

Margaret H. Levinson

Bakersfield College, 1931-1966

English teacher, Dean of Women

Dean of Students, Dean of Instruction

Miss Levinson was a warm person, generous with her time, witty, articulate, attractive to all ages, and genuinely a lover of people. Her magnetic personality drew people to her, while her great sense of humor often saved potentially embarrassing or awkward situations. Peg always wanted to share with others her experiences and her knowledge because she wanted to give to others the world and all its exciting wonders. But she was also an excellent listener, encouraging others to talk about themselves, their hopes, dreams, jobs, joys or sorrows. She always felt that others could help her to be more understanding and more useful in her work. She was a great raconteur and remarkably gifted in the choice and use of words. With such tools and with her own enthusiasm for the subject matter of her concern, she was able to arouse in her students, colleagues, or audiences, and interest and a stimulation to think for themselves and a desire to learn more.

Peg knew her subject matter well whether she was teaching Shakespeare or working out personnel problems or recommending changes in curriculum. She was absolute in her demand for excellence in all educational areas. While Peg was always interested in questions and responses from her various audiences, she could not abide sloppy thinking or anything approaching pretentiousness. She did not "suffer fools gladly," especially in the fields of academe. She was quick to ascertain phoniness in student or colleague, at times using very colorful language to express disgust-or pity, for Peg was always a compassionate person.

One of her strong attributes was her general education. She was appreciated the world and life around her. She was very aware of events, people, and facts outside her own academic discipline of English literature and the world of Bakersfield College.

Another of Miss Levinson's great strengths was that she was happy in her work. She enjoyed the daily challenges. She enjoyed the people with whom she worked and was an inspiration to them. (For some very fortunate individuals, she also served as mentor.) Whether they were students or were professional colleagues, or were members of the clerical staff, or were employees of the college maintenance department, Peg knew them as friends. These many friends have made possible a Bakersfield College Foundation fund in Miss Levinson's honor. In accordance with her wishes, this fund is to be used for an annual Bakersfield College faculty leadership award.