

Death of Lena Lake Forrest . . .

Mrs. Lena Lake Forrest, second President of the National Federation and first President of the Michigan Federation, died in Chelsea, Michigan on May 8, a few days before the Michigan convention.

A memorial service was held on Sunday, May 20, by the convention assembly in Detroit. Private funeral services were held in Detroit on May 10, and burial was in Saginaw.

The Michigan Federation, founded in 1918, antedated the national organization by one year. Mrs. Forrest, as a past state president, was able to bring unusual experience and practical ability to the young National Federation during her three terms as president, 1920-23. Elected at the St. Paul Convention, she was re-elected at two succeeding annual conventions, one of which, in Cleveland, saw the choosing of the Federation emblem, Nike.

Mrs. Forrest was known to the entire Federation as well as to beneficiaries of the Fellowship bearing her name, which was established in 1923 when she became Honorary President of the National Federation for life. Her thoughts were with the Federation up to the last of her life. In the following letter to President Rawalt, dated April 18, 1956, she wrote:

"I received your invitation to attend the 13th Biennial Convention, and much to my regret, I am unable to attend. I have been ill the last few weeks, and therefore I am unable to travel. My thoughts will be with you at the time of the convention."

The August 1920 *INDEPENDENT WOMAN* said of the new National President that she was the "personification of the creed that the 'woman who has arrived' in business should be a big sister to the younger girls. No young woman ever seeks an interview or advice in vain. Her cordial manner and willingness to let the other woman have her chance are two of the biggest assets she is bringing to her new office."

The article in the organization's official magazine goes on to say that Mrs. Forrest had been associated for years with her husband in his work as a member of

the Michigan Board of Corrections and Charities, and upon his death, she accepted an executive position at the Michigan Industrial Home for Girls. Later she became connected with the Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company and at the time of her election as National President she had become one of the leading women underwriters in the country.

Mrs. Forrest had served two terms as president of the Detroit Women's Clubs and was serving her third term as president of the Michigan Federation of BPW Clubs when she was elected to the highest national office of this organization.



Mrs. Lena Lake Forrest will long be remembered for the Fellowship Fund established in 1923

Called the "first business woman" of the land, Mrs. Forrest was paid high tribute by *INDEPENDENT WOMAN*, which said she had a dignity and poise "which assure the Federation of a splendid presiding officer." She was quoted as saying, "This is not a one-woman job. It is unity of effort within and without the Federation that will count."

Another article, in the December 1923 issue of *INDEPENDENT WOMAN*, was written by Mrs. Forrest on her favorite subject, Scholarship Funds. Characteristically, she pointed out that such a fund should be handled in the most business-like way, "always with the idea of conserving the interests of the girl, never in any way allowing a tinge of

charity to touch that fund."

She wrote that she had been attending a recent exhibit of women's activities in New York, in which the women manned their own booths, showing to the world what had been accomplished in the last 50 years.

"I am wondering," she said, "just how much the business women of this country are willing to sacrifice that the women who are to follow us shall bring the right preparation for their work in the business world."

She concluded by saying, "Let us as women learn to forget self and work for a great cause," and by quoting these four lines:

*"A larger world
A keener mind*

*A farther goal
A richer soul."*