

men in the plant and 400 women. In 1966 they won equal pay for equal work or work of equal value and the forest companies subsequently stopped hiring women. The number of women in her plant fell to 80. Women workers faced difficulties in finding decent childcare often relying on relatives to look after their children. Mrs. Ledger grew up in a strong IWA family, <sup>and</sup> became a shop steward and participated on the safety committee, grievance committee and plant committee. Now she is Regional Director of Safety. Mrs. Ledger was involved in job actions to achieve equal work for women in the mills. Issues concerning women were recognition of equal pay; establishing union hiring halls to insure that women were hired on and general union issues. Political action is very important to women, Mrs. Ledger feels, as a means of legislating improved conditions for women.

#### ANNE MARSHALL

Anne Marshall was born in Regina, Saskatchewan in 1907. At the age of 14, she left there to come to B.C. and find work after her father died. She worked as a waitress and became sympathetic to trade unionism in 1924 during the Longshore strike, through her contact with strike supporters at work. She then became a babysitter for the owner of Sweet 16 dressshops. He taught her to sew, and she began to work in ladies' ready-to-wear. She married in 1928 and stayed home until W.W.II when she reentered the workforce. The organization of the industry had begun by then. Working at Jantzen's, she was exposed to the Bideau piecework system for the first time and became angered by the conditions which they imposed. She was laid off, but in the meantime was approached by the unions to organize the shop. The VTLC was spearheading the campaign at that time. The workers were organized into the United Garment Workers. Later she helped to lead the Local over to the International Ladies' Garment Workers Union which she felt had better shops. She became a full-time organizer for the ILGWU in 1946-7 and stayed in that position for 16 years. Central issues in her union were the protection and integration of immigrant workers; equal pensions for women; piecework; racism; wages and hours of work; policing the contracts (insuring that people got lunch-hours and breaks).

#### MAY MARTIN

May Martin (Ansell) came from Capetown. She left school at the end of Grade 9 and worked as a grocery clerk, hotel worker, and waitress. She moved from Canada to the U.S., then to Montreal, Halifax, Toronto and Windsor, where she stayed until 1941. She then drove <sup>and settled</sup> west with her husband, searching for work. Her first interest in the HREU came as a result of working in a restaurant where the women union organizers were being harrassed by the boss. She went down <sup>to the union office,</sup> and joined the HREU and worked in union houses. She moved to the Yukon in 1942 and organized for the HREU in Whitehorse. <sup>in 1944,</sup> she was elected Business Agent <sup>upon her return to Vancouver.</sup> Mrs.