

## CHAPTER 4: DR. RUTH HOEFLIN AS DEAN

### Home Economics from 1975 to 1983

*In this chapter, most excerpts were taken from Ruth Hoeflin's book, History of a College: From Woman's Course to Home Economics to Human Ecology. Therefore, these are her recollections and are printed with her permission.*



Dean Doretta Hoffman and Associate Dean Ruth Hoeflin

Associate Dean Ruth Hoeflin served as acting dean during the search for Dean Hoffman's replacement. After interviewing several other candidates, Dr. Hoeflin was encouraged to be a candidate for the position. On February 1, 1975, she was selected as the third dean of the College of Human Ecology in 51 years, as Dean Justin served 31 years and Dean Hoffman for 20 years.

Dean Hoeflin was born in Fort Dodge, Iowa, and attended Iowa State University majoring in Child Development. In 1940, she received her Bachelor of Science from Iowa State University. Her first professional position was in the Detroit area running a nursery school for gifted children. She then became the recreation director for delinquents in the Children's Village of the Methodist Children's Home Society, after being their camp program director in Cheboygan, Michigan, during the summer of 1942. In the midst of World War II, she developed two Lanham Act Nursery Schools. The opportunity then arose for her to be the head nursery school teacher at The Merrill Palmer Institute, a

prestigious school that attracted college students from across the country.

Dean Hoeflin earned the M.A. degree from the University of Michigan in 1945. Meanwhile, she taught two summer sessions at Ohio State University, spent a year as an assistant professor at Oklahoma A&M College, and was invited to return to Ohio State to become a full-time instructor and work on her doctoral degree in 1947. When she completed her Ph.D. in December 1950, she continued teaching and directing the university's preschool program.

In 1948, she attended the first meeting of what would become the North Central Regional Family Life Committee. She served as the Ohio representative and became well acquainted with Leone Kell, the representative of Kansas. Together they developed a new technique for gathering information from students and parents. They wrote a *Child Development Monograph* called the "Kell-Hoeflin Incomplete Sentence Blank." As a result of these contacts, Mrs. Kell nominated Dean Hoeflin as a potential head for the Department of Family and Child Development at Kansas State University in 1956.

Dr. Hoeflin came to Kansas State College for an interview in August 1956, but initially declined the position. A year later, she accepted the position as head of the Department of Family and Child Development. One of her first assignments from Dean Hoffman was to investigate the possibility of starting an honors program for Home Economics students. The College of Arts and Sciences initiated an honors program in 1957 and Home Economics developed a program in 1958, beginning with six students in its first year. Dr. Hoeflin took over leadership of the Home Economics and Nursing Program in 1959. She made many speeches on topics related to parenting and teen marriages, and predicted that there would be an increase in the number of women who would be

working outside of the home.

The *Collegian* heading from December 1960 was, "Writing Poetry, Textbooks Keeps Associate Dean Busy." The article described how Dr. Hoeflin had two jobs - Associate Dean of the college and acting head of the Department of Family and Child Development. As head, she was in charge of the Home Economics and Nursing Program, the Child Development Laboratory, and research and teaching programs. As Associate Dean, she was the coordinator of the Home Economics Honors program and advisor for graduate and undergraduate students. She had conferences with new and prospective students along with monitoring graduation requirements for seniors. Her 1960 textbook, *Essentials of Family Living*, was used for the introductory course in Family and Personal Living. The article concluded by describing her hobby of mimeographing her letters in four-line poetry.

Dean Hoeflin came in contact with almost all Home Economic students by teaching the Introduction to Home Economics freshman orientation class and the required senior seminar course. Students often asked her to write recommendation letters and met with her for personal conferences.



In her spare time, Dean Hoeflin designed and created her own Christmas cards and mailed her Christmas letter in July for many years. This practice was started when she was very busy as

dean and had little time to indulge in Christmas writing in December, but found time on her summer vacation in the Colorado Mountains. At Christmas time, she had her annual dessert party for faculty and students, displaying her collection of more than 550 angels on several Christmas trees. The College of Human Ecology today houses the angel collection and periodically displays them during the holiday season.

### **Education Professions Development Act Fellowship Program**

Throughout her career, Dean Hoeflin was dedicated to educating women and ensuring that they were prepared for success in their professional and personal lives. A series of grants awarded to the College of Home Economics at Kansas State University helped Dean Hoeflin leave a legacy of opportunity for female transfer students and graduate students.

