

MINNIE MILLER BROWN

In our society's war against malnutrition, illiteracy, and poverty, nothing is more vital than the work of those who translate long-range policy into quickly beneficial results in the lives of the people most in need of help. In this capacity Minnie Miller Brown stands as one of the nation's brightest lights.

Her work has been where her roots are. Born in Salisbury, the seventh of ten children in a family of poor farmers, she earned a bachelor's degree in Home Economics at Bennett College and, after some years as a high school teacher of the subject and a county extension agent, a master's degree at Cornell in 1955. From that time on she alternated between teaching at the college level, chiefly at North Carolina A & T and North Carolina State, and working to implement Extension Home Economics programs throughout the area.

Her most notable contribution has probably been her involvement in the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program; it was in large measure owing to her that North Carolina was chosen to pilot this extensive federally-funded enterprise. In this capacity she was instrumental in developing paraprofessionals from among the poor who could learn and then teach their peers how to manage their food and nutrition opportunities better. National recognition for this work included in 1980 one of the two first Winthrop Rockefeller Awards for Distinguished Rural Service, and two years ago the Distinguished Service to Rural Life Award of the Rural Sociological Society.

Now ostensibly retired, she continues to be deeply involved in efforts to relieve the deep stress of poverty among our small town and rural citizens. Tireless in her determination to help those whose lives in this goodliest land under the Cope of Heave have often been blighted by relievable affliction, she has set an example which, though best honored in emulation, we nonetheless take immense pride in recognizing with this degree of Doctor of Science.