

## *Caroline Hartl Allen*

Caroline Hartl was born at Marshfield November 20, 1912, the daughter of Louis and Theckla (Backus) Hartl. She attended local schools, graduating from the old McKinley High School in 1929. Then enrolling at Stephen's Junior College for Women, Columbia, Missouri, she received an associate of arts degree. She was awarded a bachelor of science degree from the University of Wisconsin in 1934.

Caroline then completed an administrative dietetic internship at the Women's Educational and Industrial Union at Boston, where she later served as a dietitian for the C.F. Hovey Department Store. When she left Boston, she accepted a position as manager of the Chicago College Club.

For the next five years, Caroline served as assistant director of the University of Wisconsin Residence Halls. In that position she was in charge of all women's dormitories, including meals and housekeeping. She also was in charge of the University bake shop and did all the catering for the UW President Dykstra. In addition, she daily handled the meals of 1,000 WAVES assigned to Chadbourne Hall at the University during World War II, as well as the Radio boys assigned to Varnard Hall.

During this time, Caroline was married to Ormond B. Allen. Their marriage took place on January 30, 1942 and was blessed with one child, Patricia.

Caroline returned to Marshfield in 1944 and became active in the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers. In 1953, she ran unsuccessfully in her first attempt for a seat on the Board of Education. Three years later, in 1958, Caroline won not only her first three-year term but also the election itself as she out paced the other six candidates. She successfully ran for her place on the School Board 10 more times before retiring in 1991. After helping to set the direction for the Marshfield School District for 33 years Caroline decided it was time to spend more time with her grandchildren, Rheba and Hartl Allen Mabie, and chose not to run for a 12th term.

Besides Caroline's involvement in local school activities, she has also been engaged in several local business enterprises. Notable of course was her management of the Hartl Manor Apartments on North Central Avenue and her guidance as president and treasurer of the Marshfield Brewing Company until 1965. In addition to these Caroline also actively supported the Community Chest Drives, co-chairing the campaign to "Nudge Your Neighbors," with Steve Hopkins during the 1960s. She also represented Wisconsin at Washington DC for an early Conference on Aging.

Caroline has now retired from both her volunteer and business pursuits. However, like her father and grandfather she has contributed to the community's growth and development in many ways.

*Submitted for Caroline Hartl Allen  
For the Marshfield History Project  
The Marshfield Story, 1872—1997  
Piecing Together Our Past, page 330 -331*

