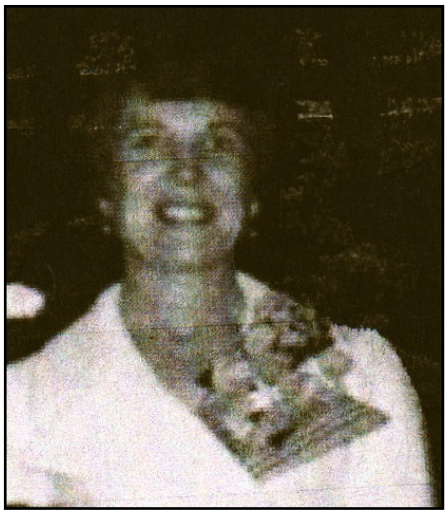
**BETTE WEBER**
by Mary Pat Swamy

Bette Ruth Miller was busy in secretarial school, but the beginning of World War II changed her priorities. She signed up with the USO at Lackland Air force Base, and later married a Navigator with the Army Air Corps. His name was Don Weber, and after the war, they returned to his hometown in Marshfield, Wisconsin.



***Bette Weber***

From 1954 to 1963, eight children were born to the couple. Differences in religion and culture did not matter as they moved through 54 years of marriage. As social issues were highlighted over the years, the children witnessed concern for justice and the need to work toward change. The word "Christian" was used rather than "Feminist". The motivator was a world of peace, kindness and justice.

Bette enjoyed people and through the activities of her children, she met many people who became dear friends. Though not a member of any political party, she wrote to her congressmen often to voice her concerns. Locally, she joined the League of Women Voters, Marshfield's early hint of the feminist movement. Her women friends were her allies, and many of them took leadership roles in the community. Any spare time was shared with scouting, hospital volunteering, and activism to support Wood County mental health. She was a member of PEO, which helps women needing financial support for continued education. She was a strong advocate for peace and justice.

In the mid 1970s Bette enrolled in a program offered by U.W. Stout for certification as a peer counselor. With her training she joined Eileen Kelz who had formed a non-profit organization to promote personal development. They joined other community partners to identify needs and responsibilities. couples communication, women's health and assertiveness training were offered as scheduled classes. Counseling was offered in the downtown office.

In their mid-70's retirement, Bette and her husband moved to the Gulf Coast area of Florida. Bette volunteered with the Sarasota Women's Center, and then at the Community Center of Anna Maria Island. She developed programs using her peer counseling training. She also personally promoted political candidates who shared her vision. She died in 1999.

Her eight children learned from her, recognizing the need for action to make necessary changes. Through her training and activism and advocacy for women, Bette left a positive mark on the Marshfield community.