

I N M E M O R I A M

Ruth Crymes was known to many of us in MEXTESOL as part of "the group from TESOL"; dedicated to serving students and teachers, ever-attentive to the needs of Mextesol, answering our frequent calls for "parental guidance". The average MEXTESOL member is rarely in direct or close contact with individuals from TESOL, except at convention time. Too often names and faces are forgotten; but deeds are remembered. The sad news of Ruth's death forced many of us to look through our TESOL files when we got home from Oaxaca. Items like these quickly surfaced:

From the Tesol Newsletter, September 1976.

"Honolulu - It has been announced that Ruth Crymes, Editor of the TESOL Quarterly and professor of ESL at the University of Hawaii was married to Harry Whitten, a member of the editorial staff of the Honolulu Star-Bulletin, on May 28, 1976. They will continue to reside in Honolulu. We want to extend our warmest congratulations to Ruth and Harry."

From the Twelfth Annual Convention Program, April 1978.

"Ruth Crymes, Professor of English as a Second Language, University of Hawaii, has recently completed four years as TESOL Quarterly editor. She is co-author of "Developing Fluency in English" (Prentice-Hall, 1974). She has taught in Thailand and Japan and has served as consultant in curriculum development and materials preparation in Ponape (Trust Territory), American Samoa and for the State of Hawaii Department of Education."

From the Convention Daily, April 8, 1978.

"If you want a job done well, don't do it yourself -- as your parents told you to do -- give it instead to Ruth Crymes, the new 1st. Vice President of TESOL.

Ruth has a long history of getting jobs done well, a history which predates the founding of TESOL. For many years she guided the activities of the Hawaii Council of Teachers of English, finally turning over the reins to another TESOLer; Charley Blatchford.

Many of you know Ruth through the pages of the TESOL Quarterly, where she has wielded the editorial pen for the past three years."

The biographical notes and data could well be continued past her election to the TESOL Presidency. Undoubtedly a more fitting farewell by closer friends and colleagues will be forthcoming at the San Francisco Convention.

Those of us fortunate enough to have had even limited personal contact with Ms. Crymes and her work know that Ruth was deeply concerned with world communication and understanding, teacher certification, materials preparation, and, of course, with learners - both "the highly motivated and the highly reluctant." To those of us who knew her, it is small comfort to find consolation in terms of Ruth's "living on through her work, ideas, ideals". We will miss Ruth, her person, her presence. We can only strive to emulate and bid our dear, departed colleague a hopeful "hasta pronto".

Miriam Rosas
Founding Member Mextesol