

ANNA GERTRUDE INGHAM

Anna Ingham was born on October 15, 1911 in Seeley's Bay, Ontario. Mrs. Ingham began her schooling in Ontario and moved west with her parents at age 12. She continued her school years in Alberta and Saskatchewan where she ultimately attended Normal School Teachers' College in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan (1933-34). Her choice of teaching rather than entering into a career in nursing was influenced by her husband-to-be, Austin Ingham. "He said I could become a teacher more quickly," Mrs. Ingham remembers.

Mrs. Ingham's teaching career began in 1934 at the Waterloo School in Guernsey, Saskatchewan, a rural school with 40 pupils and 10 grades. She continued to teach for 22 years in a number of rural and small town schools including Lanigan, SK (1937-1940), Portage La Prairie, MB (1941-1943), Theodore, SK (1943-1945), Willowbrook, SK (1945-1946), Lookout School in Willowbrook, SK (1946-1948) and Pebble Lake School in Yorkton rural (1948-1954). In 1956, Anna moved to Yorkton where her husband Austin, a pioneer in the aviation field, established Yorkton Flying Services. It was here that her two sons, Leslie and Douglas, learned to fly and eventually inherited the business. In Yorkton, Anna taught at Simpson School (1954-1966) and at Columbia School (1966-1970). During Anna's fifteen years at Simpson School, she and her pupils developed what she referred to as The Blended Sound-Sight Program of Learning. Urged by visiting teachers, Anna wrote her book of the same name and had it published in 1967 (the book has since been reprinted numerous times concluding with the most recent sixth edition).

She worked as a Reading Consultant for the Yorkton School Division (1970-1971) as well as a consultant with the Department of Education Region 8 - Prince Albert (1974-1979). In 1972, Mrs. Ingham officially retired from teaching so that she could accommodate the many requests to speak at conferences and inservices about the Blended Sound-Sight Individualized Method of Instruction. In 1973, Mrs. Ingham was requested by the University of Saskatchewan to teach a course which examined her Blended Sight-Sound Method called EDCUR 302-64: Elementary School Curriculum: Reading and Writing.

Although officially retiring from her teaching position in 1972, Anna never truly retired. She merely shifted her focus from teaching students to teaching teachers. Even before leaving her classroom she had begun to speak at professional development days, parent-teacher association meetings and conventions as well as conducting 3-day summer sessions on her reading method.

During a period of almost five decades, Anna continued her involvement in education, accepting speaking engagements in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia as well as Japan and the United States. She has presented at 60 conventions, conducted 78 summer seminars (usually two weeks long), 140 professional development sessions and has been a guest lecturer on three occasions at the University of Saskatchewan and the University of Alberta. At age 96, Mrs. Ingham performed key note speaker duties at a convention held in Murietta, California, U.S.A. In recent years, her daughter, Shirley George, now a retired teacher, has assisted Anna and is now conducting inservices based on Anna's program.

Mrs. Ingham's continuing contribution to education has been recognized through numerous awards including ...

- 1970 Canadian Teachers' Federation Hilroy Award for innovative programs*
- 1987 University of Saskatchewan Founders' Award*
- 1991 Saskatchewan Report Honour Roll Award*
- 1992 Northeastern Cable Television in Yorkton produced a documentary on her life and career entitled "Quiet Rebel: The Anna Ingham Story"*
- 1993 Canada 125 Commemorative Medal*
- 1995 Honourary Life Membership in the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation*
- 1995 Appointment as a Member of the Order of Canada*
- 1999 Dedication of the Anna Ingham Resource Centre at Fairview Education Centre*
- 2007 Saskatchewan Order of Merit*
- 2010 Rededication of the Anna Ingham Resource Room at Fairview Education Centre*