

1975

Lois (Thompson) Henderson

Class of 1940



Writer, lecturer, churchwoman, community servant and homemaker all describe Lois (Thompson) Henderson. She wrote and published two books, and had numerous short stories and articles published in *Reader's Digest*, *Redbook*, *Family Circle*, *Gateposts*, *Field and Stream* and more.

Henderson lived in Coraopolis, Pa., not far from the Harmonist settlement on which her second novel is based. After receiving her degree from Grove City, she married Albert J. Henderson. They were extremely active in the American Field Service and were charter members of the Pittsburgh Council for International Visitors. They opened their home to dozens of young people from many countries.

Their oldest son, David, is blind, and the Hendersons were very active in the field of educating others in this area. Lois organized a Parent-Teacher group at the School for Blind Children and served in many capacities there. In 1974, she was adviser in a pilot program, conducted by the producers of "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood" that could be used for the edification of blind children. As a lecturer, she spoke frequently at civic, community and church affairs, often speaking on the subject of how a blind child learns to live richly. This was the basis for her first book, *The Opening Doors*.

Henderson served as president of Church Women United in Coraopolis and taught an adult class for 22 years. She filled every office of the women's organization of the United Methodist Church and was an officer of the Pittsburgh District. She served four years as president of the Pittsburgh Poetry Society.

She passed away July 2, 1983.