Dean Hoeflin served as director of the Education Professions Development Act Fellowship (EPDA) Program from 1969-1974. The project was funded by a grant of \$342,200. During this period, 52 women completed their Master's degrees after gaining teaching experience at Kansas State University and in the surrounding community colleges. This was the only EPDA program in the U.S. with a 'perfect' record of completion. The first of four Education Professions Development Act (EPDA) Grants were received in the fall of 1969, providing funding for 10 Home Economics fellowships for students interested in becoming (community) college Home Economics teachers. Each fellow received a stipend of \$2,400 for the first 12-month period, \$2,600 for the second 12-month period, and an additional allowance of \$2,500 per fellow paid to Kansas State University. As a group, the EPDA students visited each of the 11 cooperating community colleges in Kansas, and then taught in one, two, or three of the colleges to gain experience. Each of the EPDA Fellows helped with the Home Economics orientation course, advised 30 freshmen, and helped teach a class or conduct a laboratory.

The EPDA Fellows made important contributions to the community colleges as they

taught courses, participated in community activities, and presented programs. Many of them accepted college positions in two and four-year universities when they graduated. Some started their own businesses and others completed doctoral degrees. Dean Hoeflin's 1983-1984 sabbatical leave was used to interview as many of the former EPDA students as possible for a study. She interviewed 33 of the fellows and 20 of their husbands. Those EPDA fellows Dean Hoeflin couldn't personally interview completed questionnaires were also accounted for in the study. A Kansas Agricultural Experiment Station Bulletin based on the study, *Life Patterns of Educated Women*, was co-authored by Ruth Hoeflin and Nancy Bolsen, a graduate research assistant in 1985.

### **Academic Excellence and Innovation**

When Dr. Ruth Hoeflin was appointed as dean in 1975, two of her primary objectives were to have the college accredited by the American Home Economics Association and to enroll more adult undergraduate students. Once she was formally appointed as dean, the self-study and preparation of materials to submit for AHEA accreditation began. In the spring 1976, the college submitted the self-study accreditation report. The site visit evaluation was completed in October 1976 and accreditation was granted by the American Home Economics Association on April 22, 1977.

A high priority in 1975 was to strengthen the instructional areas of Textile Science, Adult Development, Housing, Consumer Economics, Financial Counseling, Sensory Evaluation of Foods, Community Nutrition, Restaurant Management, and Child Care. Research areas were to be enhanced and included Textile Science, Community Nutrition, Housing, and Family Economics. Programs to be expanded were Early Childhood Education, Home Management, Historic Costume, and Household Equipment. Department heads identified personnel needs, funding required for equipment and supplies, and recommendations for building or renovating facilities.

Foods and Nutrition had the first doctoral program in the college and had awarded its first

Ph. D. in 1952. As a result of the dedication and work of the Home Economics graduate faculty, the Kansas Board of Regents gave approval for the Ph. D. in Home Economics at Kansas State University in March 1975. The first graduate student was admitted in July 1975 and the first Ph.D. in Home Economics at Kansas State University was granted in October 1977.

A Long Range Planning Committee was formed in 1976. Their discussions focused on alumni relations; curriculum and outreach, including off campus courses; lifetime education; interdisciplinary cooperation; professional development and recognition of faculty for teaching and grantsmanship; placement of majors; career days and identification of markets for jobs; student recruitment and relations; ways to attract and retain freshmen, male students, graduate students, and transfer students; and finally, public relations and professional image. Upon committee recommendation, the Distinguished Alumni Award was reactivated and a goal was set to change the stereotype of female professors in Home Economics by increasing the number of male professors.

A focus on off-campus courses began in 1978, with Clothing Construction and Fabric Treatment taught in Lawrence and Topeka, Family Life Education in Wichita, Consumer Law in Lawrence, Advances in Nutrition in Topeka, and Child Food Practices and Nutrition in Manhattan. Also, a "Dual-degree Project" was initiated in 1978 with 16 independent Kansas colleges. The plan was for students to attend their own colleges for two and a half years, come to Kansas State University for one year to take selected laboratory and advanced courses, and then return to their own school for their final semester. Dean Hoeflin taught the first Home Economics Telenet course at Kansas State University to demonstrate the new method for reaching more graduate students across Kansas. Dean Hoeflin and Dean Hoffman later taught several Telenet courses on trends and issues, as well as current research in Home Economics.

