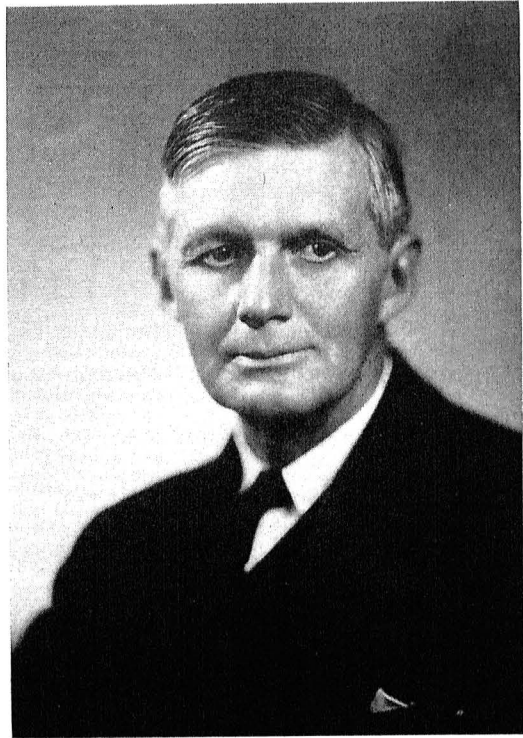


Journalism School's Second Dean

By Barbara Holliday, B.J. '39



"He loved to be on the desk—even more than being Dean," Mrs. Frank L. Martin says of the man who was second dean of the School of Journalism.

Frank Martin was associated with the School from its second year until his death on July 18, 1941. He became dean in 1935.

Mrs. Martin, petite and lovely still, recalls that first winter in Columbia just fifty years ago this spring.

"Our baby (Martha Ann) was just eight months old and we moved into a cottage that Silas Bent had occupied. The house was heated with huge old coal stoves and the streets were paved with cobblestones. What a winter that was!"

Frank Martin, born in Benedict, Nebraska, July 7, 1881, was a graduate of the University of Nebraska and joined the staff of the Kansas City Star when he was 21.

Whatever it took in those "pre-journalism" days to make a newspaper man, he had. He was soon promoted to telegraph editor and then assistant city editor.

In 1907 a typhoid epidemic broke out in Columbia and Frank Martin was sent down to cover the story. It marked his first meeting with Walter Williams, whom he interviewed in the hospital. The dream of a school of journalism was nearing realization after a long hard fought struggle but it was not yet a reality.

Two years later in the city room at the Star, Frank Martin looked up one morning to see President A.

Ross Hill of the University of Missouri and Walter Williams walking through the door.

They wanted him at the new School of Journalism. Martin hesitated. But Williams was persuasive and Hill, whom he had known at the University of Nebraska, insistent. Martin finally agreed to come for a year on a tentative basis.

"Well," said Williams to Hill, "if you'll vouch for Mr. Martin, I'll vouch for his wife. I've known her family for years!"

Those who knew Dean Martin well knew him to be a man of great loyalties, keen humor and dry wit. Those first years at the new school required these qualities and more.

Martin took over the *Missourian* and from the first ran it as a city newspaper, not as a school publication. He had not been here long when the paper published a story over President Hill's protest.

Martin was called to account. "Remember our compact?" he asked. "I told you if you didn't like the way I did things, just say so. I'll go back to Kansas City." President Hill threw up his hands in protest and nothing more was said.

Martin stayed and a precedent was established.

In 1915, Frank Martin was given a sabbatical and went to the Orient to "trouble-shoot" the *Tokyo Advertiser*. The paper was in difficulties and Martin spent a year breathing new life into it. As a result, the *Advertiser*, one of the great English language papers in the Orient, employed one or more students from the school each year until it was forced to cease publication during World War II.

During the early years field trips that lasted a week or more were organized by "Hon" (Hawn) Martin, as he was affectionately known by alumni and students alike. These trips were made to acquaint the students with the working press in Missouri and Missouri editors.

A number of valuable bulletins were written and edited by Martin as a service of the School to newspaper men out in the state.

On the occasions when Dean Walter Williams was away, Frank Martin served in many capacities and wherever he was needed.

There was the day a student interviewed a professor on an assigned story and, at the close of the interview, was forbidden to print it.

"I'm sorry," said the student, "but I'll have to turn it in. That isn't for me to decide."

The story was published and an irate professor called the School of Journalism.

Maurice Votaw, now a professor at the school and the student in question, recalls that "Hon" Martin crisply told the professor to "come right on over and we'll settle this between us!" No more was heard from the subdued caller.

Frank Rucker, one of the men whom Martin trained and now a faculty member, remembered the day Columbia was shocked by an ax murder.

"I can still see him," Professor Rucker explains. "He came into the news room, called to three of us—and by the time we walked over to him, he had decided just how he wanted the story handled, what each of us was to do, and how we were to do it.

"He was distinctly a newspaper man," Rucker said. "He instilled discipline, efficiency and human interest into the news room. Students respected and loved him for the special interest he took in them and for the rigid training he gave them.

"From the time I was graduated from the Missouri School of Journalism and as long as Frank Martin lived, I knew I had a true and helpful friend."

