DECADE OF DECISION
1970 VOLUNTEER AWARDS COMMITTEE

Judges who select the recipients of the Lane Bryant Volunteer Awards are chosen from among distinguished Americans representing leadership in government, volunteer work, education, business, religion, and the arts and sciences.

COLONEL FRANK BORMAN
Field Director, Space Station Task Group

ROBERT H. FINCH
Counsellor to the President

FRED R. HARRIS
United States Senator, Oklahoma

ROBERT MONTGOMERY
President, The Repertory Theater of Lincoln Center

DR. BENNETTA B. WASHINGTON
Director of Women's Centers
Job Corps Manpower Administration
Department of Labor

FORMER VOLUNTEER AWARDS JUDGES

Mrs. Rosemary Park Anastos
Walter H. Annenberg
Adolf A. Berle
Dr. Carl Binger
Sarah G. Blanding
Frances P. Bolton
*Lee H. Bristol
Edward W. Brooke
Mrs. J. L. Blair Buck
Pearl S. Buck
William F. Buckley, Jr.
Ralph J. Bunche
Erwin D. Canham
Emanuel Celler
Bennett Cerf
Dorothy C. Chandler
Mary Ellen Chase
*Cyrus S. Ching
Margaret Clapp
Dr. Kenneth B. Clark
Dr. Everett R. Clinchy
Jacqueline Cochran
*George V. Denny, Jr.
*Everett McKinley Dirksen
Paul H. Douglas
William O. Douglas
John E. Drewry
A. Biddle Duke
*Irwin Edman
Dr. Mary Langmuir Essex
Marion B. Folsom
Dr. George H. Gallup
Felisa R. Gautier
Robert F. Goheen
Barry Goldwater
Andrew Goodman
J. Peter Grace
Martha Graham
*Joseph C. Grew
General Alfred M. Gruenther
*Oscar Hammerstein, 2nd
Rufus Carrolton Harris
Mark O. Hatfield
H. J. Heinz II
*Christian A. Herter
Rev. T. M. Hesburgh, C.S.C.
Dr. James M. Hester
Oveta Culp Hobby
Mildred McAfee Horton
Mrs. Hiram Cole Houghton
*Dr. Bryn Howde
Richard J. Hughes
Hubert H. Humphrey
Daniel K. Inouye
Jacob J. Javits
*Dr. Robert L. Johnson
Arthur Judson
Kenneth B. Keating
*Estes Kefauver
*John F. Kennedy
*Robert F. Kennedy
Dr. Russell Kirk
William F. Knowland
*Dr. John A. Lapp
Mrs. Albert D. Lasker

James A. Linen
Henry Cabot Lodge
Mrs. Oswald B. Lord
Katie Louchheim
Thurgood Marshall
Mark A. McCloskey
*Ralph Emerson McGill
Dr. Margaret Mead
*Helen Menken
Dr. Karl Menninger
Robert B. Meyner
James A. Michener
Mariann Moore
*deLesseps S. Morrison
*Charles Munch
Maurine B. Neuberger
General Lauris Norstad
James F. Oates, Jr.
Basil O'Connor
J. C. Penney
Roberta Peters
Professor Walter Piston
*Dr. Daniel A. Poling
Orville Prescott
*Clarence B. Randall
*Mrs. Ogden Reid
Richard Rodgers
Mary G. Roebling
*Ruth Bryan Rohde
George Romney
Howard A. Rusk, M.D.
David Sarnoff
John J. Sparkman
Lawrence Spivak
Dr. Frank Stanton
Ivy Baker Priest Stevens
William E. Stevenson
Mrs. Arthur Hayns Sulzberger
Stuart Symington
Dr. Harold Taylor
*Norman Thomas
Thomas J. Watson, Jr.
Robert C. Weaver
Joseph N. Welch
John Hay Whitney
Henry M. Wriston
Whitney M. Young, Jr.

Committee Advisor
DR. THEODORE K. NOSS
Professor of Sociology
Long Island University

Master of Ceremonies—DWIGHT COOKE, Author and Lecturer
THE DECADE OF DECISION

While the soaring 60's may be called the space decade, the searing 70's will become the decade of decision. Man must learn to cope with his astonishing technological achievement and integrate it into his own life style and environment. Much has been written in the past year about ecology and over-population. The problem has been stated...now, we must decide upon concrete action.

