

Wayne L. Hodges

July 21, 1908 — February 21, 1973

Wayne was born in Spokane, Washington, the son of Elma and Brodie Wilson Hodges. (His father began as a bookkeeper in a small flour mill in Spokane and later became a vice president of General Mills in San Francisco.) Wayne was named after Civil War general “Mad” Anthony Wayne and spent much of his boyhood in public libraries. An interest in literature, history, art, and philosophy grew throughout his life, resulting in his developing an extensive library which was a source of continuing pleasure to him.

After graduating from high school in 1927, Wayne worked for several newspapers, first as a copy boy for the *San Francisco Chronicle*; then as a reporter for the *Vallejo Times-Herald* and the *Santa Rosa Republican*; as a pony editor, rewrite man, and overnight editor for the United Press in San Francisco; and finally, at the age of twenty-one, as the editor of the *Healdsburg Daily Tribune*.

In 1932 he entered the University of California at Berkeley, graduating in 1936 with a B.A. in English and art. Upon joining the staff of Pasadena City College as an instructor, he continued graduate work at the University of Southern California, earning an M.A. in English in 1940.

From 1943 to 1945 Wayne served in the United States Navy, first teaching illiterates and publishing a camp newspaper at Camp Perry, Williamsburg, Virginia, and then working in Harbor Entrance Control at Newport, Rhode Island.

In 1945 he became an English instructor and director of public relations at Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art in New York City. He remained at Cooper Union until joining the faculty of the New York State School of Industrial and Labor Relations in 1951.

The contribution Wayne Hodges made to classroom life at the ILR School was valuable, largely irreplaceable, and quite unexpected. He was engaged initially to advise college administrators about the delicate public relations problems of an educational institution serving “publics” which were mutually hostile and suspicious of persons professing neutrality. Hodges’s responsibility for teaching public relations was thought to be an incidental part of this job! Apparently both his advice and his teaching were so successful that, after his first few years, most of his time was devoted to research and teaching.

Graduate and undergraduate students in ILR formed the first enthusiastic audience for Wayne's blend of practical experience and analytical sharpness. The growing importance to corporations, unions, and government enterprises of managing their relations to one another and to the public as rationally as possible, soon added students from the Graduate School of Business and Public Administration to Professor Hodges's "personal" public. During this period he wrote *Company and Community* (Harper Bros., 1957) and articles in journals and magazines. He was an indefatigable adult educator in the best sense of the word, not only by participating in and directing workshops and seminars for union and company public relations practitioners, but by helping to found a professional association, the Industrial Communication Council.

In 1967 Hodges became director of ILR publications, a post which called on his editorial acumen. Responsible for the School's publishing a number of outstanding volumes and monographs, he remained personally active and productive. His last major production to be completed was the editing of "Technological Change and Human Development," a venture in international scholarly cooperation.

In September 1972, Professor Hodges went into "semiretirement" - completing the manuscript for a new book, "The California Wine Industry," and undertaking a variety of special projects for Cornell. On October 1, 1972, he was named professor emeritus. His official retirement party in December of 1972 was a memorable School occasion, primarily because the guest of honor was a memorable human being, bright, warm, witty, and much loved.

Charlotte Gold, James Huttar, Frank Miller