In the fall of 1980, during the preparation of the North Central Accreditation Report, all faculty

members completed a goals survey. Two ideas for redirection of the college were to study the feasibility of a name change and to improve research facilities. Dean Hoeflin convened a Goals Committee in 1982 that was based on work done by the Long Range Planning Committee reports written for the North Central Association Accreditation review of Kansas State University... Their task was to make recommendations to benefit the College of Home Economics, including a possible merger of Home Economics Extension with college programs and faculty. Each subcommittee completed reports for the incoming dean, Dr. Barbara S. Stowe, upon her arrival in October 1983.

One outcome of the Goals Committee was a change in degree designation, allowing for department designated degrees to be used instead of the general B.S. in Home Economics. Six areas of concern were identified and became the focus for committees. The areas were Curriculum/Core; Consideration of Name Change; Integration of Extension and College; Management; Communication/Organization; Mission; and Quality: Teaching/Students Research Programs. In 1983, the focus committees prepared reports for the incoming dean. They planned "a new faculty organization to keep the faculty better informed on college issues and to give Dean Stowe faculty wisdom and input" (Hoeflin, 1988, p. 188).

Dean Hoeflin organized the Kansas State University Home Economics Alumni Association in 1981, with the help of two alumni, Nancy Knopp and Martha Cornwell. That same year, she was part of a consultant team of Kansas State University administrators to discuss Home Economics programs for two emerging colleges in Nigeria. She also visited Ahmadu Bello University at Zaria where several Kansas State University Home Economics graduates working.

### **The Family Forums**

When **Dr. Gail Imig** accepted the position of Assistant Director of Extension for Quality of Living Programs in October of 1976, Dean Hoeflin was eager to build cooperative

relationships between Home Economics extension and academic programs. Faculty members in the Department of Family and Child Development (F&CD) and the Family Life staff member in Home Economics Extension gathered ideas on ways to reach out to Kansas families who were facing problems and wanted help in finding solutions.



Dean Ruth Hoeflin and Dr. Gail Imig

In January 1977, Representative Wolff of the 95th Congress proposed a White House Conference on the American Family. Dr. Ken Kennedy of F&CD, incoming president of the Kansas Council on Children and Youth (KCCY), recommended notifying the governor of the coming White House Conference. A letter was sent and an official visit was made to Governor Robert F. Bennett to alert him of the White House Conference.

During this time, Dr. Imig and Dean Hoeflin planned presentations throughout the state on family issues. Work over the next two years focused on preparation for the forums, determination of agencies to be contacted, creation of a schedule for the forums that

involved county home economists, and a plan for how these events would lead to a family life conference in Kansas. More than 100 respondents expressed interest in cooperating with Kansas State University.

### **Family as an Ecosystem**

A committee developed a conceptual basis for the forum process, determined issues facing families, and explored these from an integrated perspective. This perspective became the basis for future discussions.

In August of 1977, Dr. Beatrice Paolucci, professor of Family Ecology at Michigan State University, came to Kansas State University to speak on "The American Family Today." She stated,

"Families have the power to shape social change, despite the popular view that they are merely victims of what takes place in society. The direction of change is determined by the values society holds, but the family is regarded as the principal setting in which individual values, skills and the discipline required for effectively functioning in the larger world are shaped ... Families often feel powerless to change society. Nevertheless, what's happening in families today is shaping the future" (Hoeflin, 1988, p. 181).

Her remarks set the stage for a faculty workshop. In October 1977, Dean Hoeflin and Dr. Imig met with agency representatives who had responded to the invitation to discuss family issues.

At the 1977 annual extension conference, Dr. Imig shared plans for the forums and at the December workshop for extension home economists, planning for the forums was completed and leaders from counties were invited. Gail Imig and Dean Hoeflin were in Topeka on December 1977 when Governor Robert Bennett signed the Proclamation designating 1978 as the "Year of the Family."

### **The Area Forums**

In February and March of 1978, area forums were held at locations determined by extension faculty. The area forums brought together 8 to 10 representatives from each of 9 or 10 surrounding counties. Locations included Dodge City, Hays, Colby, Garden City, Salina, Wichita, Emporia, Kansas City, Chanute, Topeka, and Clay Center. The goals of area meetings were to study ways to facilitate forums in respective cities across the state and to determine questions to ask. Leaders described the different forms of current families, the problems and concerns of children and adults, and the positive and negative aspects of current family situations.

