

Carrie Williams Taylor

1892 — August 6, 1988

Carrie Williams Taylor came to Cornell in 1935 as an assistant state leader of home demonstration agents. She had previously been employed as a home demonstration agent in Orange County, New York, for five years. Prior to coming to New York State, she was a state clothing extension specialist at Michigan State University. While at Cornell she married Charles A. Taylor, professor in extension service and a pioneer in the development of Cornell's educational radio program.

Carrie began her career as an elementary school teacher at age 18 in Ada County, Idaho, to earn money for a college education. Her teaching experience also included teaching at the high school level in Idaho and Washington and serving as head of a home economics department in Idaho. She graduated from the University of Washington, and in 1934 she received a Masters degree from Columbia University. In 1938 she became a full professor at Cornell.

During her years at Cornell (1935-1949), Carrie worked with college specialists and county home demonstration agents to adapt programs to the needs of homemakers and families during the Depression and World War II. Homemakers could always count on Carrie to raise during the program-planning process the question, "Will this program help win the war?"

Carrie helped the women of Columbia County to organize and secure funds from county government so they could participate in Cooperative Extension programs. She also was instrumental in developing and implementing a unified filing system for county extension offices. Colleagues remember her as cooperative and conscientious.

Carrie was a family oriented person, extremely interested in people. As an extension agent in Orange County, she never missed an opportunity to interest individuals in the program. She sought out community leaders and involved inexperienced homemakers. In addition, she was skillful in interpreting and presenting homemakers needs to the college faculty. Homemakers liked her friendly ways and respected her leadership and organizational ability.

In 1949, she and her husband retired. They pursued many hobbies. One they especially enjoyed was gathering gem stones and polishing them. This hobby took them on many interesting trips through the western states and Mexico.

Carrie died in a nursing home in Portland, Oregon.