BIRDIE ELIZABETH KALLMAN

Class Notes

When Birdie Elizabeth Kallman was graduated from Hunter College in 1902, her classmates even then recognized the underlying principle of her life. Her yearbook quote was aptly "And learn the luxury of doing good."

Hunter College was the center from which most of Birdie's activities radiated. They started with her devotion to the Alumni Association for which she early took over the arduous task of serving refreshments at the big yearly reunions. Recognized as a tireless worker, she was invited to membership on the Board of Directors of the Alumni Association. She also served as Corresponding Secretary of the Scholarship and Welfare Fund and as a member of the Board of Directors of the Fund.

When, during World War I, an "open house" for men in the armed forces was planned for Hunter, Birdie Kallman was the one who calmly and efficiently took over the task of feeding "the boys." Every Saturday, in a tiny kitchen in the old ivy-covered College building, she and her small committee cooked and served hot dishes, salads, cakes and pies. She was never too busy or too tired to prepare something special for a homesick lad. So successful was her work as head of this Patriotic Service Committee that she was requested to take over the Canteen during World War II. Once again Hunter Canteen became an outstanding gathering place of increasing popularity.

A dedicated teacher for fifty years, Birdie imbued her pupils with her own fine spirit and patriotic fervor. After World War II she encouraged her class to adopt a school in Bruyda, Holland, to which her children sent clothing, paper, pencils, books, and other necessities which the Dutch youngsters lacked. Letters from the principal of the school testified to the need and gratitude of the recipients.

Her interest in children led her to become a member of the Hunter College Committee of the Lenox Hill Settlement. Again her culinary abilities were called into action. She it was who spent days and weeks soliciting the food and supplies necessary for the dinners at the yearly Hunter-Lenox Hill Bazaars.

From 1956 on Birdie spent many hours each week as a volunteer in the office of the P.E.A. School Volunteers working tirelessly on any job that needed to be done.

Her work for the School Nature League will long be remembered by those who worked with her. She carried this interest into her classroom by giving to her children an opportunity to learn the wonders of nature. Her room was a source of delight and inspiration to many who knew naught but the hard pavements of the city streets.

What a joy it was when the opportunity came for her to transport some of these city-bred children to the wonderful land of trees and flowers. Aided by friends of Professor Northrop and Hunter alumni, she and Professor Emilie Long of the Botany Department of Hunter started the Alice Rich Northrop Memorial Camp. For forty years Birdie Kallman selflessly and lovingly labored for this camp for New York City underprivileged children interested in nature study. Her camp work, which took yearround planning and effort, became the major interest of her life. In the spring she did all of the correspondence and book work preliminary to tests and the selection of campers. In November of each year, she ran a movie which netted the camp well over a thousand dollars. As treasurer, she spent much time soliciting funds and making friends for this worthwhile project. For most of the forty summers she directed camp and did much to make Northrop the outstanding, integrated institution it now is. Her sincerity and loyalty and goodness inspired campers and counsellors alike to make Northrop Camp an experience in fine cooperative living in the highest ethical sense.

At her death on December 27, 1963, letters poured in from friends, parents and former campers testifying to the wonderful work of this "Great Lady." One recent camper expressed the feeling of many when he wrote "Miss Kallman though small in size was a giant in stature and will live on in our hearts forever."

EDNA BAER ISAACS '14

IN MEMORIAM

1904

"We record with sorrow the passing of Ida Frankel Joffe."

1920

"Helen Deegan McCarthy died on February 11, 1964. Helen was a retired art teacher in the Brooklyn schools and the mother of three children. She was a member of the 1920 bowling group who will miss her."

1961

Maureen Sullivan Wenz died on December 1963. A Political Science Major, she taught in P. S. 95 in the Bronx. She was a sister of Gloria Sullivan Duffy, of the Class of '49.

1920

Melanie Rohrer Rosborough has been elected President of the South Atlantic Modern Language Association, the first woman to hold that office. She is professor of modern languages at the University of Miami.

Rose-Marie Daele of Hunter College High School was married to Alastair Guinan in December 1963.

1933

Sarah H. Greengrass, Class Secretary, writes: "At our semi-annual tea held at Roosevelt House on December 7, 1963, Teresa Gloster, Administrative Assistant at Seward Park High School, delivered a thought-provoking talk entitled 'New York, A City of Promise.'

"We've received word that we've attained our goal of a \$3,000 scholarship in the name of our class. A presentation to our President, Mary Greene Candib, was made at the College Birthday Luncheon."

1937

Margaret Herbst, public relations consultant, received the decoration of Knight of the Order of Leopold II from Ambassador Andre Forthomme, Consul-General of Belgium in New York, at a special ceremony in his New York residence on January 30, 1964, in recognition of her contributions to Belgian-American relations for the past ten years.

1950

Eileen Rosenberg Starr writes of the birth of her son, Benjamin Cooper Starr.

1951

Samuel B. Horowitz has been named co-head of the Laboratory of Cellular Biophysics, recently formed at the Research Laboratories of Philadelphia's Albert Einstein Medical Center.

1952

David and Dorothy Gwon Kahn announce the birth of their third son, Harold, on December 11, 1963.