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TUCKER, HELEN
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Personality Profile Of The Week

Mrs. Helen Tucker

Although "Voice of Women" is a household phrase across Canada, and in other countries, many of us may not realize that the co-founder and past president lives among us.

Helen Tucker moved here from the United States in 1939, when her husband, who is a designer was commissioned to do special work for the royal visit that year. Helen says that, "one must constantly try new things, move on, extend oneself and tackle new problems." Certainly this has been the story of her own life. Helen was born in Texas but grew up on an Oklahoma wheat farm, where her Scottish grandfather probably influenced her future way of life, he had the good Scottish respect for education and being a forward thinking person was insistent that education included the women in the family. So that from an early age Helen was aware of an outside world she needed to know about.

This need to know about the world took deeper root at the University of Michigan, where Helen earned her B.A. Dr. J. R. Hayden, an exchange professor in political science interested her in international affairs clubs on the campus. Her interest in international affairs has of course continued, as this is being written Helen is in Europe as part of a women's travel team, of International Co-operation Year. Helen is chairman of "Women's International Liaison Committee for International Co-operation Year" the honorary chairman is Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit of India. The team left Vancouver, April 25, they will go first to Japan where meetings have been arranged to discuss the role of women in search of peace, they will also visit the Family Planning Centre and the Women's Bureau of the Labour Ministry, they will assist at the inauguration of Voice of Women of Japan.

In India the women will visit two ICY projects the "Peaceful World for Children Centres" in Hyderabad, New Delhi and Jaipur, and the Canada-Mysore project, a food preservation program, directed by Dr. W. J. Gall of Oakville, Ontario.

In previous years Helen has led U.N.A. and Unesco missions to Jamaica, Mexico, Japan and Africa. Helen was founder of the Peel County Branch of the U.N.A.

Hostessing the dances held at Clarke Hall during the war Helen found herself becoming a one woman accommodation committee, as the workers at the small arms factory were in dire need of local housing. In looking for other people to help her with this Helen sparked what was soon to become the present "Y" on Lakeshore Road in New Toronto. One of the "Y" clubs, the SO-ED, owes its format to the handbook written by Helen. This was written to guide young people in activities of the mind and spirit, learning while doing, is the gist of the book. Helen was a member of the Y.W.C.A. world Fellowship from 1944 to 1950.

From 1950 until 1955 Helen was chairman of the Cloverleaf Community Group, and although she doesn't say so probably she spearheaded the founding of this group, teaching dancing to children with records in the basement of the Queen Elizabeth school. From 1947 until 1957 Helen was a member of the Canadian Council of Christians and Jews and recently was selected woman of the year by B'r'n B'rith.

Helen is a special lecturer at the University of Toronto, in oral expression and speech communications, for the school of Architecture, School of Engineering, Faculty of Dentistry and courses conducted by the Extension Department for business and professional people, as well

as the Metropolitan Toronto Police. Helen is a dynamic person who plays a brilliant game of tennis and is a much sought after square dancing partner, she also wears some of the gayest hats in the county.

Helen is sure that in organizations such as the "Voice of Women" and the Conference of Women for International Co-Operation Year, it is possible to reach women's minds to forward peace with faith and confidence and without hate.

