

Unseen but not Unsung

"A tribute to Clair Bobier, Ted Fisher and Bill Lyle would be incomplete without the recognition and acknowledgement of the contributions made by Lois Bobier, Eleanor Fisher and Lorena Lyle.

They have become part of Optometric history. Theirs were the ears to listen, the words to encourage, the thoughts to suggest, the eyes to see beyond the immediate curtailment of some personal activities. They were given the opportunity to serve and, in their typical fashion, accepted a challenge not a burden.

These loyal, steadfast, good humoured, charming, supportive women, whose warm and willing hospitality will be remembered by so many, are the unsung heroes of Optometry, for they welcomed Optometry into their lives and made it a part of the family.

One might well wonder where Optometry would be today had it not been for Lois Bobier, Eleanor Fisher and Lorena Lyle."*



Lois Bobier "is a cheery, genuine partner. She has given Clair great support in every way, even financial. I don't believe anyone could feel discouraged living with such wit and breeziness of manner. She has served the Auxiliary in every official capacity, including President."*

Born and raised in Toronto, Lois Bobier graduated the University of Toronto with a B.A. in 1942, majoring in history and physical education. She later acquired a specialist's certificate in Phys. Ed. In 1947, she married Clair, a union which produced two sons, William,

born in 1950, and Paul, born in 1954. In addition to actively serving in the Auxiliary to the Ontario Association of Optometrists, Lois has participated in the Dames Club, University of Waterloo, the Women's Committee of the Kitchener Waterloo Symphony Orchestra, has been teaching English to new Canadians a half day a week since 1978, is a member of the Trinity United Church and the Kitchener Waterloo Art Gallery. Her hobbies include swimming, canoeing, camping, Scottish country dancing, theatre, travel, and British Cathedrals.



Eleanor Fisher "has lent immeasurable support over the years, serving as a most gracious hostess at many, many optometric functions. Her presence has always added dignity — opening her home to national and international students, especially during the Christmas season, has proven her warmth and love of people. She joined the Auxiliary in 1936, and has been a staunch supporter ever since. A few years ago she was made a life member."*

Born in Georgetown, Ontario, Eleanor received her high school education at Lindsay Collegiate, where she was a "keen athlete" and Head Girl of the school. She has been active in a variety of church and community activities in Lindsay, Toronto and Kitchener Waterloo. The mother of three children, Margaret, Gordon and Barbara, Eleanor is also a grandmother six times over.



Lorena Lyle "has always exemplified sterling standards in her roles as wife and mother. She was also instrumental in establishing the Dames Club for wives of Optometry students at Waterloo (prospective auxiliary members)."* Lorena was born in Saskatchewan, and moved several times while growing up as her father, a bank manager, relocated through the course of his career. She attended business college in Winnipeg, and worked for a brief period for General Motors. She and Bill were married in 1956 and now have three daughters, Lesley, Joan and Barbara.

There can be no doubt that much of the credit for the achievements of Drs. Bobier, Fisher and Lyle must be directed towards the vast pools of understanding and support personified by each of their wives. At any time in the past thirty years, a less understanding partner could have justifiably demanded an end to the intensity of her spouse's commitment to the profession — one too many late nights in Committee, one too many weekends in practice, one too many shop-talk sessions at the table. But rather than barriers, Lois, Eleanor and Lorena have given their husbands nothing but support in their efforts. In that, we who support this profession so strenuously offer our thanks and, through this small tribute, our admiration to each of the ladies behind the Doctors to whom this issue is devoted.

***Editor's Note.** With some modesty, the author of the quoted comments has requested anonymity.