

Thursday, August 27, 1970

George Sanford Hart

George Sanford Hart, 75, of Alto, died Saturday, Aug. 22, 1970. Mr. Hart serves an active and useful life culminating in six months of critical illness. He was a teacher and administrator for almost half a century dating back to 1914, when he finished the 10th grade and had one summer of "Summer Normal" instruction. He taught in the Houston County schools of Austonio, Belott, Jones School House, Ratcliff, and Kennard. In Cherokee County he was administrator of schools in Wells, Alto and Grange Hall, and New Hope. In Harris County he was the superintendent of Channelview schools from 1944-55.

Throughout these many years of teaching he worked his way through school, earning a B. S., M. E. D.; and completing the course work for his Ph.D. degrees.

During his six months of illness at which time he made his home with his daughter in Baytown, he made many trips in and out of Rusk, Houston and Baytown hospitals. He often reminisced as he heard from his former pupils all over the United States, and some even in Viet Nam. He remembered building the first "teacherage" (residence for the school superintendent) at Belott in Houston County in 1922.

Mr. Hart began the first school cafeteria in Cherokee County at Alto during his tenure there. He applied and received the first federal money and surplus food commodities in this area. Incidentally, meals were served at .10 per pupil with annual accounts showing profit which allowed installation of more efficient cafeteria equipment.

Some of the highlights of his teaching career include the naming of a building in his honor in Channelview. He cherished the silver plaque awarded him for meritorious service in the field of education, by the Harris County School Administrators Association.

"Professor" Hart was a 50-year life member of Past Worshipful Master of Terrell Masonic Lodge No. 83 of Alto, in 1937, '38, and '39. He served in every office including lay preacher of the Methodist Church.

He was still active in community service until the onset of his illness. He was appointed election judge for Alto, in February, 1970. Mr. Hart was a current member of the Cherokee County School Board having been an active member for eight years. He served as Alto City secretary for several years since his retirement from the teaching profession. He recently received a 37-year service recognition from the Alto Lions Club of which he was a charter member.

Mrs. Katy Irene Hart preceded Mr. Hart in death May 8, 1968 at the age of 71. They shared 52 years of marriage.

Survivors include a daughter, Mrs. Tim Ted Wood an instructor in the Psychology Department at Lee College in Baytown; a granddaughter, Mrs. Karen Beal, who is a teacher in the Austin public schools.