

CONSTANCE MITCHELL

Constance Mitchell was born in Radford, Virginia, August 10.1888, of Scotch-Irish (Presbyterian) ancestry. While she was still in grade school, the family moved to Illinois where hwe graduated form Bloomington High School. She graduated form Illinois Wesleyan University, menatine doing summer work in the University of Illionois and Illioois State Notmal. She taught English in Saybrook High School and Bollm Township High at Chicago Heights.

Miss Mitchell came to Arkansas with her family and taught one year in Little Rock High where hwe became acquainted with Ada Jane Harvey, a beloved friend ever since. She came to Arkansas Normal in 1919 and remained with the institution until her retirement in 1954. Whe was English teacher (1919-1940) and Librarian 1940-1954. Whe received an M.A. degree from Poabody and a degraee in Library Science from the University of Illinois. Whe also did graduate work at Oxford University Columbia University, and University of Colorada.

Her extra-curricula work at ASTC included coaching girl's basketball tennis, and debate, and sponsorship of Y.W.C.A. and Dglta Phi Delta Society (1932-1942). She served a year as secretary of the Arkansas Education Association and was president of the of the English' teachers section of that organization. After becoming librarian she organized the Faculty Book Club and sponsored book reviews in every summer term.

Miss Mitchell was chariman of the education committee of the Library Assocation, which worked with the state department of education to build up undergraduate library science courses in Arknansas colleges. At ASTC she built up a minor in library science and graduates with this minor are naking good in graduate study library schools. Shw was "loaned" to the Arkansas State Library Commission for four months in 1942 when the state was getting tis library work under way. Shw served as executive secretary

of the commission. Of particular importance at ASTC has been her diligent effort over the years in building up the collection of Arknsiana housed in the Arkansas Room of the Torreyson Library. The collection is one of the best in the state.

What will be best remembered about Miss Mitchell by her students and friends was her unflinching and infectious enthusiasm. Whether at work or play she was always obviously absorbed. She had not only a tremendous capacity for work but a knack for persuading others to work. Her interests were and are, as wide as the world—travel, drama, poetry, biography, religion, recreation. Her life work was concerned largely with books, but books with her were always means to achieve better living.

Miss Mitchell has for many years spent her vacations at her home in her native Virginia, in the Blue Ridge Mountains. She has traveled in most of the states and in Europe. Future plans call for trips to the Gaspe' Peninsula and to Mexico City. Bridge is her chief hobby. She is a member of the A.A.U.W., Delta Kappa Gamma, P.E.O., and the Presbyterian Church.

On May 1, 1954, her former students and college associates honored Miss Mitchell at a luncheon at Hotel Marion, Little Rock. The program of the meeting was in the form of an appreciation of her thirty-four years of service for ASTC and Arkansas.