Dr. Imig and Dean Hoeflin set the stage with opening remarks and a brief dialogue. The next step was to involve the group in the need identification process. Participants responded in terms of their family roles - single, married, age of children, grandparents, and even great grandparents. A multitude of family concerns were identified at forum meetings and priorities began to surface. Throughout Kansas, family members were concerned about family values and the need for family members to support and communicate with each other. Outside activities and economic pressure pulled at family unity. Families faced a need for quality supervision for children, especially in single families or in those where both parents work. Also, teen pregnancy, family stress, use of alcohol, and loneliness felt by both elderly and single persons emerged as concerns at each forum. By the end of March 1978, Dr. Imig and Dean Hoeflin had covered over 3,000 miles and met with over 1,200 individuals representing every group and agency that had interest in the family during this time.

### **County Forums**

County activities began in the summer of 1978. Some examples follow: In one county, family became the theme for their spring parade and fair; In another, an 18-member Family Resource Council completed a directory of resources and planned a series of feature articles on families; One other county had a Stress Management Workshop that attracted over 100 persons interested in learning to cope with stress in family relations and work situations. Atchison

County recalled having a Family Awareness Week and several other counties reported having forums about families and their needs.

### **The State Conference**

In March of 1978, a committee was formed to plan a state "Conference on the Family." Representatives were from Home Economics Extension, 4-H, and college faculty, and events were coordinated so that 4-H members could participate in the programs. The Kansas Conference on the Family began on June 6, 1979, at the Kansas State University campus. From the opening remarks of Dr. Duane Acker, President of Kansas State University; Mrs. John Carlin, wife of the Governor; and Mr. James Guy Tucker, Chairman of the White House Conference on the Family, to the final talk by Dr. Michael Novak, resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute, the program was a huge success. Over 500 participants attended and were involved in issue discussion groups.

The final six major issues that had emerged from the family forums and that became the central themes for the conference were:

- Changing Family Structures;
- Family Coping with Stress, Drugs, & Alcohol;
- Changes during the Life Cycle;
- Management of Material Resources;
- Value Formation-Decision Making; and
- Interdependence of Family and Community.

Exhibits, presentations, and displays featured Kansas organizations and agencies working with some aspect of the family. The conference members had the opportunity to learn about the different functions of the agencies and how they helped families. The closing session began with a showcase of county projects. Dr. Imig, Dean Hoeflin, and the faculty committees were pleased with the result of the two-year effort on finding ways to assist families in Kansas.

### **Home Economics Alumni Association**

In a 1977 survey, alumni were asked about the desirability of having an alumni association for home economists. The overwhelming response was in favor of forming a Kansas State Home Economics alumni organization. In the Spring

1979 "Highlights", the Home Economics alumni newsletter, alumni were asked to respond to a short questionnaire as to their interest in specific events for the May 18-19 weekend. Almost 3,000 home economics graduates who had current memberships in the Kansas State University Alumni Association learned that they would automatically become members of the Home Economics Alumni Association.

The Winter 1980 "Highlights," provided a description of the "Tapestry of Life" student-faculty-alumni banquet and Home Economics Alumni charter meeting in April 1980. Alumni were encouraged to pay Kansas State University Alumni Association dues in order to receive a certificate proclaiming charter membership in the Home Economics Alumni Association. Ratification of the charter made the organization official. Plans were made for an alumni meeting in October 1981, concurrent with Career Day for high school students. Alumni were urged to bring prospective students.



### **Honors, Awards, and Leadership Roles**

In 1971, Ohio State University honored Dean Hoeflin with the Home Economics Alumni Award during their 75<sup>th</sup> Diamond Anniversary celebration, and Iowa State University honored her with a Home Economics Centennial Award. She held the offices of secretary, vice-president, and president of Phi Kappa Phi from 1962-1968. Dean Hoeflin was selected as a National Honorary Member of Phi Delta Gamma Honor Society in 1982. She was a Cecil and Ida Green

honors visiting professor and consultant for the Home Economics program at Texas Christian College for a week in 1983.

Dean Hoeflin was the first female member of the Board of Directors of the Manhattan Chamber of Commerce. She served as secretary of the National Council on Family Relations and later was a member of the executive board. It was an honor for her to be selected as chair of the North Central Home Economics Administrators, then as chair-elect and chair of the Association of Administrators of Home Economics from 1971-1974. Dean Hoeflin was able to provide leadership in a different way by being involved with the 1960 and 1970 White House Conferences on Children and Youth. In 1979-80, she served on Governor John Carlin's steering committee for the 1980 White House Conference on Families. That same year, Dean Hoeflin was a leader at the Kansas Conference on the Family in Wichita. Earlier, Dean Hoeflin provided leadership for the 1960 and 1970 White House Conferences on Children and Youth.

