



MRS. WOOD KRIDER DURHAM spends much of her spare time with library activities. She is a member of Friends of the Library at Landrum Branch of Spartanburg County Library and has been treasurer of the library since its organization. She is the mother of two sons and two daughters. (B&B Photo)

Mrs.
Durham
"Mother
Of The
Year"

By LINDA HEMBREE
Special to the Mirror

LANDRUM — Mrs. Wood Krider Durham, who has been named South Carolina Mother of the Year, will receive the 1974 South Carolina Mother's Pin in Governor John West's Office in Columbia Monday at 11 a.m. A luncheon in her honor will be held at Hilton Town House at noon.

Mrs. Durham, who is active in church, civic and community work, will travel to New York on May 6th to attend the 39th anniversary of American Mothers Committee Inc. and will compete with 51 other "Mothers" for the national "Mother of the Year" award.

Mrs. Durham's experiences as a mother have been many and varied. The mother of four children, she lost her husband when her youngest child was seven years old. She had the double task of being father and mother to her two sons and two daughters.

"I think the hardest part of being a mother is trying to teach the children the fundamentals of life—the little things like a smile or a nice word that mean so much to others—and teaching them to be Christians," Mrs. Durham says. "For a mother who is trying to rear her children alone, the problem is even harder."

When her children were growing up, Mrs. Durham tried to divide her time between caring for her children, working as head teller at First National Bank and her work with Landrum Branch of Spartanburg County Library.

"The first glimpse I had of my babies after they were born was the most thrilling experience of motherhood," Mrs. Durham reminisces. "Of course watching them grow up, make lives of their own and become successful in their chosen fields is quite rewarding too," she says. "My children have given me 12 wonderful grandchildren that mean the world to me."

Mrs. Durham, and those who know her, can look back on her years of motherhood and know she has done her best—a job well done. Her oldest son, Garrison, is married and is a doctor in Kings Mountain and her youngest son, Dixon, is professor of history at University of South Carolina where he also is studying for a Ph. D. degree.

Her daughter, Mrs. Frank Miller, lives in Landrum and is the mother of five children. Before "retiring" to a full time job of wife and mother, she taught school in Tryon and Charleston.

The other daughter, Mrs. Charles Stewart, lives in Savannah. She is the mother of three children and works as a doctor's assistant. She is former head nurse at Savannah Memorial Hospital.

Now that her children have grown up, Mrs. Durham spends much of her time helping Vietnamese orphans. At Christmas she opened her home, "Ingleside," which was placed on the National Register of Historic Places to help collect money for the children.

This year's South Carolina Mother of the Year spends time with her civic group, has taught a Sunday School class at Landrum Methodist Church since 1933, works with the Weeders Garden Club and has been a member and treasurer of Friends of the Library at Landrum Library since its organization. She also has been acting postmaster for two years since the death of her husband who was postmaster.

"I am looking forward to my trip to New York next month," Mrs. Durham says. "It will be my first trip there and I know there will be a lot for me to see. I am a little hesitant to ride the airplane up there though," she laughs. "That will be a first for me, too."

"I am just thrilled about this whole experience," Mrs. Durham adds. "I appreciate the fact that I was chosen from all the mothers in South Carolina and I want to thank my friends at the Landrum Library for nominating me. Knowing others have seen fit to honor me in this way makes me ever so humble."

In

South
Carolina



Compassion Can Change



The man who steals from God impoverishes no one but himself. In Victor Hugo's LES MISERABLES, the ex-convict, Jean Valgean, has stolen the silverware from his benefactor, the Bishop. Valgean is caught and returned to the Bishop's house by the police. The Bishop, believing he could see some hope for Christian regeneration in Valgean, tells the police the silverware had been a gift.

"I gave you the candlesticks also," the Bishop says to Valgean, "why didn't you take them along with your plates?" Through this act of love, Valgean was completely changed.

God gives us His world-His silver, His gold. Steal from Him and you steal from yourself.

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