

# OBITUARY

## MARY COKE

**W**E CELEBRATE the life and death of MARY COKE, a member of Cape Western, who died on April 9, 1981.

She had asked her family that there should be no mourning at her death, but to make it rather an occasion of celebration — and all who attended the memorial service were caught up into the feeling of great joy in thanksgiving for her life.

The flame that burned in Mary was fed by qualities all too rare in this present age.

Her faith, which was deep and strong, carried her through the many occasions of loss in her family, and sustained her in her stand for human rights.

Integrity, together with fearlessness, gave her the strength to uphold her belief in truth and justice.

In her life's work to these ends she drew respect. Outspoken and rebellious but balanced by a brusque compassion, she communicated with old and young on the same level.

A dry sense of humour and an equally dry assessment of people often brought forth comments in that deep resonant voice which we shall all miss.

Her willing work for Sash ever since its inception was constant and reliable; the thin, often trousered, figure topped by the whitening hair can be seen in many Sash photos. More recently she never allowed ill health to interfere with her duties on the Regional Council and in the Langa Courts until she was absolutely forced to give up.

We give thanks to Mary. She has left us an ever-burning flame — a reminder of those qualities which can be attained if we forget 'self'.

**ANNE FINSEN**

## MARY PARK ROSS

**M**IDLANDS REGION records with sorrow the death of MRS MARY PARK ROSS, who died at her home in Sweetwaters, Pietermaritzburg, in March after a short illness.

She was a long-standing member of Black Sash, and once served as Chairman of the Region. More recently her efforts were devoted to the Advice Office, for which until last year she organised both the roster of workers and the finances.

A mathematics teacher, Mary taught at St Anne's Diocesan College from 1943, becoming the vice-principal of the school in 1959, a position she held till her retirement in 1970. She was an active member of the Progressive Federal Party, and her membership of Santa Hilton Branch, led to her deep involvement with under-privileged families in the Mpumzuza area.

The Natal Witness, to which newspaper thanks are due for permission to reprint parts of their obituary article, described her as a 'civil rights activist,' and a fellow teacher at St Anne's wrote of Mary that she had a mind 'at once precise and impartial and dedicated to self-sacrifice and love for fellow human beings.'

**M J C**

CARTOON SUBJECT OF THE YEAR

By Bob Connolly

