WILLET TITUS CONKLIN

Willet Titus Conklin was born the son of Charles Edgar Conklin and Ada Titus Conklin on June 3, 1903, at Roslyn, Long Island, New York. He was educated in Roslyn grammar and high schools and at Cornell University, receiving his B.A. degree in 1926 and his M.A. under Professor J. Q. Adams in 1927. During his graduate study at Cornell he held the position of assistant in Elizabethan English under Professor Adams.

Mr. Conklin joined the English staff of The University of Texas in the fall of 1927 and remained a member until his death. In 1941-42 he served as Chairman of a departmental committee appointed to formulate a course in writing for engineering students. In 1943 he began teaching this course but left the University on military leave to serve as an officer in the Air Corps. He was separated from the service in 1945 and resumed his teaching at the University in September of that year. Later, upon the urging of Dr. Harry Ransom he formed a course in Writing for Science Majors which remained the object of his principal interest and attention throughout the remainder of his life. Indeed, undergraduate teaching, rather than research, was his vocation. Students in both his literature and writing classes found him readily accessible at all times and willing to devote whatever time was necessary to a discussion of their problems and difficulties. None of them ever had occasion to doubt that, to him, they were
individuals rather than faceless members of a class. Few teachers
have ever had a more devoted following among students than he. No
doubt something more than professional conscience was involved:
he liked people and was therefore, in turn, liked by both students
and his colleagues, who found him a gifted and witty conversa-
tionalist. During the last several years of his life he suf-
fered from a partly disabling stroke, but except for a brief per-
iod he was able to continue his teaching duties to the end. He
died in Austin suddenly on December 4, 1969.

In 1929 Mr. Conklin married Alice Klotz, and to them, in 1931
a son, Robert, was born. Both Mrs. Conklin and Robert survive
him.

Respectfully submitted,

Mody C. Boatright, chairman
C. L. Cline
Leo Hughes