

Hazel E. Reed

June 7, 1907 — January 4, 1997

Professor Emerita Hazel E. Reed joined the College of Home Economics faculty in 1949 as Associate Professor in Cooperative Extension work and an Assistant State Leader of home demonstration agents. Throughout her career at Cornell University, she provided strong leadership to community leaders and professional home economics educators in all counties across the state. She encouraged the development of innovative home economics programs at statewide and local levels, established a supervised professional development experience for extension home economists assuming program leadership positions, and chaired a task force whose deliberations led to new opportunities for extension to contribute to the quality of living for children and families and to expand programs emanating from the college to a growing audience. Her experience statewide as well as a love for travel provided her with important perspectives on how different cultures dealt with social concerns. She retired as Assistant Director of Extension and full Professor in 1967.

Professor Reed was born June 7, 1907 in Savannah, New York, the only child of Albert and Bertha Evans Reed. Valedictorian of the 1926 high school class, she received her Baccalaureate degree from Cornell and her Master's degree from Michigan State. After a seven-year career teaching home economics at Oswego High School, she held several key professional positions with Cooperative Extension in Monroe and Oneida Counties and in the City of Syracuse prior to joining the Cornell faculty and College of Human Economics administration in 1949. She became an Associate State Leader in 1954; Professor in Extension in 1962; State Leader in 1965 and Assistant Director in 1966. She witnessed major changes at the university, the college and Cooperative Extension during her tenure and in the years following retirement. The College of Human Ecology (nee home economics), was still in Comstock Hall when she was a student, its small size creating an atmosphere of close camaraderie among professors and students. Martha Van Rensselaer and Flora Rose were co-directors at the time. At her 50th reunion, Hazel Reed reflected upon the 25 year old discipline she had studied as an undergraduate and that her 50th reunion marked twice the number of years the college was old when she entered: "No wonder there are changes".

Professor Reed was a role model for Cooperative Extension staff and college colleagues; she demonstrated and encouraged commitment to educational excellence. She represented Cooperative Extension to the (then) Bureau of Home Economics in the State Education Department, and consulted on a statewide study of adult education programs in home economics. Acting as Extension Administration's official representative to the New York State

Nutrition Council, she also held leadership positions in the Council as vice-president, institute program chair and policies committee chair. Through responsibilities such as these she persisted in interpreting and communicating home economics extension programs to many people outside of the immediate extension family.

Her commitment to the Cooperative Extension system and the people of the state did not keep her from assuming responsibilities in the broader college and university community. College committee work (related to Cooperative Extension) included educational, extension studies and television policies, health and safety, inservice education and farm and home week. She served on the college's nominations and elections and institute committees and chaired the ad hoc College Study Name and Focus Committee that resulted in the change in name to the College of Human Ecology in 1969.

Her professional affiliations included: American Home Economics Association; Adult Education Association; Epsilon Sigma Phi; New York State Association of Extension Home Economists; Omicron Nu; Phi Kappa Phi; and Pi Lambda Theta. During her period of affiliation, she held district, state, and national elective offices. Among these positions were: chair, Extension Service section, American Home Economics Association; national recognition as an outstanding home demonstration agent in New York State; vice-president and president of the New York State Home Economics Association; and president, New York State Home Demonstration Agents Association. Although names of several of these have changed, Miss Reed remained committed to their missions and goals.

Throughout her life, Hazel Reed maintained a strong interest in Cornell activities and a commitment to the university's philosophy of extension and outreach. She was interested in the new directions of Cooperative Extension and a major supporter of the Human Ecology Endowed Family Policy Professorship in Extension. She established a trust to develop the professorship and to support the Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art, Laboratory of Ornithology, the Cornell Plantations, the Cornell University Library Associates and the Fund for Quality Concerts. Professor Reed also made a testamentary commitment to Cornell by participating in the 1993 taping of the Planned Giving Video, "Close Ties".

She worked diligently to continue interaction with former colleagues and friends and to support many interests in the Ithaca community. Following retirement, she took an active part in the Tompkins County Hospital (now Cayuga Medical Center) auxiliary board and its volunteer staff, and the Friends of the Library Board, chairing its annual book sale. She was a member of the First Congregational Church, the Cornell Campus Club, Cornell Women's Club, and Tompkins County Senior Citizens. The concert series and lectures at Cornell and Ithaca College, as well as opera, local theater, bridge and dinners with friends were among the many social activities she

enjoyed. Traveling was a particular passion; she delighted in the many foreign and domestic sites she had visited. She loved returning to Ithaca as much to her roots, friends, and colleagues.

We, her friends and colleagues, miss her. She was a true professional, mentor, and a caring, gracious friend.

Lucinda A. Noble, Ethel W. Samson, Bettie Lee Yerka