



Nellie F. Bennett

Nellie F. Bennett was born on February 2, 1887 in the town of Seven Stars which is now called Lakewood. She attended a one-room school house, finishing the eighth grade. She then worked as a waitress in Manasquan, NJ for quite awhile. Nellie met and married Ira L. Bennett on June 24, 1908. They had six children, five boys and one girl. All of her boys have passed on but her daughter, Roberta L. Jones, still resides in Point Pleasant. For most of Nellie's married life, she resided on Dorsett Dock Road in Point Pleasant. Bennett Avenue, which runs off of Dorsett Dock Road, was named for the Bennett family.

While Nellie's children were growing up, she worked for John Dorsett, an uncle by marriage, at his sail making company sewing sails for large ships. This building was located on the corner of Bridge Avenue and Dorsett Dock Road, where the Ocean First Bank now stands. In addition to her sail-making skills, she also volunteered her cooking services in her home for families that needed meals who were unable to prepare them due to illness.



When Nellie's children were grown, she became very active in her community. She was a member of the Ocean County Red Cross and a volunteer for the World War II Red Cross here in Point Pleasant Beach. She also organized and headed up the U.N.I.C.E.F. project in Point Pleasant and served on a committee for the 4-H Club at local fairs.

Because of Nellie's love for children, she was very active in the Ocean Road School here in Point. In the early 1950s she initiated and implemented the Safety Patrol Program. She also was responsible for the creation of the school cafeteria and organized the milk and lunch program. Nellie suggested creating home economics classes, and because of her effort, they were offered at the school. She became a member of the Ocean County Home Economics Council, and in 1963 they named her "Woman of the Year".

Nellie was instrumental in starting the PTA in the Point Pleasant School system. She was a member of the local and county PTA from 1930 to 1970. She held the office of president of the local and county PTA for several years. The PTA honored her in the early 1950s by putting on a show called "This is Your Life". Nellie also served on the Point Pleasant Board of Education for 18 years, and she held the office of president for several years. She was also a member of the Harvey Memorial Methodist Church in Point Pleasant, where she taught Sunday School, sang in the choir and served on the church board and church committees.

In 1969, the Nellie F. Bennett Elementary School on Riviera Parkway was dedicated in her honor. This was done in remembrance of her and all of the time and effort that she put into her community. Nellie was always busy helping someone, always had a smile on her face, and was always ready to help anyone at any time or anywhere.



Nellie passed away in 1971. She is survived by one daughter, 11 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren. Upon her passing, her daughter, Roberta F. Jones, founded the "Nellie F. Bennett Award". This award is given to the most achieved home economics graduating student at the Point Pleasant Borough High School.

