IN MEMORIAM

LUCY RATHBONE

Miss Lucy Rathbone, Professor Emeritus of Home Economics, died November 1, 1990, in Cuero, Texas, at the age of 94. Miss Rathbone was Chair of the Department of Home Economics for 19 years, until her retirement in 1961. She first joined the faculty of the University of Texas at Austin in 1922.

Miss Rathbone was born on June 4, 1896 in Cuero, Texas. She had one brother, Wofford Robert Rathbone, and one sister, Beryl Rathbone Crain. Her father was Robert Rathbone and her mother was Jessie May Wofford Rathbone.

Miss Rathbone received a Bachelor of Science in Home Economics from the University of Texas at Austin in 1919, and a Master of Arts in Clothing and Education in 1924 from Teachers' College of Columbia University, New York, New York. Prior to coming to UT Austin, Miss Rathbone was an Instructor at Southwest Texas State Teachers' College for three years.

Miss Rathbone was very active in home economics throughout her career. She co-authored two books with Elizabeth Tarpley, Fabrics and Dress in 1931, and Fashions and Fabrics in 1962. Her research centered around clothing needs of the family. She published numerous research articles especially in the Journal of Home Economics. She was a charter member of the National Council of Administrators of Home Economics; was President of the national home economics honorary society, Omicron Nu, and was Vice-President and Secretary of the American Home Economics Association. In 1960 she was a delegate to the White House Conference on Children and Youth. She was a member of the American Association of University Professors, and was listed in Who's Who in America in 1953, and in Leaders in Education in 1948.

During her tenure at UT Austin, Miss Rathbone was particularly valued for the warmth and support she provided to students and colleagues and, as Department Chair,

for the cooperation she fostered. During her early years on the faculty, the Department was located in portable shacks on 21st Street facing the main drive. The roofs of the shacks leaked, and the walls were paper thin so that anything said in one room was readily heard in the next. Teaching in such an environment required a great deal of cooperative and coordinated effort. Miss Rathbone was instrumental in providing both, especially after she became Department Chair. She created a climate of joint accomplishment, and encouraged faculty team work. The Department was such a desirable place to teach and conduct research that faculty members turned down more attractive offers in order to remain at the University of Texas.

According to Dr. Phyllis Richards, former Head of the division of Child Development and Family Relationships, Miss Rathbone also created a productive learning environment for students. She set high standards for scholarship for students, while she remained sensitive to students' concerns.

She is remembered as a knowledgeable and skillful teacher who gave unstintingly of her precious time. Students who had the pleasure of hearing Miss Rathbone speak at convocations or other functions were inspired by her insights linking the history of Texas pioneer women with contemporary problems.

One of Miss Rathbone's most significant and enduring contributions to the Department of Home Economics was her role in planning the building in which the Department is now housed, Gearing Hall. She was Chair of the Building Committee for the present building, which was completed in 1933. The building remains one of the most beautiful and admired on campus.

Miss Rathbone was as dedicated to her family as she was to her profession. She cared for her mother who lived with her until her death at the age of 90. She is remembered by her nieces and nephews as a kind and loving aunt. Visits to Aunt Lucy's were always filled with fun, entertainment, and special projects.

Miss Rathbone will be remembered for her strong dedication to her profession, colleagues and students, and the support of her family. As one former colleague remarked, "She did not have an enemy in the world."

William H. Cunningham, President of
The University of Texas at Austin

H. Paul Kelley, Secretary
The General Faculty

The Memorial Resolution was prepared by a special committee consisting of Professors Jean T. Sutherland (Chairman), Dr. Catherine Surra, and Dr. Margaret Briley.