MURIEL LAURA FULLER

Born Holmen, Wisconsin, September 28, 1912;
Died Lake Pomona, Kansas, June 17, 1978.
REFLECTIONS ON MURIEL FULLER

By
Arthur S. Krival

Thank you, Charles, for the opportunity to say a few words about Muriel. Professor Fuller was my friend and colleague for about fifteen years in Extension, and I am very pleased to participate in the lecture series which memorializes her. From the time she joined us in 1963 until her retirement and her very active emeritus status, and her much too early death in 1978, I came to know her more and more, and to rely on her more and more for advice, guidance, and a kind of gentle tenacity that somehow got us through some very tricky spots. She was as busy during that brief retirement as she had been before. She taught an extension class for us in La Crosse; she planned several new projects for our department, things that she felt we really should do, that we might be remiss if we didn't, and that she was quite willing to do for us. And she was teaching again in Kansas at the time of her death. That kind of schedule was characteristic of Muriel. During the years I knew her she worked unceasingly in service to her profession, to improve library services in Wisconsin, to improve continuing education programs and opportunities for library personnel in the state, and to improve the status of librarians. Her work in advancing her profession is well known to members of the W.L.A., the A.L.A., the Adult Education Association, the national and state associations in which she held a number of offices.

I knew Muriel also as a very energetic worker on behalf of her extension colleagues, as a member of our Faculty Senate, as the president of the Extension Chapter and the Wisconsin Conference of the American Association of University Professors, as chairperson of our Library Science Department and as the first chairperson of a new and rather experimental, very slim Department of Communication in 1972-1973. That small department, which was molded originally out of
a very small group of a librarian, a journalist, a teacher of speech and a few oddly placed people, was a forerunner of today's very active, and I think productive, communication programs area in Extension. Its very existence and its success owe a great deal to Muriel.

Muriel's personal life was given largely to community service; service seemed to be a great part of her activity. She also supported the cause of intellectual freedom and the struggle against censorship wherever it threatened the free exchange of ideas. She gave her time and her energies to many programs promoting world peace and international understanding. Like many of us at this university, Muriel Fuller took our institutional slogans very seriously. As much as anyone I have known, she personified the Wisconsin idea that the boundaries of the campus are the boundaries of the state. That slogan never sounded stale nor trite when she uttered it. Muriel Fuller's quiet and resolute service to her profession, her university and community, brought honor to her and thus to her colleagues. She left her mark on University of Wisconsin--Extension as few others have done. Through this lecture series, as well as in the legacy of her achievements, that imprint will be with us for a long time. Thank you.