

Mary B. Wood

July 31, 1914 — May 24, 2000

Mary B. Wood was born on July 31, 1914, in the town of Butler in Wayne County, New York, and grew up on a dairy and fruit farm. After completing high school at Red Creek High School and attending Cazenovia Seminary, she entered the College of Home Economics at Cornell University, receiving her B.S. degree in 1937. Upon graduation, Professor Wood taught home economics in central schools at Andover and Westport, New York. She returned to Cornell University and obtained her M.S. degree in 1942. Later she had the opportunity to undertake additional study at the University of Iowa and the New School for Social Research.

From 1944-48, Professor Wood served as a staff assistant for recreational activities with the American Red Cross in England, France and Germany and then in Newfoundland and Labrador. Here she developed her interest in international issues and later sought additional opportunities to travel and serve abroad.

When she completed her service with the Red Cross, Professor Wood returned to Ithaca and began her career in the Cornell Cooperative Extension Service. She was appointed an Assistant Professor with responsibilities as an extension home economist in marketing and was instrumental in developing the extension food-marketing program both in New York City and throughout the state. She became an Associate Professor in 1953. Her ability to work cooperatively with others and her patience and good humor contributed to the success of the marketing programs. She has written extensively on home economics and consumer issues, including the *Focus on the Food Market and Food Marketing Highlights*. During a sabbatical leave in 1973, she studied consumer television efforts in selected land grant colleges to expand the outreach for consumer programs in New York State.

For her first sabbatical leave in 1954, Professor Wood pursued her international interests. She received a Faculty Traveling Fellowship and attended the International Conference on Methods of Extension Work at the University of Wageningen in the Netherlands. In 1963, she was a participant in an FAO conference in Rome and the following year, spent four months in Liberia on an AID project to assess the need for home economics education at the University of Liberia. She traveled extensively in Liberia gaining an understanding of the needs for teaching and extension in the countryside. She later took on an international assignment traveling with the Dean of the College to review home economics programs in the Philippines and Japan.

In 1960, Professor Wood was appointed Assistant to the Dean in the College of Human Ecology. This assignment led to further leadership in the College's International and Intercultural Affairs Programs. As chairman of an

international program committee of the American Home Economics Association, she traveled to Iran, Liberia and the Netherlands. She also maintained her international interests through membership in the Society for International Development and the International Federation of Home Economists.

Professor Wood returned full time to the Cornell Cooperative Extension Service in 1966. As an Extension Leader and later as Program Coordinator, she contributed significantly to extension programming by giving leadership for program development, implementation and evaluation. Following Hurricane Agnes in 1972, she coordinated the college's efforts to provide information for flood disaster relief in the affected areas. She retired from her position in Cooperative Extension in 1976 and was named Professor Emerita.

Professor Wood was active in both university and community affairs. She served as president of the Women's Class of the Cornell Alumni Association and of the Cornell Women's Club of Ithaca; she was president of the local chapter of the American Association of University Women. She was a member of the New York State and the American Home Economics Associations. Professor Wood was instrumental in the founding of the Upstairs Gallery and served as chairman of the board. She was an active member of the Unitarian Church.

With Professors Gwen Bymers and Kathryn Walker, Professor Wood owned a cottage on Cayuga Lake, Walk-By-Wood. It was a favorite gathering place during the summer for friends and colleagues. Professor Wood was an avid reader and familiar with the classical literature. In addition, she was a bird watcher and participated in programs at the Bird Sanctuary.

Professor Wood died at her home at Kendal on May 24, 2000. She is survived by a sister, Alice L. Wood, of Ithaca; a nephew, Lincoln J. Wood, of Pasadena, California; and a sister-in-law, Rhoda M. Wood, of Lafayette, Louisiana. A memorial service was held at Kendal at Ithaca on June 1, 2000.

Lucinda A. Noble, Jean R. Robinson, Gwendolyn J. Bymers