

AMY HUXTABLE

Amy Huxtable was born at Cheltenham in 1918, to Robert Henry Huxtable and Violet Dagg. Her father was an installer for an oil company and travelled the state, taking his family with him. She completed her education at the Bendigo High School and later attended the Bendigo Business College, becoming an expert shorthand writer.

Her first position was as a copy writer with Radio 3BO, in the mid 1930's. She worked with an advertising agency in Melbourne and then with the *Age* newspaper. In 1953, Miss Huxtable was appointed temporarily to succeed Miss E B Millane as social editress of the Bendigo Advertiser, during the latter's absence abroad.

In 1956, Amy travelled abroad and on her return in 1957, was appointed permanently as Women's editor, a position she held for twenty-three years. During her early years with The Advertiser she wrote under the name *Toora*, but in later years her own name became widely known.

Miss Huxtable was well known both in her professional capacity and through a deep interest and involvement in community activities. She was life governor of the Bendigo Hospital, the Bendigo Home for the Aged, and Mirridong Home for the Blind, she was a member of Soroptimist International and the Business and Professional Women's Club. Amy was also a tireless worker for the spastic society and a strong supporter of the YWCA.

When Amy Huxtable died at Mt Alvernia Hospital on 16 January 1980, Mayor Campbell ordered the city flag to be flown at half-mast. "Lowering the flag is the least we can do for such a lady" Cr Campbell said.

Douglas Lockwood, editor of the Bendigo Advertiser said, "She was a devoted colleague who gave her craft and her newspaper the kind of service which identified a rare and generous spirit." She was a true professional who decided to make Bendigo her home.

More than 300 people packed St Paul's Church for her funeral service, the bells tolled as the casket was carried from the church.

At a ceremony in the Conservatory Gardens on November 22, 1981, The Amy Huxtable Memorial Committee presented to the City of Bendigo, a garden seat in memory of the late Miss Huxtable. This Bendigo manufactured seat was a fitting tribute to one of Bendigo's most loved and esteemed citizens. All Miss Huxtable's Advertiser articles were microfilmed and presented to the Library by the above committee.

MISS AMY HUXTABLE

(1927- 1980)

Amy Huxtable was born at Cheltenham, Melbourne, the daughter of Robert Huxtable, an installer for an oil company. In his work he travelled Victoria, taking his family with him.

Amy finished her education at Bendigo High School, and later attended a business college in View Street, becoming an expert shorthand writer.

She took her first job in 1930^{3?} as a copywriter with Radio 3BO. Later she worked in Melbourne with the George Patterson advertising agency, and at the Age newspaper. *Oct 1950 London*

Her association with the Bendigo Advertiser began in 1935⁵³ when she was acting women's editor in the absence of Miss Nell Mil-lane. In 1957 she became women's editor at the Advertiser, a position she was to hold for 23 years.

During her early years at the Advertiser she wrote under the pen name of 'Toora'. In later years her name became widely known throughout central and northern Victoria. She was widely re-spected for her social writing and wide charitable interests.

She also compiled The Advertiser Recipe Book which found its way into many a Bendigo home.

Involved in many charities, she was made a life governor of three - the Bendigo and Northern District Base Hospital, the Bendigo Home and Hospital for the Aged, and Mirridong Home for the Blind.

Amy Huxtable died on 16th January, 1980, at Mt. Alvernia Hospi-tal, Bendigo, after an illness of several months. She was buried at the Bendigo Lawn Cemetery, following a funeral service at St. Paul's Anglican Church, Myers Street.

Commenting at the time, Douglas Lockwood, a former Managing Editor of the Bendigo Advertiser described her as 'a devoted colleague who gave her craft and her newspaper the kind of serv-ice which identified a rare and generous spirit'.

"I have been in newspapers all my life and have never known a more dedicated journalist", said Mr. Lockwood.