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## ROSAMOND H. PEIRCE

1908-1975

### In Memoriam

Rosamond H. Peirce, Associate Statistician in the Food Research Institute, died March 28, 1975, at the Hoover Pavilion of the Stanford Hospital at age 67. She joined the Institute in 1930 immediately after graduation from Smith College and served as a member of the Institute staff until December 1974 when she retired for health reasons nine months prior to her scheduled retirement date.

Miss Peirce was born on the campus and attended Stanford in 1925-26 before entering Smith College where she received a Bachelor's degree in mathematics. Her father, the late Professor George James Peirce, joined the Stanford faculty in 1897 and served as a member and later head of the Botany Department. She is survived by two sisters, Mrs. Elizabeth (Forrest) Kincade of Palo Alto and Mrs. Carolyn Brown of New York City.

The late Professor Merrill K. Bennett, then Director of the Institute, insisted that Miss Peirce share authorship of their joint article on "Change in the American National Diet, 1879-1959" published in the *Food Research Institute Studies* in May 1961. And in the same year she prepared a "Handbook for Users of Statistics of Agriculture and Food." With those partial exceptions, however, she defined her role in the Institute as one of assisting her colleagues with their research and publications. Miss Peirce was a modest person, and persons outside the Institute were not likely to be aware of the very significant contributions that she made to the quality of the Institute's research and publications over a period of 45 years. The importance of those contributions is attested, however, by the grateful acknowledgments included in numerous books and articles by authors who valued her as an extraordinarily competent and helpful co-worker. Her role as "Associate Statistician" was one that she defined over the years in a unique manner that is not readily described. It included a remarkable fund of knowledge of statistical sources, national and international, relating to agricultural production, trade, stocks, prices, consumption, population, and other subjects. Her "statistical editing" markedly improved the quality of most of the empirical research published by the Institute and by individual members of the faculty. Many have been saved from error by her skillful verification of the correspondence between an author's assertions and the supporting data. Readers also owe Miss Peirce a debt of gratitude. Her skill in helping to design statistical tables to make them as clear and useful as possible is one more example of the numerous ways in which "Roggie" improved the quality of work at the Food Research Institute.

No recitation of her professional skills and contributions, which were consummate, can attest to the more important fact that she was a beloved and respected colleague who enhanced the quality of our lives.