

MEMORIAL TO EUDORA PETERSON HANKE

by Pearl E. Goeller

As one of the first three patronesses initiated by AT Chapter of SAI, and also in my administrative position on the faculty of Carthage College, I worked frequently closely with Eudora Peterson Hanke and came to know her intimately as a personal friend, an instructor, and an administrator.

Eudora Hanke, a graduate of Carthage College, and former head of the Voice Department of her Alma Mater, was actuated by a spirit of devotion to her work and felt a sense of responsibility to strive diligently to measure up to high standards of scholarship and to excel in her chosen area of culture. She felt the seriousness of the business in hand and did her utmost to uphold the honor and the fair name of the institution which she had learned to love. If Carlyle's remark that "the degree of vision that dwells in a man is the measure of the man" is true, it was equally true in Eudora's life and work. She achieved distinction in her calling.

Another quality in her life was singleness of purpose and intense application to the attainment of the contemplated goal. St. Paul expresses the idea when he says, "This one thing I do." The words of Charles Dickens are to this point. "Whatever I have tried to do in my life, I have tried with all my heart to do it well. What I devoted myself to I have devoted myself completely. Never to put one hand to anything on which I would not throw my whole self, and never to affect depreciation of my work, whatever it was, I find now to have been golden rules." These were Eudora's golden rules. We are proud of her praiseworthy record, a record worthy of emulation.

In 1928 was formed at C. C. an organization known as Omega Phi, a music sorority for musical development and the progress of music on the campus. After seven years of planning and study a dream was realized when AT Chapter of SAI was installed at C. C. in June, 1935, by the National President, Miss Gertrude Evans, with the initiation of Eudora, 18 college girls and professional alums, and two patronesses. The presence of our National President to perform the ritual of installation was a signal honor. Eudora Peterson Hanke was the dedicated, dynamic researcher and promoter who succeeded in gaining the approval of the faculty of C. C. and of the officers of the SAI National Professional Music Fraternity for women in music to consummate the founding of Alpha Tau at Carthage.

To indicate the value of Eudora's leadership and achievement, she was awarded the Ring of Excellence, the highest award possible, in 1937, only two years after AT was founded and chartered. As Acting Director of the Music Department, 1936-37, in the absence of her husband, the late Professor Elmer Hanke who was completing graduate work at the University of Iowa, Eudora directed the A Cappella Choir in Orchestra Hall, Chicago; the Choir broadcast over NBC also on that occasion. In 1937-38, under her guidance, AT was awarded honors for their scrapbook at the National Convention in Milwaukee. To further recognize her outstanding professionalism and productivity, AT was honored with the National College Achievement Award in 1949 and the Province Achievement Award in 1955 and in 1956.

When Walter Peterson, Eudora's brother-voice student, appeared before Madame Schumann-Heinck for an audition, the latter was so delighted and amazed with his performance that she remarked to him that he must have had a wonderful teacher, who was none other than Eudora Peterson Hanke. Mr. Peterson then went on tour with Madama Schumann-Heinck the following summer.

Many examples could be enumerated of her keen insight and ability to recognize and develop the hidden, latent talent of a potential, polished performer. She had tremendous success in producing a finished product musically.

Eudora's Alma Mater and SAI are proud of her career and breathe upon her today their devout benediction. She was dear to all of us with her lovely personality and our souls rise up within us to bless her who left us in 1959. We revere her precious memory.

Presented upon the Unveiling of her Oil Portrait at Epsilon A Province-State Day hosted by AT of SAI at Carthage College, Kenosha, Wisconsin, Saturday, April 28, 1973.