

Helen T. Waters



Helen T. Waters, a native of Marion County, for more than 40 years was an active advocate of and participant in the programs and activities designed to assist West Virginia rural people, including cooperation with the West Virginia University Cooperative Extension Service, a leader in the Farming for Better Living Program, and a catalyst in numerous groups, organizations, and clubs.

A graduate of West Virginia University, Mrs. Water's professional career, beginning in 1932, encompassed 43 years employment by the Monongahela Power Company as Home Service Representative and Rural Home Counselor. During this period, she became one of the best known women in West

Virginia through her activities and support of 4-H club events, Future Homemakers and Future Farmer programs and activities, her responsibilities with the Farming for Better Living Program, the development and operation of the Farm and Home Electrification Building at Jackson's Mill, her training meetings and counseling session with state and county adult Extension women's organizations, and judging at County and State Fairs.

Because she was generous with her time and talents, Mrs. Waters was selected to serve in many policy and operational positions with a variety of groups and organizations. She held offices in the West Virginia Home Economics Association, the West Virginia University Home Economics Alumni Association, the West Virginia Chapter of Home Economists in Business, and the Greater Fairmont Development Association, served as President of the Pittsburgh Chapter of the Electrical Women's Round Table, and was elected to Gamma Sigma Delta, agricultural honorary.

Her work brought her much recognition. She received both the State and National Friend of 4-H Award. She was made an honorary Future Homemaker by that organization. The West Virginia Extension Homemakers' Council recognized her by dedicating its cookbook to her. She was named Women of the Year in Fairmont in 1965. The West Virginia Vocational Association awarded her its Meritorious Certificate of Honor.

Within the electric utility industry she received similar recognition. In 1968-69, she was elected Chairman of the Public Utilities of the Virginia's Rural Committee, the only woman to hold this post. She served on the National Committee for Farm Electric Training. IN addition to these recognitions, Mrs. Waters served as consultant to many local and regional groups in food buying and service, equipment, and furnishings.

She served as official tour guide in the Northeast for a section of the International Home Economic Association meeting held in the United States, and served on the U.S. Department of Agriculture Science and Education Human Resources Advisory Committee for the Northeast Region. Mrs. Waters was a member of the Visiting Committee for the WVU College of Agriculture and Forestry in 1966-69.

A colleague had this to say about Mrs. Waters:

"A person of high professional and personal standards, Mrs. Waters has the valuable attributes of a pleasant personality, steadfast loyalty, and is untiring in her efforts. No task was ever too small or too great. She did not shun responsibility; neither did she take advantage of her leadership position. She was generous of herself, her talents, and resources. Her deep feeling of "service" to people was nurtured by her early initiation into Phi Upsilon Omicron, professional home economics fraternity."