



## **Mrs. Ruby Pickens Carpenter**

Mrs. Carpenter was born in Pickens County, Georgia, in 1911. She graduated from Toccoa High School and the Georgia State College for Women. She taught in Red Hill and Hazelhurst, Georgia, before coming to Perry High School in 1939 where she taught English, typing, and shorthand.

Mrs. Carpenter excelled as a classroom teacher, National Honor Society (Beta Club) advisor, and coach of the Debate Team. Her 1957 Perry High School Debate Team won the Georgia State Championship, as well as first place at Emory University's Barkley Forum. The 1955 Perry High School *Panther* yearbook was dedicated to Mrs. Carpenter. "We admire her efficiency as a teacher; we laugh at her gay repartee; we love her sterling qualities of loyalty and fairness....," wrote the year book staff.

After her death in 1965 at age 53, the *Panther* was again dedicated to her with a quote from poet Edwin Markham's "Lincoln, Man of the People" used to describe her:

"And when **she** fell in whirlwind, **she** went down  
As when a lordly cedar, green with boughs,  
Goes down with a great shout upon the hills  
And leaves a lonesome place against the sky."

The Ruby Carpenter Memorial Award was established to honor an outstanding student who reflected Mrs. Carpenter's values and ideals.