For many concerned activists, the problems are not new, they have become critical. For years that unique American phenomenon, the volunteer, has been quietly at work dealing with a staggering variety of social ills. He has been a glimmer of hope for the poor, the sick, the aged, the mentally ill, the underprivileged and even whole communities plagued by corruption in local government, crime or decay in the educational system.

In reading about the winners and finalists, no special "volunteer profile" emerges, for they come from all walks of life. The individual winner is a 94-year-old black woman born in poverty, while three of the finalists are college students from different parts of the country.

There was, in fact, a dramatic increase in the number of students who were nominated this past year. This does not reflect a greater field of interest for young people, however, but rather a recognition by the nominators of the wide variety of meaningful, positive forms of student activism across the country.

Because the volunteer comes from all walks of life, unheralded, the Lane Bryant Volunteer Awards were established in 1948 to seek out and recognize, and thus inspire and encourage, extraordinary volunteer efforts in the United States. It was further hoped that such recognition would be of a degree of importance to inspire other Americans to believe that their volunteer efforts would be useful and effective in improving the lives of their neighbors, and themselves.

Perhaps now that national recognition is being centered on the volunteer, the Lane Bryant Award has done its job. And, with ever increasing volunteer, private enterprise and governmental efforts, the 70's will indeed be the decade of decision...and action.

THE 1970 LANE BRYANT VOLUNTEER AWARDS

December 3, 1970
EARTHA M. M. WHITE
Jacksonville, Florida

1970

FIVE THOUSAND DOLLAR INDIVIDUAL AWARD
She was born in November of 1876, the thirteenth child of an exslave woman. Her sisters and brothers had all died before her birth, the oldest having lived to be ten.

1970 marks the 94th year in the life of Eartha Mary Magdalene White. And, a review of her most incredible story gives truth to the prophecy of a minister who said at her birth: “She is going to live and be a blessing to everyone.”

Toward the turn of the century, Eartha White called a meeting of the Union Benevolent Association, their first in 15 years. In 1885, the group had purchased land as a site for a home for the aged, but the idea never went beyond the planning stage. Miss White assumed the responsibility for the construction of the home, which today cares for more than 50 elderly people.

Miss White was instrumental in establishing other service agencies. A Maternity Home, Child Placement Center and Orphan Home were planned, organized and made operative through her efforts. She established a home for delinquent black girls and aided in the establishment of the Harriet Beecher Stowe Community Center. Giant strides in the fight against tuberculosis were taken when Miss White helped to establish a Tubercular Rest Home in Jacksonville, Florida.

During the Spanish American War in 1898, Eartha White attended to the needs of the sick and wounded, providing nursing care and distributing food. She is a Daughter of the Grand Army of the Republic and a member of the Women’s Relief Corps. During World War I, Miss White was the only woman in a 60-man interracial “War Camp Community Service Conference” in Jacksonville. She was also a member of President Woodrow Wilson’s White House Conference. A colonel of the Women’s National Defense Program in World War II, she organized canteen service and managed various Red Cross Center activities.

Founder of the Clara White Mission, named for her mother, Eartha White has served many destitute and helpless individuals through this agency. During the depression, the Mission distributed food, clothing and other necessities to persons suffering severe economic losses. For over 40 years, Miss White has visited the inmates of Duval County Prison, aiding them in whatever way she can with their personal problems. Upon their release, the Mission provides these prisoners with food, clothing, job counseling and other services helpful in their readjustment to society.

Miss White’s interest in preserving historical heritage led her to collect a large quantity of articles of cultural significance which are now displayed at the Eartha M. M. White Historical Museum.

Eartha White is presently associated with the National Business League, for which she serves as historian. In addition, she is a member of the Seminole Culture Club, the Jacksonville Historic Society and the Humane Society. She has earned a Doctor of Laws degree from Edward Waters College in Jacksonville, and possesses the title of Doctor of Humanities.

One of Miss White’s most precious dreams was realized with the erection of the Eartha M. M. White Nursing Home, dedicated in 1967. The 120-bed facility provides physical and occupational therapy and recreational activities to welfare patients from both county and state. The two-acre tract of land on which it is built was donated by Miss White.

Eartha White’s mother had a special prescription for life:

Do all the good you can
In all the ways you can,
In all the places you can,
For all the people you can,
While you can.

Lecturer, humanitarian, teacher, coordinator, leader, pioneer, nurse, soldier, counselor . . . Eartha White is a living testimonial to this motto. She is, as prophesied, “a blessing to everyone.”