

CARYL E. CUDDEBACK - A TRIBUTE

*"The tapestry of life's story is woven
with the threads of life's ties ever
joining and breaking." . . . Tagore*

All of the valued overtones of human relations arise from the kinship of life's ties. Howard Thurman has said, "To understand another human being even dimly is to bring to a point of focus an Infinite Resource". This enrichment of spirit was experienced by all who knew Caryl. Her tolerant and deep insight into human nature expressed in a quiet, but vibrant manner, brought an ever joyous, balanced quality to her association with people.

Caryl was a native Californian, claiming Chico as her birthplace, and living in the East Bay Area the greater part of her life. She came from a family of educators. Her father is a former principal of the Franklin Elementary School of Berkeley, a position he held for many years, and her mother is also a former Berkeley teacher. It was here too that Caryl received the greater part of her formal education. She was a graduate of University High School, Oakland, and she earned the degrees of Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts at the University of California, Berkeley.

Early in her educational career she evidenced a keen interest in dance in all its phases, contemporary dance including its theoretical and practical aspects; ethnic and social dance. She went on to become a memorable leader and teacher in this field, particularly as it relates to education.

Dance as a performing art she studied at the Bennington School of the Dance in Vermont, and in many special workshops and master classes with leading dance artists in the United States, and with Mary Wigman in 1938, in Dresden, Germany. She will be remembered as a performing member in the May O'Donnell workshop at the University of California, summer of 1960. What a joy it was to see Caryl dance! Her movement was superb whether she was on the concert stage; performing an ethnic dance, waltz or tango, or demonstrating a technique for a class.



It was the art of teaching that stood at the center of her dance interests and toward which her major energies were directed. The educational institutions of Oakland that were fortunate to have her on their teaching staffs were University, Oakland and Fremont High Schools and the Oakland City College where she

was last engaged. She taught in many Summer Sessions and Extension Division classes of the University of California, Berkeley, as well as at the Folk Dance Camp of the University of the Pacific at Stockton. Her devoted teaching service covered a period of thirty-five years. Her expert knowledge, scope of understanding, warmth and friendliness inspired not only her host of students, but her colleagues as well.

To the many professional organizations to which she belonged she gave most generously of herself in the way of holding office, presenting workshops, giving demonstrations and serving on panel discussions. Among the honors she received was election to Delta Kappa Gamma, the international honor society for women in education, followed by election to the presidency of the Delta Zeta Chapter in 1962-1963.

She had great enthusiasm for the Folk Dance Federation of California, serving in its Teacher Training Programs and enjoying to the fullest its festivals and club activities. Her knowledge and performance of the folk dance was enhanced by her contact with folk dance groups while traveling in England, Scandinavia, Germany and Czechoslovakia in 1938.

Caryl was beloved by countless students, colleagues and scores of friends and associates. Great is her loss to the dance world, not only locally, but nationally. Her contributions, however, are so marked and

lasting that they will live on continuing to fulfill their purpose.

* * * * *

The Caryl Cuddeback Fund for Dance in Education has been established. Information regarding it may be obtained from Mrs. Astrid Lewis, Supervisor of Physical Education for Girls, Oakland Public Schools, 1025 Second Avenue, Oakland, California.

The fund will be used to prepare for use Caryl's nearly completed film on dance, and to enlarge and perpetuate her dance library which she bequeathed to the Oakland Public Schools.

. Lucile K. Czarnowski

