

MRS. CUMMINS E. SPEAKMAN
BELMONT HALL
SMYRNA, DELAWARE

Marjorie Willoughby Speakman

age 79 retired executive birth date: July 10, 1889

widow of Cummins Elliot Speakman of Belmont Hall, Smyrna, Delaware. He died 1951. Married on August 1, 1908.

Three children:

Cummins E. Speakman, Jr. - president of Maunaloa College on the island of Maui, Hawaii.

Mrs. Henderson Mathews of Brewster, N.Y. and 120 E. 71st Street, NYC, N.Y.

Walter Willoughby Speakman - Belmont Hall Smyrna, Del. secretary and treasurer of Marjorie Speakman, Inc. and Bird-Speakman, Ltd.

Employment:

Wife and mother from 1908 until 1934. Started a small shop, Bird-Speakman, Inc., in Wilmington, Delaware which became the prestige shop for women's apparel in Wilmington, and Delaware. Later, the Marjorie Speakman, Inc., a speciality shop for children in Greenville, Delaware, and the Bird-Speakman, Ltd., specialty shop, in the Tidewater Inn in Easton, Md. with a branch in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware were started.

Partners in the Wilmington store were the following: Mrs. R.R.M. Carpenter, Mrs. Rodney Sharp, Miss Alexandrine du Pont, and later, Lillian Montaldo was taken in.

Bird-Speakman, Inc. of Wilmington was dissolved in 1966 for various reasons, but principally because the building it occupied was in a strategic position and the real-estate dealers wanted it for the du Pont Company.

Mrs. Speakman, now, owns controlling stock in the two other companies, in which the only other stock holder is Mrs. Walter Speakman, the over-all manager of both stores.

Board Memberships:

The Delaware Society for the Preservation of Antiquities
The Duck Creek Historical Society

Past Member of the following boards:

United Negro College Fund
Child Guidance of Delaware
Children's Bureau of Delaware
Friends of John Dickinson Mansion
Board of Trustees of Wesley College

only woman member of the advisory committee of the Small Business Administration during the Eisenhower Administration

Outstanding Offices:

Past state president of the Friends of John Dickinson Mansion
Past state president of the National League of American Pen Women
Founder and first president of the Christina Business and Professional Womens Clubs

Active member of the following organizations:

Honorary member of Delta Kappa Gamma, an international educational society
Honorary member of Friends of Old Dover
A service corps of retired business executives for the Small Business Administration, S C O R E
The Fashion Group Inc.
The National Business and Professional Womens Clubs
The National Womens Federated Clubs
Charter Member of the League of Women Voters
National Trust for Historical Preservation
Delaware Historical Society
Duck Creek Historical Society
National Republican Women's Club of New York
Womens Republican Club of Dover, Delaware
Womens Republican Club of Kent County
Delaware Art Center
Rehboth Art League
Wilmington Country Club
Alliance Francaise of Delaware
S.P.C.A. of Delaware
American Professional Writers Club
the Asia Society
University of Pennsylvania Museum
Friends of the University of Delaware Library Associates

Honors:

In 1964 received the Wesley College Award with citation

Traveling experience:

Has done much public speaking. Speaks French and Spanish fairly well, with a slight knowledge of Russian, German, and Italian.
Traveled in the following countries: India, Afghanistan, Kashmir, Swat, Pakistan, Russia, Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, Greece, Italy, Germany, Finland, Sweden, Denmark, Spain, France, England, Ireland, Canada.
Traveled to Hawaii, California, and many other states in the United States.