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An Oklahoma Refuge

Clintora Byrne-Harris

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... TO FINISH

— Leroy Thomas

The first time I ever saw Beulah Luker was on a hot day of early August in 1940. We were beginning our first (primer) year of school in Miss Ila Powell's room at the old City View School about four miles east of Mangum. Beulah was 5, and I was 6.

That day we began an association of 12 years. During those times we were alternately the best of friends and the worst of enemies. Being of just about equal ability and of the same economic background, we competed with each other from 1940 until we finished City View High School in 1952 with Beulah as valedictorian and me as salutatorian.

Scholastically and athletically, she was my better. In fact, she went after laurels in both areas with the intensity of an Albert Schweitzer - Babe Didrickson Zaharias combination. There was one area in which I was her better - 4-H Club honors. With another year of growth, she could have passed me there too!

Students today who complain about being from small high schools don't get my sympathy because in that 1952 City View Senior Class, there were only eight students. Of the eight, there are five college graduates. And of the five, there are three who have earned doctorates. In other words, smallness has been no hindrance to us.

And recently, Beulah Hirschlein nee Luker added another honor to her list of impressive accomplishments: she was named recipient of the 1981 OHEA (Oklahoma Home Economics Association) Professional Award.

Her citation for the award reads: "Members and friends of the Oklahoma Home Economics Association express sincere appreciation to Dr. Beulah Hirschlein for utilizing her role and position to present a positive image of the home economics profession."

Since 1975, Dr. Hirschlein has been Director of the Home Economics University Extension Program at OSU. That's not bad for a graduate of a little country school like City View.

With the help of colleagues at OSU and throughout the nation, Dr. Hirschlein has expanded her program to include a wide spectrum of public-service continuing-education programs for professionals in home economics and related fields.

In addition to her position with the Extension Program, she has been a sponsor of the OSU Student Home Economics Association and has been an active leader in numerous civic and service organizations.

Dr. Hirschlein is also a member of the National University Continuing Education Association, of the Oklahoma and the American Vocational Associations, of the OHEA and the AHEA, and of the OSU Home Economics Alumni Association. She is treasurer of Delta Kappa Gamma, Beta Delta Chapter, and past president of Phi Delta Kappa.

The values and leadership abilities gained during her formative years at that small country school and in her home environment, then, have helped to make Beulah Luker Hirschlein an involved and caring citizen of Oklahoma.

39

AN OKLAHOMA REFUGE

— *Clintora Byrne-Harris*

The majestic cottonwood tree
Stands silent vigil by the lane,
Its huge branches reaching upward
Toward a white cloud-spotted sky.

A slight breeze sends the golden leaves
Into a bright shimmering dance
That forms a dense, lush canopy
And provides a refuge below.