

JEAN H. McFARLAND

1907 - 1966

Jean H. McFarland was born in Riverside, California, in 1907. She graduated from Pomona College in 1929 and in 1930 received the certificate from the School of Librarianship at the University of California in Berkeley. She was awarded the degree of Master of Arts in economics from Columbia University in 1935.

She was commissioned an ensign in the U. S. Naval Reserve in 1943, and left the service in 1946 with the rank of lieutenant. From 1930 on she held several positions in the Library of the University of California at Berkeley, becoming Assistant Librarian in 1949. In 1953 she was appointed Librarian at Reed College, and in 1957 she became Librarian at Vassar, a post she held until her unexpected death on August 24th, 1966.

We were fortunate to have her at Vassar during what were unquestionably the most difficult years in the history of the Library. She presided over a massive and complicated expansion and remodelling at a time when the student enrollment was growing rapidly enough to have strained the facilities of the Library even in normal circumstances. She had to deal simultaneously with a bewildering number and variety of problems, both administrative and technical, and she was singularly energetic and resourceful in solving them. Often and -- by virtue of her position -- inevitably, their solution involved her in reconciling different views. The needs of the students and faculty, the welfare of her own staff, and the requirements of the college administration had all to be regarded and kept in balance, and it was here especially that her intelligence, her tact and her patience were invaluable. Jean McFarland's work was known and respected by her colleagues throughout the country. She was a member of several professional organizations (the American Library Association, the New York Library Association, the California Library Association, the American Association of University Women and the American Association of University Professors); locally, she was a member of the Presbyterian Church, of the Adirondack Mountain Club, of the Zonta Club, and of the League of Women Voters. Fellow-members in these organizations have repeatedly paid tribute to her dedication: she was anything but a mere

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"joiner," being always willing to give her time and to undertake responsibility; she was active in all of them and an officer in many.

She was especially active in developing local library services. She worked diligently on the Library Service Committee of the Poughkeepsie Chapter of the League of Women Voters; and she was a charter member of the South-eastern New York Library Resources Council, in which she served successively as a Trustee, as Vice-President, and

as President, an office she held at the time of her death. The extent to which her contributions in this field were prized is suggested by a co-worker from the University of the State of New York, who wrote: "At this moment it is necessary to give some words to the great respect in which she is held here and to speak of the unique place she occupied in statewide library planning. As the Librarian of Vassar, she represented to us the most enlightened thought in the promotion of academic librarianship, and we are particularly appreciative of the high order of service to the entire educational-cultural community she recognized librarianship to be."

At Vassar, she not only commanded the respect of her colleagues by her professional ability, but also engaged their affection by her friendly and unassuming nature.

Ella M. Elliott

Margaret McKenzie

Madelene Pierce

Howard Green, Chairman

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