

WHO WAS RUBY LEE MINAR? **1883-1952**

Ruby Lee was born in Glendale, MT, and moved with her family as her father, a Baptist clergyman, organized churches in Montana and Idaho. Her parents later founded the Children's Home Society in Trenton, NJ. When her father was unable to officiate at Sunday morning services, Ruby Lee preached the sermon for him.

During grade school, high school, and college, Ruby Lee earned her fellow students' respect as a playwright, actress, producer and director. At Kalamazoo College, she was President of the Young Women's Christian Association. She earned a Master's Degree in Biblical and Patristic Greek from the University of Chicago.

Ruby Lee taught public speaking at State Normal School in Trenton, NJ, and was chosen Chairman of the Women's College Section of the Women's Suffrage Party for the State of New Jersey. She married newspaper reporter John Milton Minar. They subsequently settled in Washington, DC, where their daughter Patricia Lee was born.

Ruby Lee's profession changed from teaching to real estate developer. She was the first to develop large subdivisions in Arlington County, VA, just outside Washington, DC, correctly predicting that Arlington County would become DC's bedroom community. Hers was at one time the largest real estate office in and around Washington; and she was a member of the Alexandria, Arlington, and Fairfax Real Estate Boards, the Virginia Real Estate Association, and a Director of an Arlington bank.

Never satisfied with material successes, she became intensely interested in the spirit of service to city, state, and country. She joined Soroptimist, recognizing that organization's tenets as a constructive and cooperative plan to better conditions by improving existing laws or by organizational or individual work and real thought.

In 1922, Ruby Lee was selected as Washington, D.C.'s Soroptimist Club's first President, and in 1928 she was chosen as the first National Soroptimist Club President. In that capacity, she traveled to Europe to help form the International Federation of Soroptimist Clubs and to form its charter aims, which included fostering world peace.

In 1940, Ruby Lee moved to Miami Springs, FL where she again stepped into organizational and community work by forming the Soroptimist Club of Miami Springs-Hialeah and worked diligently to help organize several other Soroptimist Clubs in south Florida. She was also a member of the Garden Club of Miami Springs, the Business and Professional Women's Club of Delphi, the National Women's Party, and the Miami Chamber of Commerce.