

# Dorothy M. Proud

*April 10, 1904 — February 8, 1995*

Miss Dorothy M. Proud was a native of Indiana, born into a close knit and caring farm family. She received her bachelor's degree from the Flora Stone Mather College of Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, majoring in Nutrition and Dietetics. After completing her undergraduate degree, she went to the Mayo Clinic to enter a training course for student dietitians.

Upon completion of the program, she was selected for the coveted position of Mayo Foundation Fellow. The fellowship provided her with the opportunity to work with Dr. Barboraka, a physician interested in the field of nutrition, at that time a singular opportunity for a young dietitian. During her time at the Mayo Clinic, Miss Proud was also a graduate student working towards a masters degree in Administrative Dietetics at the University of Minnesota. She received her degree in 1930, one of the early dietitians to obtain the degree, and was uniquely qualified to take her place in the profession.

Western Reserve University invited Miss Proud to return to the University and teach Foods and Nutrition. Following one year of teaching, she was invited to remain at Western University Hospital's Department of Dietetics with an appointment as the Assistant Director of the Department and Director of the Dietetic Internship Program. In the latter role, she was responsible for the planning and supervision of the courses prescribed by the American Dietetic Association for membership in the American Dietetic Association and recognition as a professional dietitian. These courses were taught by the members of the hospital administration and medical and surgical departments as well as the staff of the dietary department.

During her years at Western Reserve, she pioneered the program for dietetic interns to experience the application of the class materials in a planned rotation in the departments and services of the teaching hospital. She trained many of the future leaders who would direct the expansion of programs for dietetic interns in the following years.

Miss Proud joined the faculty of the Department of Institution Management in the College of Home Economics in 1942 as an Extension Specialist in Institution Management in Cornell Cooperative Extension. She was appointed Assistant Professor in 1946 and Associate Professor in 1949.

World War II brought many changes in the area of food and nutrition. To meet these needs, the New York State Food Commission was formed. The poor nutritional status of many migrants prompted the commission to provide

assistance to those living in migrant labor camps throughout the State. Miss Proud held the leadership position in this effort with only a small staff. They provided assistance in nutrition education and in integrating menu-planning, sanitary food service, storage and food purchasing in order to better the living conditions and health of the people. The day care centers in the labor camps were also a responsibility of the staff. Ration books were a way of life during the war years. Miss Proud and her staff went into factories and other work places to teach the use of the books and substitutes for rationed foods which might be available.

Miss Proud was a pioneer in the concept of a specialist in institution management in Cooperative Extension. At the end of the war, it was her assignment to provide help to community kitchens, located in churches, grange halls and summer camps. She was involved in planning the remodeling of buildings and facilities, the selection of food service equipment and efficient organization of the equipment. She developed both printed materials and visual aids to enhance the program. Many states requested her publications and her work received high acclaim. She later expanded her work to facilities for the school lunch program and the particular needs of nursing home kitchens. In 1969, Miss Proud received an award from the American Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers recognizing her use of technical knowledge in the development of educational programs.

During 1954 and 1955, Miss Proud participated in the AID program at Los Banos in the Philippines. She spent sabbatical leaves at the University of Wisconsin and the University of Washington, pursuing additional course work and research on facilities for quantity food preparation.

Miss Proud was a member of the American Dietetic Association, both State and local chapters, and the American Home Economics Association. She was active in community organizations, especially the Unitarian Church and the League of Women Voters. Programs for women and children were her primary concern. She was a strong supporter of the Women's Studies Program. Her home was open to many graduate students and new staff members and holidays were shared with students who were in Ithaca, including many foreign students.

Following her retirement, Miss Proud continued to maintain her home in Ithaca where she remained active in community affairs. She also traveled extensively. In 1980, she moved to Seattle to be nearer her family.

Many organizations benefited from Miss Proud's generosity. She endowed the Dorothy M. Proud Lectureship in the Division of Nutritional Sciences to bring outstanding members of the dietetics profession to Cornell to enrich the dietetics program. Many young dietitians learned the fundamentals of their profession from her and observed a professional with a strong work ethic and an understanding of the importance of integrity.