IN MEMORIAM

CLYDE INEZ MARTIN

Clyde Inez Martin was as interesting and as unabashedly straightforward as her first name. Plagued by illness several times in her life she persevered and became a fully functioning academic when for a woman to do so was a greater struggle than it is now.

Clyde was born November 21, 1909, in Hope, Arkansas. She was one of five children. Acknowledging that her first name was unusual for a female, Clyde, in an interview published in the Austin American Statesman in 1972, said, “It’s an outlandish name. ... It was given to me by my parents, who didn’t do it because they were hoping for a boy— they already had a boy. They chose it because it was the name of a dear friend of my father’s family.”

Clyde was educated through high school in Hope, Arkansas. She was graduated from high school in 1926. She began her college work in the summer of 1928 and attended the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville succeeding summers through 1939. During this time she taught grades 4 through 6 in Blevins, Arkansas, from 1932 through 1939. She became ill and went to Houston, and in 1940 she received a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education from the University of Houston.

From 1940 through 1946 she was an elementary school principal in Fort Smith, Arkansas. Summers of several of those years she served as Assistant Supervisor in the laboratory school or as an Instructor at the University of Arkansas. In 1942, she earned a Master of Science in Elementary Education with a minor in Philosophy at the University of Arkansas.

Clyde Martin came to The University of Texas at Austin in 1947 as a Teaching Fellow and began work on her doctorate in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction in the College of Education. She became a regular member of the University faculty in 1948 at the rank of Instructor. In 1952 she completed her Ph.D. at The University of Texas in Curriculum and Instruction in Elementary Education with minors in English and American History. She held the rank of Professor from 1961 until her retirement in 1977.

Dr. Martin lavishly invested her energies and talents in her profession. In her letter requesting limited service for the year 1976 she wrote, “I have loved my work and feel that I have given my best. My retirement will bring positive recollections only. I know that I have served a great institution and will continue to support its interests.” The previous year she had been nominated as the best "graduate teacher" in the University. In 1965 she received an award for
Excellence in Teaching from the Education Council, a students' service organization within the College of Education. She was appointed Professor Emeritus effective September, 1977.

Miss Martin, as she called herself, contributed significantly to both the undergraduate program in elementary education of the College of Education and the graduate program in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction. Her special interests were language arts, social studies, and the humanities programs in elementary school programs, and early childhood education. She was the founder of the kindergarten program at Casis Elementary School of the Austin Independent School District. That program was initiated when Casis was connected with the University and before there were public school kindergartens in Texas. It was known for its excellence in fostering creativity in young children both intellectually and artistically and for its problem solving approach to science and social studies. Parents registered their children at birth to give them the best chance of being accepted into the program.

In the summer session of 1952, Dr. Martin was a Visiting Professor in Elementary Education at Southern Oregon College, Ashland, Oregon; summer sessions of 1947 and 1957 at the University of Arkansas; and of 1962 at Pennsylvanian University and the University of Maine. During the spring of 1960 she responded to an invitation by the Organization of American States to serve as Consultant in an educational research center in Natal, Rio Grande do Norte, Brazil.

In 1964 Dr. Martin planned, produced, and scripted a 16-millimeter film entitled "What is a Teacher?" The film showed twelve U.T. elementary education students as they experienced student teaching. In 1971-72 she conceptualized and saw to completion a series of taped lessons in kindergarten that were telecast over KLRN as the basis of a U.T. course in Program Development in Early Childhood Education. Students received credit for the course by enrolling, viewing the taped lessons via television, and satisfactorily responding to questions about each one.

She wrote extensively, including the coauthoring of a series of books of readings for children in grades three through six entitled Stories for Young Texans and a very well received set of art books, coauthored with Dr. Kelly Fearing of The University of Texas at Austin Art Department, entitled Our Expanding Vision.

Miss Martin was a delighted traveler. Her interest in and her contribution to curricula in social studies and the humanities were nourished by her inquiring visits to many countries. She traveled many times in Mexico, the Bahamas, Canada, all through Europe, Africa, and Asia.

She wrote extensively in a variety of professional fields, she was an engaging speaker and she spoke frequently at conferences and to inservice sessions for teachers. The courses she taught covered many topics in elementary education, but her legacy to education probably is most apparent
in the many people who were counseled and encouraged by her to complete a program. Many educators can say that Clyde Martin was a potent factor in their reaching farther and accomplishing more. With her death, April 21, 1981, the field of education lost an effective advocate.

William H. Cunningham, President of
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 Alberta M. Castaneda (Chairman), James Reynolds, William A. Bennie, and Addison Lee.
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