

Helen Miller Malloch Biography



Helen Miller Malloch - Class of 1907 - 1888 - 1963 - The National Federation of Press Women, Inc., (NFPW) was organized May 6, 1937, when Helen Miller Malloch, who arranged the meeting along with other members of the Illinois Woman's Press Association (IWPA organized in 1885), and with women from five other organized states and the District of Columbia, who met at the Chicago Women's Club in order to promote communication between women writers, and advance the interests and standards of women in the press. Among the 39 women attending were 24 from Illinois, six from Indiana, nine from Ohio, New York, Michigan, and Washington D.C.. Incorporation of the Federation was effected in 1938 in Illinois. By 1939 nine states had affiliated, including New York, New Jersey, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Iowa, Texas, Oregon, and Michigan; and a New England press group. Of these new affiliates, the two oldest were Illinois (IWPA), 1885, and Texas, 1892 - the only two states organized prior to 1900.

Helen Miller Malloch, noted lecturer, teacher, author, and editor, was the Illinois Woman's Press Association president when IWPA celebrated its 50th anniversary in 1935. She believed that federating a national organization could unify women to influence issues such as copyright legislation. She became the first president of the organization she helped form, NFPW, in 1937 in Chicago. She died in 1963 while attending the NFPW annual convention in Indianapolis.

Helen Thomas, longtime correspondent to the White House is also a member of the NFPW Hall of Fame.

To quote a 1951 editorial written by Malloch, "The primary advantage of National Federation of Press Women is the convention where members have an opportunity of talking over their problems and of listening to stimulating speakers."

Malloch was wise beyond her vision of the alliance of women writers which took on its form in NFPW. Originally started when IWPA sought getting copyright legislation through Congress, Malloch recognized the benefits and strength women would attain through membership of the larger organization including the professional recognition brought from the national contest.

Malloch went on to state that with the exception of "two occasions when IWPA entertained National, I believe not more than a handful of members have attended National convention." She was of the belief members were "missing much that the NFPW can give them." She acknowledged by not taking full advantage of the opportunity to attend conference members missed out on the many new ideas that could be gleaned from the organization's programs and publication, as well as the publicity, prestige and experience members would attain volunteering at a conference.