



IN MEMORY RUTH GRUNDY

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Ruth Grundy came to Port Aransas 28 years ago and soon became affiliated with the University of Texas Marine Sciences Institute. Her name appears as the Technical Editor of the *Contributions in Marine Science* as early as volume 16 in 1972 and she was associated with its publication ever since. As the Institute grew and expanded, and the reference collection associated with the *Contributions* grew with it, her role expanded into Librarian as well and she has almost single-handedly developed the UTMSI Library into what it is today.

The 1972 issue of the *Contributions in Marine Science* contains a forward that states "Issues are distributed at a cost of \$4.15 per copy (no discounts possible), or on an exchange basis", and "For orders, further information, or exchange agreements, please write to the Librarian, UTMSI at Port Aransas." The price changed as the years went on, but the "exchange agreements" part is what Ruth used to leverage what is now one of the finest and most complete collections of marine science research publications on the Gulf Coast.

Never one to take a narrow view of collecting and exchanging information, Ruth soon found and became a member of a marine science libraries organization that is now best known by its funny-sounding acronym of "IAMSLIC", the International Association of Aquatic and Marine Science Libraries and Information Centers. My personal acquaintance with Ruth dates back to the 1982 meeting in Beaufort, North Carolina. I remember her gracious invitation to attend the next year's conference, which she hosted in Port Aransas. That meeting has been famous in the annals of IAMSLIC, not only for the fine professional exchange of ideas, but also for the after-meeting shopping expedition to Mexico. Ruth always had a keen nose for a bargain and I also remember her from the Honolulu meeting where, in one of the most expensive tourist cities of the world, she found the most beautiful earrings of all, and at a cost of only \$3 a pair!

Ruth has always been a "try harder, go farther" kind of person. She was the conference convener for IAMSLIC's 1984 meeting in Woods Hole, Massachusetts. That meeting was the first IAMSLIC meeting for which there were published proceedings and sure enough, Ruth not only convened the meeting, she also edited the proceedings; and the same for next year when she was both President and editor.

I was always interested in Ruth's approaches to librarianship and information handling. Her most memorable presentation to IAMSLIC was in 1987 at Halifax, Nova Scotia. It

was entitled "How to build your own standalone system using an IBM AT or compatible and existing software." In 1986 us Aggies in Galveston had just moved into a brand new \$5 million library building and were grappling with a new automation system that cost \$100,000 and was produced by computing specialists. Ruth proceeded to tell us how she built the computer herself, and manipulated database software that cost a fraction as much, to produce a system that worked well for her library. I was only a few steps beyond locating the on/off switch on my personal computer. Ruth modestly asked me "Do you think I talked over their heads?". She was undaunted by technological challenge and assumed the rest of us were as on top of the technology as she was.

One of the nicest tributes to Ruth's professional capability is what Tommy Adams (now in the Library at UTMSI) and I have heard on separate occasions from different users, professional scientists for the Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife: "She is a legend on the Gulf coast". Scientists would often introduce their new colleagues personally to Ruth, as purveyor par excellence, of marine information and library know-how.

Ruth's husband, Doyle Grundy, was almost as much a fixture of IAMSLIC annual meetings as Ruth. Ruth loathed flying in airplanes, so many times they used their personal vacation time to drive across the country to meetings - Woods Hole, Monterey Bay, Key Biscayne, Bethesda. They shared 42 years together and were parents to four children, and grandparents of six. Ruth's final hours were with her family and many of her friends - no visitor was turned away. Her family sang favorite hymns as Ruth passed into the great beyond. IAMSLIC was in session for its annual meeting at that time, and condolences arrived from across the globe. The conference host, Eirikur Einarsson in Reykjavik, Iceland, sent a message that would be true for many of us, about Ruth and IAMSLIC: "This group of librarians has meant a lot to me, living out here in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean, and I will be forever thankful to her for introducing IAMSLIC to me. She will be missed by all of us."