

1973

## Milbert Krohn, 1927-1973

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standards, or answers to the items, as well as the selection of the items in the first place are confounded by the subjective judgement of the evaluator. He selects what he thinks is important and what will estimate the student's "true knowledge." He then sets standards and answers according to his knowledge and experience. The objectivity of the "objective test" is based on the decision making process and is in the open for all to inspect.

Testing and evaluation serves an important function in that it promotes an open system for identifying important needs, locating talented persons, and distributing limited educational resources. The USA, for example, historically turned to testing and evaluation in order to identify needed talent for the manpower needs of a rapidly growing space technology. Developing countries rely on testing as their best hope to utilize their limited funds and resources most effectively. Thomas Jefferson himself pleaded for an aristocracy based upon individual merit rather than wealth or birth; testing intended to break these barriers of caste and class. However, current growing mistrust of testing and evaluation seems to question many of the reasons for implementing testing in the first place. In part, many people still view testing as it existed over 100 years ago, or as memories of the "weekly quizzes" they experienced in school. To be sure, testing has grown and developed far beyond these vantage points.

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#### TRIBUTE TO MILBERT KROHN

It is our humble honor to prepare a tribute to Milbert Krohn. Milt was an excellent teacher, leader, and a very dear friend to many, many educators in Iowa and across the country. It would be a gross error on our part if we tried to list Milt's accomplishments because undoubtedly we would omit many endeavors he performed. Therefore, we will try to express our feelings for Milt by listing some of his characteristics and then concluding with an excerpt from a personal letter.

#### Some of Milt's Characteristics

His enthusiasm was addictive  
 His never ending prodding concerning projects  
 A major catalyst behind many Iowa projects  
 Always answered a call for help--  
     he would often drive 400 miles for a meeting  
 Involvement in total community  
 Love and understanding of young people  
 Unlimited energies

#### Sincerity

Unceasing quest for improving science education  
 Uniqueness (example--signature for letters:  
     AZ-ever, Mil)

This list in no way constitutes the total Milt, but the few listed characteristics highlight our feelings for Milt.

#### Excerpt from a Personal Letter

Friend Gary:

I received a note from Dr. Hanson at UNI today. He confirmed Dr. Trowbridge at 4 P.M. Friday during the Iowa Academy.

I need a bit of boost on the calls for papers. Are you doing any there, or will you be busy??? I know you will and am not trying to be fecetious. Will you drop a line to the science supervisors asking for abstracts for me. I don't have the listing else I would. I am going to ask Dr. Hanson to put something in his newsletter. Will you have one going out soon?

I was at Davenport last week for the ISEA meet. Were you with Murphy on the winter meet of ISTS? Help me if you can on the call for papers. They need to be abstracted before Mar. 1 to get into the program. Perhaps even before that. This darn typewriter has had it. Hope this finds you getting along o.k. Was my request in order for the funds? I didn't know exactly how to write it up.

Sincerely,

Mil

by Gary E. Downs and  
 Donald E. Murphy

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September 4, 1973

Milbert Krohn  
 1927-1973

I heard of the plane crash on the 10 p.m. news. No names were given. Next morning after opening the morning paper, my wife said, "Guess who died in the plane wreck at Alta?" Who by stretching his imagination to the limit would have guessed it might be a guy like Mil?

Friday was the last day of summer term classes. Commencement was in the afternoon. And it wasn't until I got home that it really hit me. I collapsed into my reading chair and just sat there emotionally overcome and crying.



I said to my wife, and I say to you now, "How many people do you know, or how many have you ever known, that are truly better than you are?" I don't mean smarter or richer or healthier or more popular. Count them if you will; ten fingers will do, maybe five, I don't mean people that make you feel better because you've been with them. A comedian or dunce or anyone with lesser status can do that for you. I mean, who can you name that because of being with them, whether casually or deliberately, formally or informally, for however briefly, for a genuinely human transaction--who is it amongst all the thousands you have encountered in your nearly half century who can you truly say left you a better person because of that human encounter? I know your list will be short. Mine is. I count nine and Mil Krohn is there. You, my wife, my mom and dad, and the others I need not name here."

And I only knew him ever so briefly, professionally, it is true, but seemingly so casually. But our encounters were in depth. And in those he drew from me only the best.

I have counted the times we were together. It was exactly eight. And I could recall for you an instructive story with a moral from each one. But one vignette will suffice.

It was Saturday afternoon October 2, 1971 and we were alone on the east porch of the assembly hall at the Lakeside Laboratory. We had just finished the three day workshop and the teachers had left for home. It was a perfect October day still and clear--the leaves had changed and the lake was that stunning blue color you have to see to know.

We had loaded the pickup and had swept the floor and just sat there on the rail, exhausted, not knowing quite what to say before we parted.

After what seemed like an age and to break the silence I said, "Well we got through it? How do you feel about it?"

For what seemed like another age he didn't answer but stared out towards Miller's Bay and on across the lake. Finally he turned to me. His impish eyes were filled with tears. The utter exhaustion showed all over his face. And you could read it in hunched shoulders as he pulled up straighter.

"I'm tired Paul. I have been driven from within. And I don't know from where, or how, I'll get the strength to go on. I need your help. And the help of the other guys.

Somebody has to save us from ourselves.

We have inherited a beautiful world. How can we pass on to our kids (he meant all kids) a world of justice and of kindness and beauty?"

Of course there was no reply, only the answer that would be demonstrated by countless unrecorded acts of beauty and kindness and justice. By you and me, and teachers everywhere.

We parted without another word. And I knew that I had communed with a representative of God.

Paul Joslin  
Drake University  
Des Moines, Iowa  
September 4, 1973

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#### ISTS WORKSHOPS AND PROJECTED PROGRAMS

Don Murphy  
President, ISTS  
Hoover School  
West Des Moines, Iowa

I would like to take this opportunity to share with you some of the workshops conducted by I.S.T.S. as well as projected programs for this year.

There has been a concerted effort on the part of the executive committee of ISTS to re-establish regional workshops for science teachers. Last year we were able to sponsor or share the sponsorship of five workshops covering the areas of Earth Science, Environmental Science-Student Evaluation, Little Sioux River Project and Organization of Field Trips (2). This year we again hope to carry out additional workshops in regions we missed last year. To do this we need your help in identifying areas of concern to you as science teachers. We encourage you to get together with your fellow science teachers, discuss some possibilities for a workshop, then contact your ISTS Regional Director or the Project ASSIST Director in your region. Project ASSIST is working on a talent bank of Science Educators and is willing to help with whatever workshops you may request. For a successful workshop the effort needs to come from YOU, the science teacher.