

THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE AMERICAN WOMAN

BOX 2600, EAST COLLEGE, WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY, MIDDLETOWN, CONNECTICUT 06457 — 203-347-9411, Ext.: 669

March 6, 1973

Ms. Laura Gilpin
409 Camino Del Monte Sol
Santa Fe, New Mexico

Dear Laura Gilpin:

The McGraw-Hill Publishing Company has commissioned a group of women writers and scholars at Wesleyan University to design and compile a one-volume Encyclopedia of the American Woman which will serve as a basic reference work on American women in the twentieth century.

We plan to include in an extensive biographical section short personal sketches of those contemporary women who, in our estimation, have made significant contributions to their field, to the welfare of other women and to the world. So as not to imitate or duplicate existing reference materials we have established the following editorial policies:

--emphasis will be placed on those individuals who have done significant work after 1900, particularly after 1940.

--some biographies of important, although relatively little-known, women will be included; we shall categorically exclude a woman whose reputation is based solely on her connection to a famous man (presidents' wives, for example).

--wherever possible, we shall ask the subject herself to write a short autobiography.

As a woman who has achieved distinction in her field, you have been chosen by the board to contribute your own biographical sketch, should you agree to do so. Your entry may be formal and/or imaginative, written either in the first or the third

person. It should be not only factual and informative, but also lively and indicative of your personal style.

For a beginning limit on length we suggest three pages or 1,000 words. The biography should include not only the standard factual information--date of birth, birthplace, order of birth, marriage(s), children, education, degrees, jobs, publications, productions and performances, prizes and awards, organizations, enemies and mentors--but also your insights, passions, and goals. Did you encounter any obstacles in entering professional life? How did you overcome them? What are the difficulties for a woman in balancing professional and private life? What made success possible for you?

Please return the enclosed postcard with the appropriate response indicated within three weeks.*

We hope you will join us in the Encyclopedia of the American Woman.

Sincerely yours,

Nancy B. Evans

For The Editors

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If you decide to write your biographical sketch, we suggest that you submit it within six weeks from receipt of this letter.