journalist Bill Moyers, author Willie Morris, a former managing editor of the Dallas Times-Herald, a former senior editor of Sports Illustrated, and many others who have become professional journalists of the highest quality.

Professor Hinkle was best known for his classes in graphics and photography, which he started in the Department of Journalism. During his first years at the University he taught beginning reporting, news editing, editorial writing, feature writing, the teaching of high school journalism, advertising and community journalism.

Professor Hinkle was raised in Canyon, in the heart of the Texas Panhandle, shortly after the turn of the century. At age 14 he began selling door-to-door Lone Scout, a magazine founded by the U.S. organizer of the Boy Scouts for boys in rural areas. While still in his early teens he also began publishing articles in national boys' magazines. He attended high school and West Texas State College both in Canyon. During his high school and college years he worked as a printer's devil, printer, engraver and photographer. In his senior year of college he was editor of The Prairie, the campus newspaper. He received his B.A. in English and History in 1925, and did postgraduate work and earned a permanent teaching certificate while at West Texas State. Professor Hinkle then went on to earn a Bachelor of Journalism degree from the University of Missouri in 1926.

During the following eight years he was an advertising salesman, reporting and managing editor for newspapers in Canyon, Sweetwater and
Pampa, Texas, and Blackwell, Oklahoma. During those years he served as president of the Panhandle Press Association and president of the Pampa Lions Club. In 1936 he became managing editor of the Lexington (Kentucky) Herald. He returned to West Texas State College in Canyon in 1937 as Associate Professor in the Department of Journalism and Director of Journalism and Manager of the Division of Visual Aids.

Professor Hinkle returned to the University of Missouri and earned an M.A. in Journalism in 1941. He returned for a short time to West Texas State College and then enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps. He served four years as a Public Relations Officer, attaining the rank of Captain. After the war he returned to West Texas State College for one year before coming to Austin in June 1946 to become the fourth member of the Journalism Department.

Professor Hinkle was known for demanding no less than the best from his students. He admitted to a "certain reputation for nit-picking" and for being regarded as "hard-nosed." He believed that an education should provide students with "a sense of integrity and an insistence on certain standards." Of his teaching he once said, "Friendships that I have formed with students are the warmest and most enduring I have." He won teaching excellence awards in 1959 and 1972.

As one of the top ten percent of his graduating class at the University of Missouri, Professor Hinkle was initiated into Kappa Tau Alpha, the honor society in journalism. Years later he founded and sponsored for two decades the University of Texas chapter, which is now named in his honor.

For many years Professor Hinkle wrote a regular column for the editorial page of Publisher's Auxiliary, as well as contributing numerous articles to it and other publications. He co-authored the book How to Write Columns, published by the Iowa State University Press in 1952 and reprinted in 1961.
At The University of Texas at Austin, Professor Hinkle served for more than 20 years on both the Faculty Committee on Student Publications and the Board of Directors of Texas Student Publications, Inc. He worked quite closely with both the Cactus and Daily Texan staffs.

His memberships in professional and learned societies included the American Association of University Professors; Association for Education in Journalism; Texas Association of College Teachers; Texas Press Association; National Press Photographers Association; Kappa Tau Alpha; and Sigma Delta Chi, professional journalism society.

Among those Professor Hinkle listed as most influential in his life are: W. L. Derr, "Sunday School teacher and railway section foreman, who came west for his health;" Clyde W. Warwick, "community newspaper editor and a second father;" Dan User, "onetime tramp printer and a demanding teacher of the printing arts;" Walter Williams and Frank Martin, University of Missouri School of Journalism deans; and others including "friends in the U.S. Army Air Corps."

Professor Hinkle died December 17, 1981. He is survived by his wife, the former Hollyce Sellers of Abilene, once a society editor in Lubbock and Pampa and now Mrs. Hollyce Hagerty of New Braunfels, Texas; and two sons, David, a psychiatrist in Houston, and Robert, an Austin, Texas, photographer.

Those who knew Professor Olin Hinkle remember a short, grey-haired, bespectacled man of high professional and personal standards and a great integrity. He held a deep affection for students and an abiding concern for their development as individuals. As a faculty colleague put it, "He found great satisfaction in the successes of all students, partly because so many of them came back to express gratitude for what he had taught."
This Memorial Resolution was prepared by a Special Committee consisting of Professors Werner J. Severin (Chairman), Martin Gibson, and Alan Scott.