Dean Hoeflin earned recognition as a state, national, and international leader in the Home Economics profession. She served on the Executive Board of Ohio Home Economics Association for 10 years and on the Kansas Home Economics Association (KHEA) Board for 20 years. She served as President-elect and President of the Kansas Home Economics Association from 1974-1976. Dean Hoeflin, known as an enthusiastic and inspiring presenter, participated in the KHEA state meetings annually.

Dean Hoeflin served as chairman of the American Home Economics Association (AHEA) Board of Directors (Higher Education) Agency Member Unit from 1973-1974, and became the president-elect of AHEA from 1980-1982. Dean Hoeflin became president at a time when AHEA was experiencing a reduction in membership and consequently, serious financial issues. As AHEA president, Dean Hoeflin was instrumental in resolving the budget situation by achieving major reductions in expenditures. At this challenging time for AHEA, Dean Hoeflin

kept the spirits of members high with the "rainbow" theme.

When Deab Hoeflin began her service as AHEA president, a VIP luncheon to introduce the new president was held. In the past, the new president had been introduced as part of the Pacesetter Banquet, but Dean Hoeflin decided to make an impact on the audience. By using bright colored felt banners to represent the "rainbow" theme, she explained how red stood for recruiting, blue represented first-class organization, and green was for a growing profession. The rainbow theme followed in articles she authored for each issue of *AHEA Action*, the association's news publication. She waived the red banner three times to emphasize the need for AHEA to make "Revisions" and to initiate "Reduction" after making plans for "Redirection." Yellow stood for "You," and the importance of each member in the audience. During this time, she spoke on behalf of AHEA at state conventions in Alaska, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oregon, and in Kansas. Hoeflin was a member or chairman of many AHEA committees and spoke at several national meetings of AHEA over the years. She remained active as a leader in the Past Presidents' group of AHEA until her health prevented her from traveling to the national meetings.

Dean Hoeflin contributed to Kansas State University by establishing a Hoeflin Scholarship Fund for transfer students, and became a member of the Kansas State University President's Club. At the time that she stepped down from the deanship, the Ruth Hoeflin Forum was started in her name. Funds were used to bring an outstanding speaker to the campus annually for the forum to talk about a contemporary issues related to Home Economics. Dean Hoeflin was pleased to learn that the child care center was to be named the Hoeflin Stone House Child Care Center in her honor. She and the vice president of academic affairs, Dr. John Chalmers, were instrumental in renovating the old poultry "Stone House", to create a beautiful and workable Early Childhood Education Center.

### **A Festive Retirement Celebration**

Dean Hoeflin served as dean and associate director of the Agriculture Experiment Station until age 65, when she took mandatory retirement from the deanship. From 1983-1988, she continued to work part-time as the director of *Fenix*, the adult undergraduate students' program for the entire campus, and part-time in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies, teaching and writing the history of Home Economics at Kansas State University. She retired at age 70 in May of 1988.

In 1983, Associate Dean Elnora Huyck and a faculty committee planned special events to honor Dean Hoeflin at the time that she retired from the position of Dean of the College of Home Economics. Letters to alumni requested contributions to establish the Ruth Hoeflin Forum on Family Issues, a fund designated for support of an annual interdisciplinary presentation related to family issues.

The first Ruth Hoeflin Forum on Family Issues was held in April 1983 during Dean Hoeflin's retirement celebration. Nancy Dolton, Manager of Consumer Information and Education for the Clorox Company and President of the American Home Economics Association, spoke about "Taking Charge of Change." The program was called the "Hoeflin Celebration Banquet" with the theme "Over the Rainbow" in honor of her retirement as dean.

During the 1983, Dean Hoeflin retirement celebration, Representative Joe Knopp, 67th Legislative District of Kansas, presented a plaque from the Kansas House of Representatives and a Home Economics student senator gave a plaque from the Student Governing Association. Dean Hoeflin's nephew, Ken Bothell, presented her with a glass sculpture that he had designed to be signed by guests. Faculty presented an oil painting by the Kansas State University artist, Oscar Larmar, which featured the Stone House Child Care Center.