The early clan which bound the students of the School together seemed to be accentuated when they met overseas. In 1920 the Martins were taking a party of ten on a tour of the Orient for the American Express. At each stop along the way, there were "men from Missouri" to greet the Martins, men like Glenn Babb, later foreign news editor of the Associated Press, Henry Kinyon and others.

In Canton, the party was greeted by the usual contingent and the English language newspaper came out with a banner head: "PROF. FRANK MARTIN OF UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM IN CANTON." Down in an obscure corner was another story. "Warren G. Harding Receives Nomination For Presidency."

Henry Kinyon, recalling those year, says, "Anybody who ever knew Frank Martin could never forget him—and nobody would ever want to. That dry, sardonic humor of his and his explosive laugh, added to his genuine friendliness and all-around newspaper ability, made him a much-beloved teacher, dean and friend. From the very first year of our trail-blazing

School of Journalism he helped in a remarkable degree to provide that authentic journalistic atmosphere which has characterized our School."

In 1931 the Martins sailed on Christmas Day for Peiping and Frank Martin spent another year teaching at Yenching University and helping to organize a school of journalism.

It was to be his last trip abroad. Walter Williams had been elected president of the University. And the man who was his right hand found the calls on his time even heavier under the title of "Acting Dean."

Concern for his students occasionally found the Dean in an unusual role.

Mary Paxton Keeley, first woman graduate in journalism, remembers the day she was taking her oral examination for her Master's degree.

Her young son, Paxton, had accompanied her to the campus and she explained to him that he must wait for her outside the building.

"Half way through the examination," she says, "Pax started bawling like a young calf for his mother. Frank Martin went downstairs and spoke to him. I never knew what he said, but we heard no more out of Pax!"

First and last, Frank Martin spent 32 years training newsmen and could personally point to more than 1500 top-flight men in the profession who carried the unmistakable stamp of a Missouri-trained man. He served as chairman of the Press Congress of the World in Mexico City and was a member of the British Institute of Journalists, an honor rarely

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tion itself shows this tendency, and to that extent, may be regarded as another evidence of the prevailing mode.

These attitudes have developed over a number of years, and they are developing still. These are the attitudes which produce that intellectual apathy and unconcern which in turn fertilize anti-intellectualism. The student body and faculty at Missouri reflect these tendencies, and to that extent participate in the cultural barbarism which is becoming a part of our heritage. It is significant that the two great powers in the modern age, the United States and the Soviet Union, while dissimilar in so many respects, show a consistent similarity in their fear of the unusual, the non-conformist, the intellectual. We have a proud tradition of freedom, but we are in real danger of freedom's becoming only a tradition. The rising conformist tide lacks drama, but its dangers are even more immediate than those embodied in the Commissars confronting us.

Dr. McGrew's article stems from his informal remarks as a panel member during a campus discussion program.

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conferred on a non-Britain. In 1935 he served as president of the American Association of Schools and Departments of Journalism.

His own son was to serve in Africa as an AP war correspondent. Frank L. Martin, Jr. is now publisher of the West Plains (Mo.) Daily Quill and a member of the executive committee of the Fiftieth Anniversary observance of the School of Journalism.

The Martins' daughter, Martha Ann, is the wife of Maj. Gen. Ralph P. Swofford, Jr., stationed at Bolling Air Force base in Washington.

The Swoffords have four children, Frank, Ralph III, Anne and Susan.

Frank L. Martin, Jr., has one son, Frank Lee Martin III.

Today, the Frank L. Martin Memorial Library stands as a tribute to the man who came for a year and stayed for a lifetime.

Harry E. Taylor, B.J. '15, editor and publisher of the Traer (Ia.) Star-Clipper, wrote:

"I have always marveled at Dean Martin, who for many years had the task of training a fresh crop of cub reporters every semester. In the later years the enrollment in his reporting classes was usually 100 or more.

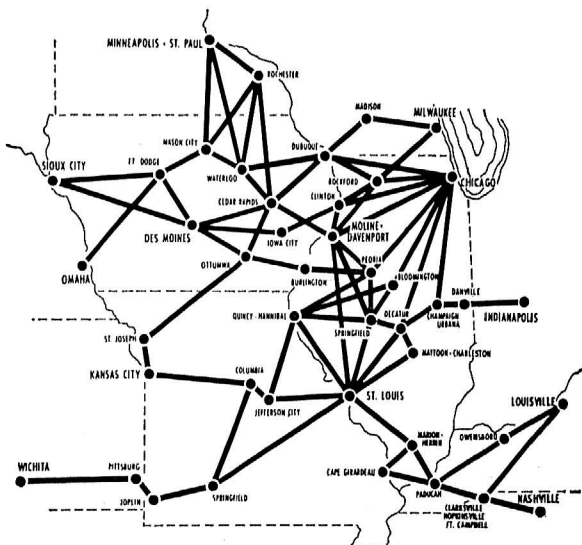
"Each and every one of us who had any talent for newspaper work, or showed any willingness to learn, was given the solid foundation here for a successful start in journalism by Dean Martin.

"President Williams and Dean Martin set the sort of example that inspires and leads. They were practical men, and common sense has always been in style in their School."

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