Harry M. Clarke was born in Chicago on November 1, 1909, the grandson of Scottish immigrants. When he was a young boy his sister started calling him "Tad," short for "tadpole." In time, this became "Ted" which remained his nickname among friends for the rest of his life. Ted's father died when he was eight years old and that same year his younger brother was tragically killed in an automobile accident. These losses were extremely difficult for Ted and he became very restless. Consequently, after his sophomore year at Staunton Military Academy in Virginia, Ted dropped out of school to travel and work wherever the trains he hopped would take him. Ted's hobo-like journeys proved to be cathartic and at the age of 19 he returned to Chicago and to Nicolas Senn High School with a renewed sense of who he was and what he needed to do.

Shortly after returning to Chicago, Ted met Juanita in high school and it was love at first sight. At the time he was 19 and she was 16. Later in life Ted often remarked that had he not left school in Virginia they would never have met. After graduating from high school Ted entered the University of Wisconsin-Madison and their romance continued long distance. Juanita went to work in a photography studio in the city after she graduated. Ted received his bachelor of science degree in metallurgical engineering in 1934. He and Juanita were married after graduation on June 30, 1934. Despite the difficulties of the Depression, Ted found a job in the steel industry where he remained for his entire career. He held many positions in the Illinois Steel Company before joining Bliss and Laughlin Steel. He eventually became an officer of the company and retired as vice president of the Detroit operation.

During their life together, Ted and Juanita traveled all over the world. They had a tremendous sense of adventure and a keen interest in different cultures. They lived in Japan, India and Mexico while Ted helped establish steel plants in those countries. Ted always became proficient in the native languages. After retirement they made several trips to Mexico and Latin America. Ted and Juanita moved to Tucson, Arizona in 1967 after they found that Juanita's lifelong arthritis made it difficult for them to live in Florida.

Ted had a keen intellect and after retirement he retained his interest in lifelong learning. His friends say that he made "at least" two trips to the library each week, always leaving with an armful of books. He could easily read 15 or 20 books a week. His reading guided him through many home improvement projects such as installing an irrigation system for their beautifully landscaped acreage. Juanita's flower garden was known throughout the area because she generously shared cut flowers with the neighborhood.

Ted and Juanita continued to travel and the world became their classroom. Ted was an avid swimmer and swam for exercise in their pool everyday. He was active and strong his whole life. However, his life was tragically cut short on November 30, 1987 at the age of 78. He died after complications from a relatively common operation to correct a bad heart valve and a subsequent unsuccessful radiation treatment for lung cancer.

With no children to provide emotional support, Juanita mourned Ted's loss for many years. Shortly after his death, she too developed a heart condition and when she died on December 18, 1994 it was as if she had died of a broken heart. After Juanita's death her ashes were commingled with Ted's and dropped over Castle Rock, a beautiful formation of the Santa Catalina mountains which they loved viewing from their living room window.

It was their desire that a scholarship endowment be established at the UW-Madison from their estate. It was, for the most part, Juanita's expert handling of their investments that made this gift possible. Ted was very proud of his degree from Wisconsin and always felt that it gave him the start he needed to be successful. The Harry M. Clarke Scholarship will now help preserve their memory as it benefits future generations of young people.