

## Mrs Ann Todd 1920-2001

Ann Todd was a founder member of SI Penrith & District Club. She was nominated and elected 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President at the first meeting.

At the Annual General Meeting in April 1961 the officers were asked to continue in office, so Ann did two years as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President becoming President in 1963.

Ann was born in West Cumberland in September 1920 and attended Newton Rigg Farm School near Penrith. After training she stayed on working in the poultry section, progressing to be manageress of the "Egg Laying Trials".

Ann married a farmer and as a farmer's wife she gave an interesting and skilful demonstration to the Club on "Preparing a cock-chicken for the Oven".

Ann, with two other Penrith members, attended the International Convention in Lausanne, Switzerland in 1964. The venue was at the beautiful Lake Geneva. Soroptimists discussed the most urgent problems of hunger, peace and the clearing of refugee camps. International President Mlle Elizabeth Hoeter challenged members to preserve human values in the face of scientific and technical changes.

In 1967 Ann attended the Toronto International Convention, where overseas visitors were welcomed in small groups into Canadian homes which started proceedings in a very friendly atmosphere.

Penrith Club members expressed great pleasure and promised their support of Ann Todd when she was nominated by Tynemouth, and seconded by Middlesbrough for the office of 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President of the Northern Divisional Union (former name of Region), and went on to be President in 1971. In her capacity as President she attended the Federation Conference in Edinburgh. The Divisional Union Conference was arranged for a weekend residential programme at Shap Wells Hotel with the theme "The Countryside and its Future", with speakers on the subjects 'The Farmer as the Custodian of the Countryside', 'The relationship between the Farmer and the City Dweller' and 'Conservationists Views'.

Later in 1971 Ann attended the International Convention in Rome, when members celebrated the Golden Jubilee and looked back to the beginning of Soroptimism in 1921. That year Ann was appointed to the Federation Executive Committee.

Over the years Ann entertained many Soroptimists from Overseas at her home, Long Meg near Penrith, thereby following up on friendships made at conferences and conventions.

As Penrith and District Club approached their 25<sup>th</sup> year it was proposed that Ann Todd should serve as President for a second time. On taking up the role she said "Twenty Five years is not only a time for looking back to what we have achieved, but of looking forward to the next milestone in the life of the club. Let us dedicate our lives afresh to service above self: looking forward for opportunities to make this upside down world a better place to live in".

Ann Todd was a magnificent example of a "True Soroptimist", getting involved in all projects, nurturing new members and welcoming visitors to the club. She became an honorary member and continued to take an active part in club life until her death in 2001.

