



HISTORICAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Valley of the Giants—

Marianna Thomas

(Mrs. Lowell Thomas)

From the prestigious International Platform Association, on whose board Marianna Thomas is a member, she once received a silver bowl inscribed, "For Having Captured The Greatest Adventurer of Them All."

From life on a family farm in Darke County, Ohio, where she raised purebred cattle and drove a tractor—to directing the fund-raising for a children's social service in the Near East—to meeting and entertaining scions of power around the world—and much in between—Mrs. Thomas has led an amazing life of both adventure and accomplishment.

Mrs. Thomas' intense concern for peace in the world led her to her work in Jerusalem where Moslems, Christians and Jews cooperatively administered a social service for mothers and children. In that capacity she did fund-raising around the world. In 1970 she traveled to Vietnam alone to see the war for herself, and interviewed women around the world to learn what role women might have in achieving a more peaceful planet.

Before the "opening" of China, Marianna and Lowell were guests of George and Barbara Bush on a trip throughout the length and breadth of China and into Tibet. They were accompanied by former Secretary of State James Baker; columnist David Broder; Ambassador James Lilley and Bush's business partner, Hugh Leidke.

In New York, Mrs. Thomas was an active member on the national boards of Family Service America; the legal organization, the American Judicature Society; and the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge. An "idea" person wherever she serves, it was Mrs. Thomas who inspired the writing of Freedom Foundation's "Bill of Responsibilities" for young people.

Returning to Dayton, where Mrs. Thomas was once a scholarship student at the

Dayton Art Institute, she founded "U.S. Civil Responsibilities," a group devoted to promoting character education in the schools based upon our system of civil law. A further concern of the group, which was provided to them by former teachers, was the teaching of phonics for better reading. Mrs. Thomas spoke to groups throughout the Miami Valley, promoting both character education and phonics, has written articles for Ohio newspapers, and has made contacts throughout the U.S. on these issues.

The "real" Mrs. Thomas, she believes, is a painter and a poet. She is currently working on a book which includes much of her poetry.

Marianna is an Engineers Club member, and the first of her gender to earn a place in our treasured Valley of the Giants.



L.T. and Marianna in Lhasa

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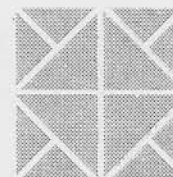
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