

# **Cora Binzel Chase**

*1880 — February 18, 1965*

Cora Binzel Chase, Professor Emeritus of Home Economics Education and Rural Education, died February 18, 1965, in Milwaukee. She was born in Beaver Dam, Wisconsin, the youngest of a large, closely knit family, the members of which were extremely devoted to each other throughout their lives.

Professor Cora Binzel Chase held the Bachelor of Science and the Master of Arts degrees from Teachers College, Columbia University. Her first teaching experience was in the public schools at La Crosse, Wisconsin, where in due time she assumed the position of Supervisor of Home Economics. From La Crosse she went to the University of Wisconsin for advanced study, on the completion of which she became a member of the faculty in the Department of Home Economics at that university with responsibilities in both resident and extension teaching. Later, she directed the program of home economics teacher-education at Wisconsin. She was one of the pioneers in directed teaching experience for prospective teachers.

In 1920, Professor Cora Binzel Chase was appointed to the faculty of the Department of Rural Education in the College of Agriculture at Cornell University, with the major responsibility of developing the program in home economics teacher-education. In 1942 she was elected to membership on the faculty of the College of Home Economics. In the early years of her service at Cornell, she worked with both undergraduate and graduate students. As the program developed, however, and as other members were added to the home economics education faculty, she chose to devote herself primarily to the undergraduate program. During her years at Cornell, the program in home economics education grew consistently in both quality and scope. The preservice program for teachers, which ranked high among such programs in the United States, was not only an expression of her belief in directed teaching experience for prospective teachers; it was also a tribute to her ability to develop and utilize the facilities within which such experiences could take place effectively.

Professor Cora Binzel Chase expressed her keen interest in education and her relief in education for home and family living through her participation on committees not only within the University but also those at state and national levels. She was active in professional organizations and made valuable contributions to the New York State Education Department and to the Home Economics Bureau in the United States Office of Education. She was a member of Phi Kappa Phi, Pi Lambda Theta and Omicron Nu honor societies. Within the period between 1920, when she first came to Cornell, and her retirement in 1945, she devoted twenty-two years to teaching here,

one year to the direction of the Education Department at McCreery's Department Store in New York City, and two years to study. During her period of teaching service, she spent her sabbatic leaves in study and travel, visiting secondary schools, colleges, and universities in various parts of the United States.

Among the many contributions which Professor Cora Binzel Chase made, perhaps the richest were her personal relationships with both colleagues and students. The philosophy of loyalty and devotion which characterized her family life was an underlying factor in the establishment of close bonds between herself and others. That she was an artist in developing and maintaining fine relations with others was evidenced not only by her large circle of friends among the student body, alumni, and faculty, but also in her professional contacts with educators throughout the United States. She was held in high esteem by all who had the privilege of working with her.

After Professor Cora Binzel retired in 1945, she was married to Joseph Cummings Chase, an internationally known portrait painter and head of the Art Department at Hunter College. For ten years they lived at the Arts Club in Grammercy Park, New York City, and were active in much of the cultural life in the city. For the last ten years they had made their home in Milwaukee. Mrs. Chase played hostess to many notable persons as her husband painted their portraits. She is survived by several nieces and nephews.

*Margaret Hutchins, Clyde B. Moore, Irene Patterson*