The biggest surprise for Dean Hoeflin was when President Duane Acker announced that the Child Care Center was to be named the Ruth Hoeflin Stone House Child Care Center in recognition of

the work Dean Hoeflin and Vice President John Chalmers did to transform the old limestone farm house into an excellent facility. The final presentation was a portrait of Dean Hoeflin to be hung in the Stone House entry.

The next day, guests attended a coffee and reception in Justin Hall, where posters of highlights in Dean Hoeflin's life and career were on display. Dean Hoeflin received a book of letters from personal and professional friends as well as cards and letters from many of the students in her Education Profession Development Act (EPDA) project.

Dean Hoeflin was honored with a book of rainbow pictures drawn by Stone House Child Care Center children. The President of the Home Economics Club read a rainbow poem and faculty narrated a "rainbow script" with drawings depicting Hoeflin's 25 years at Kansas State University. "Farewell -- but not Goodbye" was the story of Dean Hoeflin's experiences in the May 1983 *K-Stater*. Some of the words the people interviewed used to describe her were vivacious, high energy, hardworking, compassionate, witty, and a dynamo.



Christmas in August 1975  
(My annual early letter)

Dear Friends around the country and world:

My usual August Christmas letter can't be the same this year because of unusual circumstances. Two events have occurred in the last six months that will change my life forever. The most recent was the death of Doretta Hoffman on July 12<sup>th</sup>. She was my "boss" for 17 years, dean of our college for 20 years. She only stepped down from the deanship last October 1<sup>st</sup> when her health would not permit her to continue. She found that she had to be on oxygen eighteen hours a day. All year her remarkable courage and perseverance have set an example for all those around her. The last few months she became weaker; about two months she began to do some of those "last" things as though she knew there wasn't much time left. Fortunately for us and for her, she was able to have the colored photograph taken in her brilliant red Ph.D. Cornell gown for the oil portrait her friends will place in her honor in Justin Lounge. The last weekend before she went to K-U Medical Center, I spent most of the time in her bedroom with furniture books and carpet samples surrounding her while she made the final selection of furniture and accessories for the future Hoffman lounge. Her students since she became dean in 1954 had a surprise award for her at our Centennial in 1973 and established a Hoffman Recognition Fund. I hope this will continue to grow so that we can furnish the lounge that will be named for her in the way she would have wished. Fortunately she was only in the hospital a little over a week, in intensive care six days, so that her suffering wasn't too great.

... The week after her death on the 12<sup>th</sup> was completely chaotic - final arrangements to be made, relatives and visitors, home economics friends and neighbors who brought in food, the kindness of everyone - she would have liked the excitement and the genuine expression of love for her. Somehow life has to go on and I shall miss her; in fact I still find myself jotting down ideas to tell her the next time she phones!

The other event occurred on February 6<sup>th</sup> when I was made Dean of the College of Home Economics at KSU. We have an enrollment in home economics of over 1700 students, a faculty of over 100 and the expectation of an exciting future if we put our heads together and keep ahead of the times. Accountability, inflation, recruitment, relevance, unemployment - all of these things are happening so I need all the time for dreaming and acting that is possible. Of course we have been searching for an associate dean to help me, but no luck. For a year I've been doing two jobs and using other kinds of help - all good but not quite the same. This past week I've appointed Mary Don Peterson, one of our Clothing and Textiles faculty members who has just completed her doctorate in Oklahoma to serve as "acting assistant dean". I already feel relieved now, perhaps, instead of just keeping up, I can move ahead with future plans for the college.

I won't bore you with all the details of emergencies of last fall when we didn't think Doretta would live on Labor Day, of the Search Committee looking for a dean, of my trying to locate my old vita sheet so I could bring it up to date so I could apply elsewhere - in case the new dean didn't like me. Life can become exciting, as when I realized that I could have a choice of several universities where deans were needed and at least I was high on the list of those few where I actually applied. That made me feel pretty good in this day and age and considering all my years...

I do hope your summer has been delightful and not as hot and muggy as ours. Let's hope cooler weather is coming. I plan to be in the mountains for about two weeks so please write me QUICK. I probably will be leaving on either the 14<sup>th</sup> or the 15<sup>th</sup>, since I know there will be lots of work waiting for me before our first faculty meeting August 20<sup>th</sup>. Vacation time becomes shorter year after year.

Happy summertime; Merry Christmas; and the best of fall to all of you from your very strange friend who never likes to celebrate events at the regular time.

As ever,  
Ruth