



EVELYN EUBANKS

(Born August 3, 1927 -- died October 23, 1988)

CHARTER MEMBER

2nd Vice President, Ways & Means 1978-1982

Board Director – 1982 -1984

Historian 1984 - 1988

The following profile appeared in the February 1981 and April 1988 issues of the Bulletin.

Evelyn Eubanks, Second Vice President, spent her childhood on an Ohio farm and moved to Dayton in 1945. She attended Sinclair College and married Paul in 1948. For the past 35 years she has been employed by one of the largest trucking companies in the US. Evelyn is involved in volunteer work and civic functions. She is presently serving as Secretary of Shiloh Civic Association and is the public relations representative for Harrison Township. She is a Red Cross Disaster Service Volunteer and for the past three years sat on an advisory committee for the federally funded Community Development Block Grant Programs. Her interests include thimbles (naturally) and helping others.

Evelyn's accomplishments are many. In 1978 when TCI was officially formed, Evelyn was elected Second Vice President, a position she held for two terms. In 1982, she was elected to the board of directors of TCI. In 1984 Evelyn was elected Historian; she currently holds that position. At the 1984 convention, Evelyn was presented the first Warren, Ohio award, given for friendship and service.

In 1960, just about the time Evelyn Eubanks began noticing the differences in design and materials of thimbles, it was hard to find a thimble collector. She added a few thimbles to her collection, but what she really wanted was to find someone with whom she could share information. Evelyn sent a letter to one of the ladies' magazines and was delightfully surprised to receive an answer from Vera Thompson. This was the beginning of a beautiful friendship that lasted until Vera's death in 1981.

Vera had the names of a couple of other collectors. Evelyn wrote them and suggested forming a group to share any information they had regarding thimbles and other sewing-related items. Evelyn eventually found sixteen collectors who were anxious to learn more, and THIMBLE GUILD was born.

In 1970, the members of THIMBLE GUILD were invited to Bethesda, Maryland to meet with collectors from another group known as THIMBLE COLLECTING. For most of the ten collectors who went to Bethesda, it was the first face-to-face meeting with another thimble collector.

It seemed there was an increasing interest in thimble collecting. THIMBLE GUILD decided to host a meeting for interested thimble collectors. As THIMBLE GUILD members were scattered across the country, consultation with a map indicated that the Warren, Ohio area seemed to be a central location. Lois Erdman, the late Myrtle Lundquist, and Evelyn served as hostesses for this get-together of thirty-six collectors and friends. Of that time Evelyn says, "It was now known that there would be more 'get-togethers' of thimble collectors. Now we can call them conventions!"

Through THIMBLE GUILD newsletters, Evelyn initiated various projects; a listing of the word thimble in various languages, a collection of poems about thimbles, a listing of thimble makers' marks, and a study of the various types of indentations found on thimbles, to name just a few.



American. Circa 1900s. Aluminum campaign thimble. "Hoover-Home-Happiness."

Evelyn is vitally interested in advertising thimbles. She had heard conflicting information regarding the HOOVER-HOME-HAPPINESS thimble: it was a political thimble; it was an advertising thimble for the Hoover vacuum cleaners. Wanting to clear up the mystery about this thimble, she began researching and in 1972 Evelyn received documentation from the General Services Administration that the thimble in question had in fact been issued for the Hoover campaign.

Evelyn had some sewing items showing Lydia Pinkham's portrait. She wondered what kind of lady Lydia was and how she would relate to thimble collectors. Evelyn gathered a wealth of information that became the basis of a slide presentation on Lydia Pinkham at the mini-convention in Columbus, Ohio in 1981. At this same mini, she gave another program on scrimshaw and scrimshaw thimbles.



Paper needle and thread case.



Celluloid tatting shuttle. The Whitehead & Hoag Co. Newark, N.J.



Brass tape measure. "Lydia D. Pinkham's Vegetable compound herb medicine pills For constipation sanative wash."



Metal mending kits. "Lydia D. Pinkham's Vegetable compound blood medicine sanative wash liver pills."

During the 1970's Evelyn joined Lois Erdmann and Vera Thompson in a search for material with a sewing motif. Whenever one of them found such material, she bought enough to share with the others. Soon they had enough to make a quilt. Evelyn's mother suggested she make her quilt in the "spool" design. A thoughtful lady, who appreciated Evelyn's interest in thimbles, used a "thimbles and buttons" motif for the quilting design. Evelyn's quilt was displayed at the Dearborn, Michigan convention in 1982.



Evelyn and her mother Josephine Collins made the quilt and donated it for the MOP at the Louisville TCI Convention. It is made in the spool pattern (usually called the bow-tie pattern).

Evelyn has always been one to pursue an idea. She thought it would be nice to have a name sticker with a thimble on it. After a couple of letters to a supplier, she was told that if she could furnish a clear black-and-white photo of a thimble they would make the sticker. Many people are now using this thimble name sticker. Evelyn says she sometimes wonders how many collectors know that this is a picture of a thimble in her collection.

Evelyn has written numerous letters and made phone calls to organizations in an effort to have sources of supplies for all thimble collectors. Several letters were directed to the Franklin Mint. Although none of her letters were responded to with any encouragement, Franklin Mint did issue their first sterling thimble in 1978. Another letter resulted in thimbles being added to the souvenirs at the United States Air Force Museum. While they are not of the quality Evelyn had hoped, at least it is a beginning.

When Ohio Thimble Seekers was formed in 1983, Evelyn was elected their first president. In 1985, this group hosted a second mini-convention in Columbus, Ohio. Again she shared her knowledge by presenting a program on crochet hooks using examples from her mother's (Josephine Collins) collection.

She has written numerous articles on advertising thimbles and thimble collecting, sharing her enthusiasm and knowledge with thimble collectors everywhere.

Evelyn says, "A lot has been learned about thimbles since I first started to collect. Now there are numerous publications on thimbles, and some spotlight specific collections. Individuals are doing research on special interests, and there are publications issued for thimble collectors on a regular basis. People can learn much from these publications. We've come a long way since 1960 when I began collecting." Despite all her accomplishments, Evelyn readily tells one that her greatest satisfaction from thimble collecting is meeting so many people with a common interest and sharing their friendship.

Notes:

Shortly after Evelyn passed away, Wynneth Mullins (TX) contacted Josephine Collins, Evelyn's mother. She lived with Thelma Manning who was Evelyn's sister. They were thrilled when Wynneth offered to continue Thimble Guild and they sent her a large box containing many notebooks, back issues and other information. Evelyn started Thimble Guild on July 16, 1970 and Wynneth took it over in 1988. Thimble Guild is one of the longest running newsletters devoted to thimbles and needlework tools.

Here are a few more thimbles from Evelyn's collection:



**English. Sterling silver w. gold crown.
King George after Edward's abdication.**



English. Brass "Her Majesty" thimble. Child sized on the right.



**Spencer's Hem Roller. Patent 1870.
Base metal and bone roller.**



American. Brass gadget thimble.