

# Know Your Neighbor — Mrs. Herbert Williams

She has been spending days in her kitchen making up batches of homemade candies - fondant, penuche, fudge, candied dates, and other delectable dainties - to package and send off to her children and their families in time for the holiday.

"Christmas wouldn't be Christmas", she told us, "if they didn't have at least one box of 'mom's' homemade goodies." And Beatrice Williams' samples proved her children were right - they were delicious. She doesn't make nearly as much as she used to but still manages to get a variety to each son and daughter and their families.

Beatrice Williams, widow of the late Herbert Williams, lives in a traditional two-story white home on Hill Street, Trucksville, and is a remarkable woman. Her obvious enthusiasm and exuberant curiosity has made her life a series of rich, rewarding experiences earning her the envy of her many friends and neighbors.

In these late years of her life, Mrs. Williams devotes most of her time to baking, candymaking, raising African violets and doing crewell work.

Last year she made and gave each of her sons and daughters a crewell hanging or cushion for Christmas. She recently completed a large map of the United States bordered by each state flower... a beautiful piece of handwork, resplendent with

color and one that she plans to keep for herself, at least for awhile.

A Back Mountain resident for more than 45 years, Mrs. Williams, the former Beatrice Lacey of Wilkes-Barre, came to the area with her husband from Glen Summit. Her father, a Welsh-American poet, taught her poetry at an early age which led to her doing public recitations at the age of 3, an avocation which she still follows today on a limited basis. She no longer gives readings for outside organizations but still enjoys doing them for the Friendship Class of Trucksville United Methodist Church.

Mrs. Williams, who has always been active in church work, taught this particular class for more than 20 years. She assumed the position of Sunday School teacher when she first moved to Trucksville and continued to teach until 1967.

In addition to her family, she has two loves running neck and neck for first place in her life - one which perhaps holds an edge, is her church life. She is a member of the Trucksville church board of administrations (earlier known as official board of Trucksville Methodist Church). She also represented the church at the Wyoming Valley Conference for 25 years, an experience she thoroughly enjoyed, especially the debates between ministers. She is a member of the Com-

mission on Social Concerns and the Board of Evangelism. Mrs. Williams also served as promotion secretary of the Conference for four years, which provided her the opportunity to travel throughout the eastern half of the United States and to meet people from all corners of the Conference area.

The first president of the Trucksville Methodist Church WSCS in 1940, she and Mrs. Cedric Griffiths, vice president, were the first two women to become members of the official board. "We were not received very enthusiastically", she said. "In fact, you might say we received the cold shoulder from our male constituents."

"However," she went on, "we have come a long way. Today, our board is comprised of men, women, boys, and girls, and we have an average attendance of at least 35 at our meetings."

Mrs. Williams is very interested in youth. She finds she can depend on them to help... "they have the desire and the know-how to correct the inequities in the world today."

She does not believe there need be a "generation gap." She is always ready to listen to "fresh" opinions: she feels the older generation's role is to serve as a balance wheel for today's youth whose ideas are beginning to form the nucleus for world preservation.

Her grandson, Craig, a student at King's College, drops

in for breakfast, and they become so involved in discussions of modern concerns that they spend hours knocking about pros and cons. He has "set her right" on much of today's world affairs. Through his eyes she has learned to look at many subjects in a different light.

Mrs. Williams is politically minded. She was appointed Justice of the Peace to fill out her late husband's fourth term, then was elected to office twice, serving in that capacity for 14 years. She was also a notary public until her commission ran out in October of this year.

She never misses an opportunity to vote. She remembers the time when her daughter, Beatrice, was married and her own name was removed from the rolls by mistake. When challenged, through the cooperation of the late Atty. Peter Jurchak, she was able to go to the courthouse to be reinstated. "I would rather miss my dinner than miss voting," she told the Post.

Mrs. Williams was also active in Girl Scouting and served on the board of the former Wyoming Valley Girl Scout Council. She taught school until the third year of her marriage while her husband completed college.

Sitting in her cheerful, sunny yellow kitchen, this spritely lady explained how she tried to get both sides of any topic so her family or friends cannot accuse

her of being biased. "Through this," she told the Post, "I have acquired knowledge I never thought possible."

She is especially fond of flowers and during spring and summer raises beautiful varieties in her well-kept yard. Her lawn is bordered by white arabis and red geraniums.

An avid reader of both fiction and non-fiction, she has read most best sellers. She is particularly fond of Arthur Haley, Louis Nizer, Ernest Hemingway, Daphne DuMaurier, Robert Ruark, and mystery novels. A tour of Mrs. Williams' home uncovered some fascinating items - a converted oil lamp (in the family for years); hand painted plates done by her daughter labeled 'Beatrice' and 'Herb'; a framed Flying Tiger flag hanging on the wall (souvenir from her son, Herbert who served 20 years with Chennault's Flying Tigers; samplers made by her daughters; oil paintings done by her grandson; and many other treasures given her by grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Her grandchildren are located throughout the world from New York to Wisconsin and Turkey to Indonesia. Grandson Herbert Loran's photograph recently appeared on the cover of Green Bay Press Gazette, "Close Up", for his work as director and founder of Theatre on the Bay. He teaches dramatics at University of



Photo by J. Kozemchak Sr.

Mrs. Herbert Williams

Wisconsin and credits his grandmother for his interest in theatre. She persuaded his parents to send him to Wyoming Seminary to study dramatics.

Her parting remarks were "with my nine children, 24 grandchildren and 33 great-grandchildren I am not a very good example for planned parenthood. I love everyone of them and every moment I spend with them. If I had it to do

over - well, who can foresee the unknown?" Somehow, one knows Mrs. Williams would live her life the same - every statement evidences her zest for living.

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## MYF Members Plan Activities

At the MYF meeting this week many future plans were made. There will be a celebration during Christmas and New Year. Also in the plans is a spaghetti supper in mid-January to raise funds for a trip to Sky Lake.

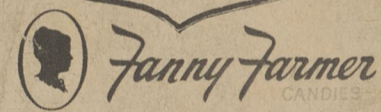
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